



THIS WEEK: CALENDAR 27 • CROSSWORD 30 • SNAPSHOTS 25 • OBITUARIES 6 • ENTERTAINMENT 29 • SUDOKU 38

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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DECEMBER 6, 2012

BERLIN ♦ BISHOPVILLE ♦ OCEAN CITY ♦ OCEAN PINES ♦ WEST OCEAN CITY ♦ SELBYVILLE

FREE

Federal agents raid OP home, three arrested

Ocean Pines Police assisted Federal law enforcement in the service of a search warrant at 66 Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines. Members of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as well as Ocean Pines Police, served a search warrant at 66 Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines on December 4. The search warrant was in reference to a Federal Kansas City investigation in which the three suspects located within the residence were suspected to be involved. Ocean Pines Police developed information on the

Continued on Page 2

U.S. judge to rule in chicken farm case by year's end

by Beth Moszkowicz

The Daily Record Newswire

BALTIMORE — The plaintiff and defendants in a closely watched lawsuit over alleged pollution of a Chesapeake Bay tributary by a Berlin-based, family-owned farm and Perdue Farms Inc. presented almost four hours of closing arguments to a standing-room-only crowd.

Senior U.S. District Judge William N. Nickerson, who is presiding over the bench trial in U.S. District Court in Baltimore, declined to rule from bench. Instead, he said he would decide by end of

Continued on Page



MARK HUEY / BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Berlin Economic Development Director Michael Day, along with Catie Bowman, daughter of Treasure Chest owner Terri Sexton, are ready for this week's Christmas parade, one of the many Victorian Christmas events in Berlin throughout the holiday season.

Victorian Christmas fun fills December

Month full of activities started with Black Friday, runs until 2013

By Lisa Capitelli

Assistant Editor/Ocean City Today

BERLIN — An assortment of activities for the entire family will be offered throughout Berlin this month as part of the town's Victorian Christmas celebration.

"It's a happy time of the year. We have nice, quality stores that are locally owned and operated," said Victorian Christmas committee co-chairwoman Terri Sexton, owner of The Treasure Chest. "[Victorian Christmas] ties into the times of today, where you can shop locally in a small town. And just the feel of it, with the horse and carriage rides and the whole atmosphere of the town brings you back to Victorian times."

Visitors like the experience of the old-town charm, with the boutique stores, she said. The Berlin shops have been festively decorated for the holiday season, and many businesses will host special events and open houses during Victorian Christmas.

Families are invited to join Santa for breakfast, 8:30-10:30 a.m., on Saturday at Buckingham Presbyterian Church. The cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and younger. Guests may also have their pictures taken with Santa. Tickets will be sold at the door, or reservations may be made by calling 410-213-2022.

Also on Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., a blacksmith will make iron

and metal wares in front of the Atlantic Hotel on Main Street.

The inaugural "Traditional Crafts Day" will take place on Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Similar to Berlin's Arts Night, this new event will feature traditional craft artists demonstrating and selling their work in participating businesses. Visitors to shops throughout the town will see these artists at work and

will have an opportunity to purchase their handmade items.

Sexton will host Faith Daye, who will spin fine fibers into yarn at the Treasure Chest.

"It's kind of a neat event featuring

Continued on Page 2

"The whole atmosphere of the town brings you back to Victorian times."

TERRI SEXTON

Owner, The Treasure Chest

**BERLIN
CHRISTMAS
PARADE
THURSDAY,
DEC. 6th, 7.P.M.**

DELMARVA POWER'S ENERGY ASSESSMENTS

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

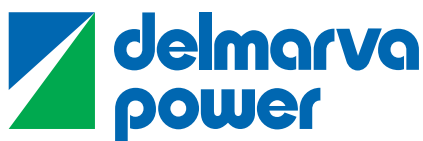
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Items believed to be involved in crime recovered

Continued from Page 1

location of the suspects and provided information to Federal authorities, which facilitated the investigation.



Khezhev



Vorokov



Tlezhukov

Three individuals were located inside the residence, and numerous electronic items, believed to be involved in a large computer crime network, were recovered. Ocean Pines Police arrested the three individuals on state criminal charges, and it is anticipated that Federal Charges shall be placed, at a later date. All three suspects are Russian nationals. Police charged:

■ Zauer Anatolyevich Khezhev, W/M, 25 years of age, of Ocean Pines, charged with possession of a re-encoder/skimming device, and possession/use of a false government identification document.

■ Reat Vorokov, W/M, 24 years of age, of Ocean Pines, charged with possession of a re-encoder/skimming device, and possession/use of a false government identification document.

■ Beslan Tlezhukov, W/M, 26 years of age, of Ocean Pines, charged with possession of a re-encoder/skimming device.

All three suspects were taken before a District Court Commissioner and were released on personal recognizance, pending trial on Maryland criminal charges.

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Berlin comes alive for Victorian Christmas

Many events planned throughout remaining holiday season, NYE

Continued from Page 1

traditional crafts," Sexton said.

Children and adults can have an afternoon tea party and enjoy a fashion show at the Atlantic Hotel on Sunday from 3-5 p.m. The cost is \$30 for adults and \$20 for children 12 and younger. Tickets are available at the hotel or the Berlin Chamber of Commerce. Reservations are required. The event is a fundraiser for the town's Victorian Christmas celebration.

Another fundraiser for the annual activities is "Festival of Trees." Many of the businesses have decorated trees, which are on display in each shop. Guests may bid on each tree for the chance to make their favorite their own, with funds raised benefiting Victorian Christmas. Bidding will take place at each business.

Horse and carriage rides throughout the town will be offered from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays through Dec. 22. Rides will depart from the Visitors Center on South Main Street.

Santa will be at the Visitors Center from noon to 2 p.m. on Saturdays and

Sundays through Dec. 22.

Visitors to Berlin can learn about the town and the history of Worcester County at the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum from 1-4 p.m. on Dec. 8 and 15. And children and adults can create their own blown glass Christmas ornaments every Saturday this month at Jeffrey Auxer's studio, 19 Jefferson St. The cost is \$25 per ornament. Reservations are required. Call 443-513-4210 to schedule an appointment or for more information.

Berlin's Second Friday Art Stroll will take place Dec. 14, from 5-8 p.m. Downtown shops and galleries will be open late for the event. Each will host local and regional artists or musicians, and some will offer discounts for the holiday.

Live Long Fitness' fifth annual Reindeer Run, which includes 5k- and 1-mile races through the streets of Berlin, will be held Saturday, Dec. 15. The 5k will kick off at 9 a.m., followed by the 1-mile run at 10 a.m. The races will start at the Atlantic Hotel on Main Street. Participants are encouraged to wear festive attire. Prizes for the best costumes will be awarded. The cost to participate is \$25 for the 5k, \$15 for the 1-mile event.

Awards will be presented to the top finishers in each age group. For more information, call 410-213-1078. To

register online, visit <http://octrirunning.com/events/5k-reindeer-run-1-mile-fun-run/>. Registration and packet pick-up will be available the night before the race, from 5-7 p.m. at Live Long Fitness, located in the Teal Marsh Shopping Center, off Route 611. On the morning of the event, registration will take place onsite from 7:30-8:30 a.m. A post-race party will take place from 6-9 p.m. at Burley Oak Brewery, 10016 Old Ocean City Blvd.

The Worcester County Arts Council located on Jefferson Street is featuring its annual "Holly-Days" exhibit and sale of holiday-theme paintings, jewelry, ornaments, cards, pottery and silk scarves created by approximately 25 members. "Holly-Days" exhibit and sale opened Nov. 9, and will run through December.

"Artists are bringing in new items on a daily basis," said Anna Mullis, executive director of the Worcester County Arts Council. "It's perfect for people looking for something original and one-of-a-kind that you can't find in a mall."

For more information and a full list of upcoming events, pick up a Victorian Christmas brochure at any of the Berlin shops, contact the Berlin Chamber of Commerce at 410-641-4775 or visit www.berlinchamber.org. The Berlin Chamber can also be found on Facebook, www.facebook.com/BerlinChamber.



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State announces 'Legacy' awards for Eastern Shore

Worcester and Somerset counties awarded grants for community develop.

BALTIMORE — Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown today announced the projects that will benefit from a total of \$5.5 million in Community Legacy program awards. He was joined by Secretary Raymond A. Skinner of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, the state agency which manages the program, along with local officials and several representatives of nonprofit and community development organizations around Maryland.

"These awards will go a long way to promoting economic growth, community revitalization, affordable housing and tourism," said Lt. Governor Brown. "I salute the hard work of the recipients of this year's awards, and their commitment to their communities, which will greatly benefit

cities and towns all over our state."

The goal of Community Legacy is to provide local governments and community development organizations with funding for essential projects aimed at strengthening communities through activities such as retaining and attracting businesses and encouraging homeownership and commercial revitalization.

This year's grants will benefit 58 projects in 19 counties and Baltimore City. Projects include, but are not limited to, the rehabilitation of blighted commercial properties, façade improvements and streetscape upgrades. A detailed list of awards is attached. On Friday, the Lt. Governor and DHCD will hold an event in Prince George's County to

highlight capital area projects receiving Community Legacy funding.

"Community Legacy is an innovative program that invests in cities and towns throughout our state," said Secretary Skinner. "These awards help create jobs, move local economic development efforts forward and allow neighborhoods to thrive. As these communities prosper, Maryland as a whole does too."

Today's announcement was held in the City Arts Building, which received Community Legacy funding three years ago, and has since become an anchor for the revitalization of the surrounding neighborhood. The project was spearheaded by the Central Baltimore Partnership, which this year will receive a

Community Legacy Award for a nearby project, the new Baltimore Design School. Located in the Station North Arts District, the school is a training institute for students interested in pursuing careers in the design trade. The Central Baltimore Partnership is the collective effort of neighborhood organizations, non-profits, educational institutions, private businesses and government agencies to revitalize the central Baltimore community in a way that fosters art, healthy neighborhoods and sustainable and transit-oriented development.

■ SOMERSET

County total: \$175,000

AWARDEE: CITY OF CRISFIELD

Amount: \$75,000

Project: Downtown Infrastructure Development

Description: Continuation of installing sidewalk, curb, gutter, and paving in the 7th, 8th, 9th, and Broadway Street areas.

■ WORCESTER

County total: \$270,000

AWARDEE: TOWN OF BERLIN

Amount: \$50,000

Project: Façade Program

Description: Continuation of the Downtown Façade Grant Program.

AWARDEE: OCEAN CITY DEVELOPMENT CORP

Amount: \$50,000

Project: OCDC Façade Improvement Program

Description: To enhance the exterior of older buildings in downtown Ocean City between the Inlet and 17th Street.

AWARDEE: OCEAN CITY DEVELOPMENT CORP

Amount: \$50,000

Project: OCDC Business Assistance Program

Description: To provide financial assistance to new and existing businesses to upgrade the interior of their commercial establishments.

AWARDEE: OCEAN CITY DEVELOPMENT CORP

Amount: \$50,000

Project: St. Louis Avenue Street Enhancements

Description: To provide decorative street lights into this comprehensive street improvement project.

AWARDEE: CITY OF POCOMOKE

Amount: \$10,000

Project: MarVa Theater Digital Cinema Server

Description: Install a digital cinema server which will allow the digital projector to read the hard drive the movie distributors send containing the movie.

AWARDEE: CITY OF POCOMOKE

Amount: \$3,000

Project: Delmarva Discovery Center Back-up Generator

Description: Back-up generator for heritage center providing educational and community programs to schools, the public and visitors.

AWARDEE: CITY OF POCOMOKE

Amount: \$7,000

Project: Sturgis African American One-Room School Museum Repairs

Description: Repairs to the back door, repair the windows, and make repairs to the south side of the building.

AWARDEE: TOWN OF SNOW HILL

Amount: \$50,000

Project: Façade Improvement Program

Description: Provide assistance to business owners in improving the facades of their properties.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

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SALISBURY, MD—The Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, Salisbury University presents: Winter on the Shore, a celebration of art and nature of the Eastern Shore during the Winter season. Come join the Ward Museum for special winter-themed events including: Winter themed Nature Tales for Tots on December 5th, 12th, and 19th; A Make & Take Craft Cart in the lobby; and the Winter on the Shore Student Art Exhibition Opening Reception on December 7th, from 5-7 p.m. Can't think of what to get someone? The Honor Wall is a great way to give a gift in honor or memory of a loved one or friend. Enjoy the celebration! All events and programs are FREE. Winter on the Shore sponsored by the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore. Regular admission fees to galleries apply. For more information, contact: 410-742-4988 x110 or wardeducation@salisbury.edu

Maryland's request for Sandy assistance denied

REISTERSTOWN— Maryland officials will appeal the denial of the request for Individual Assistance for residents of the lower Eastern Shore who suffered damages in the wake of Superstorm Sandy.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency notified Governor Martin O'Malley of the decision Monday, December 3, 2012 to deny the Individual Assistance declaration.

"This decision will make it more difficult for hard hit residents of the Eastern Shore to recover from the destruction caused by Superstorm Sandy," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "State agencies will continue to work with local officials to try to help local residents,

but the federal programs would have provided the best assistance."

Maryland had sought individual assistance as part of the requested presidential disaster declaration for Dorchester, Somerset and Worcester counties. "We will appeal this decision," said Maryland Emergency Management Agency Director Ken Mallette. "Although state agencies and volunteer groups have done their best to assist local residents, many residents have needs that go beyond the scope of those programs."

Maryland has 30 days to file the appeal and will continue to supply updated damage information as it becomes available. Homeowners, renters and business owners who suffered damages not covered under existing insurance policies are urged to make sure that county emergency managers in Dorchester, Somerset and Worcester counties have been made aware of those damages.

The Bickersons Christmas Show comes to Berlin

Come join us for Old Time Radio performed in the style of "live" radio. Radio Airwaves, a local non-profit group, will re-enact this radio show which ran originally from 1946-1951, and then became a TV show. The performance will be held at the Whimiscal Cottage in Berlin, Saturday, December 15th at 7 p.m. The production will have music, sound effects and be dressed in clothes from that era.

This will be a fun evening, which will should bring laughter, some holiday music and the singing of favorite Christmas carols performed by the cast, as well as the audience joining in. There will be printed words available for the carols.

Please call 443-513-4768 or 302-698-1201 for reservations so you can be a part of this fun evening and enjoy the ambiance of Berlin's newly-opened Whimiscal Cottage.

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OBITUARIES

Frederick Elwood 'Fred' Kerstetter Jr.

BERLIN — Frederick Elwood "Fred" Kerstetter, 69, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Nov. 21,



Frederick Elwood 'Fred' Kerstetter Jr.

2012, after a long battle with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). He was an only child born to Frederick and Ruth Kerstetter on March 11, 1943, in Berlin.

Mr. Kerstetter attended Stephen Decatur High School and then

went on to graduate from Hargrave Military Academy in Chatham Virginia. He served with the United States Army during the Cuban Missile Crisis and then worked as a master plumber and contractor for 35 years, owning and operating Kerstetter Plumbing HVAC before retiring several years ago. Mr. Kerstetter was a member of the Ocean City American Legion Post 166 and the MARKS Club. Over the years, he enjoyed building and flying model airplanes, deep-sea fishing, surf fishing, hunting, golf, country music and cribbage, and he had a special place in his heart for poodles. His favorite fishing companion was his standard poodle, Tailer. He will always be remembered for teaching his children the meaning of love and the value of hard work. He will be truly missed.

Mr. Kerstetter was preceded in death by his parents. He was married to his soul mate, Elfriede Kerstetter of Ocean City, for 30 years. He was the devoted father of Sherryl Olson and her husband, David, of Ocean City and Sheila Ketterer and her husband, Breit, of Westminster Md.; and loving grandfather of Lara and Rick Angel, Breit, Brian and Brandon Ketterer, and Britt, Eric and David Olson.

A memorial service was held Saturday, Dec. 1, at Atlantic United

Methodist Church in Ocean City. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Coastal Hospice, P.O. Box 1733, Salisbury, Md. 21802-1733.

Bruce Allen Shockley

SNOW HILL — Bruce Allen Shockley, 51, died Sunday, Nov. 25, 2012, at his home. Born in Salisbury, he is the son of M. Edwin "Buddy" Shockley and Gail Mariner Shockley. He is survived by his brother, Mark E. Shockley and his wife, Kim, AND Glenn M. Shockley and his wife, Lisa; and his sister, Karen S. Baker and her husband, Scott,



Bruce A. Shockley

all of Snow Hill. Also surviving are nieces and nephews, Glenn Shockley Jr. and his wife, Emily, Ethan W. Shockley, Alyssa Shockley, Alex Shockley, Samantha Myszk and her husband, David, and Scotty Baker; and one great nephew, Aiden Shockley.

Mr. Shockley was a 1979 graduate of Snow Hill High School. He had worked as a carpenter for 32 years with A. Reginald Mariner II. He was a member of the Snow Hill Christian Church, was an avid guitar player, enjoyed snow skiing, visiting the Gulf Coast of Florida, and he loved eating crabs with his family in the back yard.

A funeral service was held Thursday, Nov. 29, at the Snow Hill Christian Church. Interment followed in Christian Church cemetery. Donations may be made to the Bruce Allen Shockley memorial fund, c/o Snow Hill Christian Church, 300 Park Row, Snow Hill, Md. 21863.

Lorayne Whitson

OCEAN PINES — Lorayne Whitson, 72, of Ocean Pines, passed away Sunday, Nov. 25, 2012, at home. Born Feb. 18, 1940, in Brooklyn, N.Y., she was the daughter of the late Charles and Dorothy Thielemann.



Lorayne Whitson

and Donovan.

A celebration of love was held Saturday, Dec. 8, at The Community Church at Ocean Pines, 11227 Racetrack Road in Berlin. Pastor William Sterling officiated.

Memorial contributions may be made in Mrs. Whitson's memory to Coastal Hospice, P.O. Box 1733, Salisbury, Md. 21802.

Jesse H. Shortt

POCOMOKE — Jesse Henry Shortt, 64, died Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012, at Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Salisbury.



Jesse H. Shortt

Born in Salisbury, he was the son of the late Jesse Willard Shortt and Kathleen Webb Shortt. He is survived by his daughters, Julie Packard and Jackie Bailey, both of Crestview, Fla.; stepdaughters, Shanay Thornton of Salisbury and Ashley Thornton of Pocomoke; stepson, Terry Thornton of Clinton, Md.; and his former wife, Patsy Shortt of Pocomoke. Also surviving are 10 grandchildren; a brother, Gary Shortt and his wife, Debbie, of Snow Hill; sisters, Ethel Mariner and her husband, Harrison, of Snow Hill and Mary Ann Melson of Pocomoke; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by two sisters, Nancy Franklin and Barbara Jean Carey.

Mr. Shortt was a graduate of Snow

Mrs. Whitson is survived by her husband, Paul; her sister, Charlene Lazarus; her children, Laura Naradello, Lynda and Charles Zytowicz; and her grandchildren, Nicholas, Natalie, Paige, Hunter, Charlotte, Spencer

Hill High School, who had worked as a supervisor with Purity Bacon in Salisbury and Tyson Poultry in Temperanceville, Va. He had served in the U.S. Air Force, and was a member of Olivet Christian Church.

A funeral service was held Monday, Dec. 3, at the Burbage Funeral Home in Berlin. Pastor Houston Hill officiated. Interment followed in Spense Baptist Cemetery near Snow Hill.

A donation in his memory may be made to Olivet Christian Church Mission Fund, 1806 Honeywell Road, Snow Hill, Md. 21863.

Herbert F. Harris

OCEAN PINES - Herbert F. Harris, 77, passed away Saturday, Nov. 24, 2012 at his home. Born in Baltimore,



Herbert F. Harris

MD, he was the son of the late Herbert R. Harris and Doretha H. Dannenfelser Harris. He is survived by his wife Barbara M. Tucholka Harris and 3 children Herbert R. Harris, II (Randy), Denise H. Harris

Harward (Nicki), and Wendy D. Harris Shipley. Also surviving are 3 grandchildren Sarah E. Harris Dixon, Randolph D. Harris (Randy), and Bladen D. Maynard; 2 great grandchildren Matthew J. and Emma R. Dixon; son & daughter-in-laws Glenn Shipley and Lynne Harris; and best friend Barbara Collins.

Herbert worked as an Industrial Engineer for Bethlehem Steel & retired after 30 years of service. After retiring, he & his wife owned and operated a Florist in Baltimore, for 10 years. He owned two residences in Maryland. Herb had a passion for gardening, cars, and played on a bowling league for 10 years.

As a teen he attended Poly Technical Institute in Baltimore, where he was Class President, Student Court Judge, and a member of the National

Continued on Page 7

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OBITUARIES

Continued from Page 6

Honor Society. He excelled in mathematics and became a tutor.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, Nov. 28 at Bel Air Memorial Gardens in Bel Air, MD where he was reunited with his parents. He will be missed by his family and friends who loved him...grateful and blessed that God shared him with us.

Gertrude Manie Brittingham

BERLIN — Gertrude Manie Brittingham, 95, of Berlin, died Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2012, in Indianapolis, Ind.



Gertrude M. Brittingham

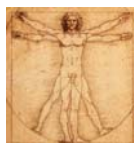
Born in Willards, she was the daughter of the late Algernon Rayne and Manie Mitchell Rayne. She was preceded in death by her husband, Lester Miles Brittingham Sr. in 1978, and a son, Benjamin Brittingham in 2001.

She is survived by a son, Lester M. Brittingham Jr. of New Palestine, Ind., and a daughter-in-law, Kay Brittingham of Berlin; a sister, Flora Evans of Salisbury; four grandchildren, Douglas Brittingham, Amy Brittingham, Cyn-dee Swinney and Angelique Reed; five great-grandchildren, Ridge Derickson, Brooke Brittingham, Graeme Reed, Colin Reed and Moyra Swinney; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was an active member of Bethany United Methodist Church for many years.

A great highlight in Mrs. Brittingham's later years was being an extra in the movie, "Runaway Bride," and experiencing the chance to meet Richard Gere and to hit him with a newspaper.

A funeral service was held Monday, Dec. 3, at Bethany United Methodist Church in Berlin. The Revs. Beverly Stang and Olin Shockley officiated. Interment followed in Evergreen cemetery in Berlin.



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Waterkeeper Alliance alleges Clean Water Act violated

Alliance seeks \$300K in compensation and \$2 million in attorneys' fees

Continued from Page 1
the year.

Testimony in the case ended on Oct. 24, but Nickerson asked the parties to submit proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law by Nov. 14 and responses by Nov. 21, before hearing closing arguments last Friday.

Jane F. Barrett, who directs the University of Maryland Environmental Law Clinic and also represents plaintiff Waterkeeper Alliance Inc., argued Friday that photographs introduced at trial showed "obvious indications of pollutants being pushed out" and that this case is exactly why Congress passed the

Clean Water Act.

But attorneys for Salisbury-based Perdue and contract grower Hudson Farm have said the farm operates like others and there is no evidence of pollution from the farm's chicken operations. They have called the lawsuit meritless and vindictive.

Waterkeeper Alliance has alleged that Hudson and Perdue have repeatedly discharged and continue to discharge pollutants through a point source into the Pocomoke River and the Chesapeake Bay. Such discharge, it alleged, violates the Clean Water Act.

The alliance alleged that water samples taken from a drainage ditch downstream of Hudson Farm showed high levels of the fecal coliform, E.coli bacteria, nitrogen, phosphorous and ammonia. The plaintiff said Perdue should be held liable for the pollution because Per-

due is "intimately involved in and controls each stage of the poultry-growing process at its contract growers, including Hudson Farm."

Michael Schatzow, a Perdue attorney at Venable LLP in Baltimore, said Friday that the plaintiffs have a weak case and a broader agenda.

"They want to win the weakest possible case, because if they win the weakest case, they can go after everyone," Schatzow said during closing arguments.

The plaintiffs are waging "a war against the poultry industry," Schatzow said, adding that there is no evidence of any discharge of pollutants from the poultry operation on the Hudson's farm.

Rather, he said, the cows on the Hudson's farm were the source of the pollution.

"They are not confined," he said. "They roam the Hudson farm freely and

produce ... tons of manure."

George F. Ritchie, the Hudsons' attorney at Gordon Feinblatt LLC, said his clients are not a major corporation but a family of farmers who have tilled the land for more than 100 years and have been living a nearly "three-year nightmare" since the lawsuit was filed on March 1, 2010.

"This litigation threatens to ruin his farm and his family," Ritchie said. "There is no fundamental fairness in hanging [the Hudsons]."

Waterkeeper Alliance is seeking \$300,000 in compensation and \$2 million in attorneys' fees, as well as a remedial injunction ordering the Hudsons and Perdue to pay the costs of any environmental restoration or remediation deemed necessary to comply with the Clean Water Act. They are also seeking the right to monitor operations in the future.

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WORCESTER COUNTY NEWS

Commissioners treat bidder on park projects with fairness

By Nancy Powell

Staff Writer/Ocean City Today

WORCESTER COUNTY — Commissioner Virgil Shockley saw what he considered a lost opportunity Tuesday to save money on the construction of two parks, but other Worcester County Commissioners did not agree.

The county had sought bids for the construction of a playground at John Walter Smith Park in Snow Hill and another playground at Girdletree Park. The playgrounds would be designed to accommodate both 2-5-year-olds and 5-12-year-olds. A pavilion will also be constructed at the Girdletree Park, which is the county's newest park and is being built on land donated by the Girdletree Volunteer Fire Company.

The commissioners awarded the work for each park to West Recreation of Queenstown. That company bid \$112,479 for the Girdletree Park playground work and \$69,115 for the work at John Walter Smith Park.

Shockley wanted someone to contact West Recreation to ask if the work could be done for less money since that company would be in the county doing

both jobs.

"They're already going to be here," Shockley said.

He wanted to know if anyone had asked the company if it would do the work for less money.

"There's a heck of an opportunity here," Shockley said.

County attorney Sonny Bloxom did not share Shockley's enthusiasm.

"It's really unfair, I think," Bloxom said.

Commissioner Madison Bunting agreed.

"You're going into bad territory," Bunting said.

Most of the money to pay for the work at the parks will come from Program Open Space, the state program that uses land transfer taxes for park and recreational projects. The Program Open Space funds will pay for 90 percent of the work and Worcester County will pay the remaining 10 percent.

The commissioners then voted to award each of the two projects to West Recreation without asking the company to lower its price.

With unanimous vote, Bud Church re-elected president

Fourth term awarded to Worcester County Commissioner president

By Nancy Powell

Staff Writer/Ocean City Today

WORCESTER COUNTY — In a unanimous vote Tuesday morning, the Worcester County Commissioners decided to retain Bud Church as their president for a fourth term.

Commissioner Merrill Lockfaw, who represents Pocomoke and other southern portions of the county, nominated Church. Then Commissioner Virgil Shockley, who represents a large agricultural portion of the county, nominated Lockfaw to be vice president and the commissioners gave their unanimous approval.

Church, whose district includes Berlin and West Ocean City, gave his thanks to Commissioner James Purnell, the outgoing vice president who represents the minority district.

"He's been my right hand man for several years," Church said. "He's been

my mentor and my hero. He's kept me on the straight and narrow.

"Mr. James Purnell is not dropping out of sight," Church said. "He is going to be the chairman of the Tri-County Council next year. He'll do an excellent job in that position."

After the meeting, Church said he likes being president.

"I enjoy it," Church said. "I enjoy the challenge and we have a great team. Merrill Lockfaw will make an excellent vice president and I feel sure he'll move up to the presidency in the future. He's in a learning curve and I'll enjoy working with him."

Officers of the Worcester County Commissioners serve a one-year term. The election of officers is held annually during the first meeting of December.

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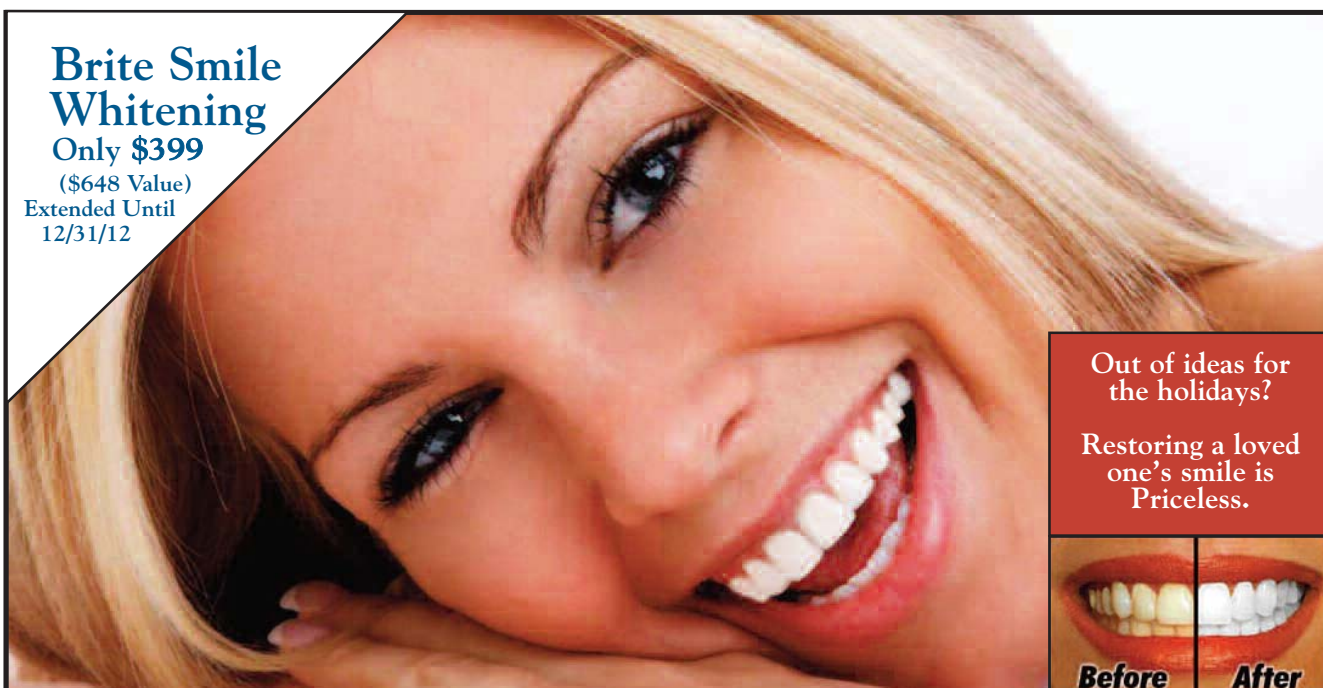
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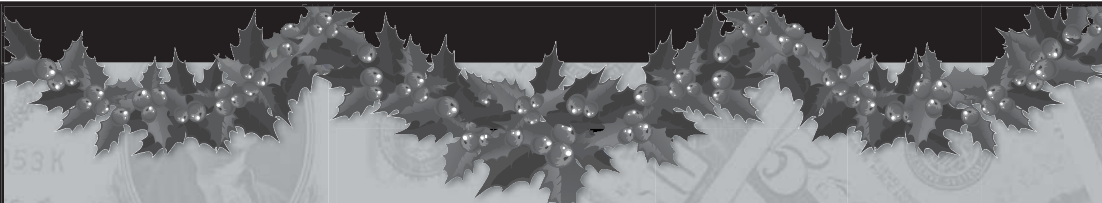
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Daily	Assateague Pointe	—	Mobile	From \$120,000	Resort Homes/Tony Matrona
Daily 11-4pm	Belmont Towers, Boardwalk & Dorchester #506	2 & 3BR/3BA	Condo, Townhome	From \$499,000	The Fritschle Group/Condo Realty
Daily 10-5pm	Bay Point Plantation, Rt. 589 to Gum Pt. Rd.	—	Estate Size Lots	From \$199,900	The Fritschle Group/Condo Realty
Saturdays 11-4pm	Harbour Island Sales Office, 14th St. & Bayside	2 & 3BR/2 & 3.5BA	Condo, Town, Slips	From \$300,000	ERA Holiday RE /Nanette Pavier
Saturdays 10-4pm	Eleven 11 Edgewater	3BR/2.5BA	16 Bayfront Condos	From \$595,000	Coldwell Banker/Bobby Jester
Saturdays 11-4pm	Heron Harbour Sales Office, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2/BR/3BR/4/BR+	Condo, Towns & SF	—	ERA Holiday/Nanette Pavier
Sundays 10-1pm	Eleven 11 Edgewater	3BR/2.5BA	16 Bayfront Condos	From \$595,000	Coldwell Banker/Bobby Jester
Sundays 11-4pm	Harbour Island Sales Office, 14th St & Bayside	2 & 3BR/2 & 3.5BA	Condo, Town, Slips	From \$300,000	ERA Holiday RE/Sherry Dare
Sundays 11-4pm	Heron Harbour Sales Office, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2/BR3BR/4/BR+	Condo, Towns & SF	—	ERA Holiday/Nanette Pavier





SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Pictured are (L to R) Kiwanis President Barb Peletier, Kiwanis Membership Chair Pat Winkelmayer, co-sponsor Mike Morton, Mary Evans, Mike Evans and co-sponsor Peg Morton.

OP Kiwanis Club grows, inducts two new members

Growth and retention of membership is the life blood of any organization and the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City is proud to announce the induction of Ocean Pines residents Mary and Mike Evans.

Mary, a native of Washington/D.C., graduated from St. Agnes Hospital School of Nursing, continued her education at Towson University where she earned her BS degree and later earned her MS degree from the University of Maryland and was certified as a Nurse Practitioner. She worked at Washington Hospital Center, Georgetown University, and the university of Maryland in the critical care areas. She is the mother of four and grandmother of six.

Mike, born in in Arizona and raised in Texas, graduated from UMBC in Baltimore with a BS and MBA. He worked in sales at Rink Building Sys-

tems, then at Bruning Corporation, followed by Anne Arundel County Inspections and Permits and as their Director of Central Services where he retired only to work again as the Director of Carroll County Maryland Inspections and Permits and Public Works from which he also retired. Being married to Mary, he father and grandfather to the same offspring.

The Evans moved to Ocean Pines in August of 2012 and didn't take long to get involved with Kiwanis. In fact, before they were installed, they chaired the Kiwanis Christmas project to collect toys for Worcester County GOLD from the membership. They are pictured with their "sleigh" full of the toys to be delivered to GOLD. Kiwanis Welcomes the Evans. KIWANIS: "Serving the Children of the World". For club information see www.kiwanis.org/club/oceanpines.



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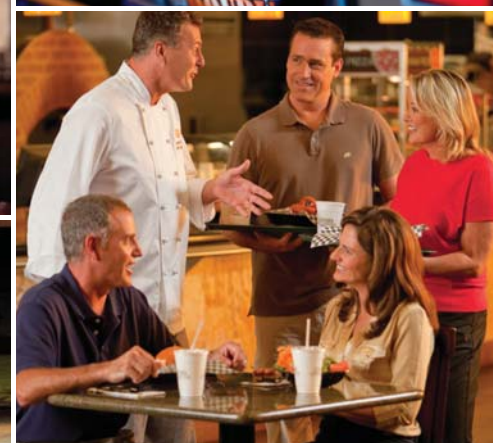
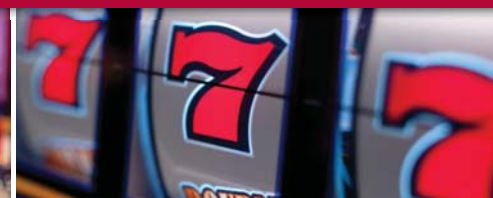
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SNAPSHOTS



GINGERBREAD HOUSES SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Fourth Grade students at Ocean City Elementary School created gingerbread houses. Pictured with their creations are: Victoria Mueller, Lizzie Coates, Isabella Vazquez, Mackenzie Barrett, Zachary Whitacre and Leeth Omar.



ANGELS ON CAMPUS SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
A few of the students who will be angels in Worcester Preparatory School's annual Christmas Candlelight Program on Friday, December 7 at 1:30 p.m. are: (l-r) Moorea Phillips, Ocean City; William Mumford, Bethany Beach; Ashling Marshall, Dewey Beach; and Abott Browne, Dagsboro.



LUNCHEON SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Last Friday the Atlantic Hotel's Victorian Ball Room was filled with local women who came out to support the Lower Shore Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. The Society of Women Leader attendees enjoyed a menu sponsored by the Atlantic Hotel and the Freeman Stage at Bayside, and a chocolate infused Zinfandel dessert wine, compliments of Berlin's new Maryland Wine Bar.



STOCKING STUFFERS SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Third grade students at Ocean City Elementary School filled stockings for the Salvation Army to help out local families in need for the holidays. Pictured: Brooklyn Durham, Dylan Bracia, and Sophia Haines



TOY DRIVE SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Kathy Jacobs, Director of Community Relations for Brandywine Senior Living in Fenwick, collected toys last Saturday afternoon to benefit the Crisfield community which was severely affected by Hurricane Sandy.



TREE DECORATED SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Pictured are members of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City as they get ready to decorate their tree in the Ocean Pines White Horse Park. (L to R) Peg Morton, Barb Peletier, Mary Evans, Carolyn Dryzga, Dick Clagett, Jackie Todd and Dan Peletier. All of the ornaments were handmade by the students at the local schools having Kiwanis sponsored clubs. The Kiwanis Tree is one of 17 trees sponsored by local organizations.

BUSINESS

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

FINANCE

Deferring gains via 1031 exchange rule

If you have business or investment property you'd like to sell, take a look at the 1031 exchange rules before doing so. These rules allow you to sell one property and purchase another of like kind, deferring any gains.

"Like kind" means the property must be used for business or investment purposes, which could include apartment buildings, office buildings, industrial buildings, commercial buildings, rental housing units, raw land, farms, and ranches.

You do not have to sell and buy the exact same type of property. Therefore, you could sell undeveloped land and purchase a commercial building, deferring the gain. Or you could sell the building used in your business and purchase an apartment complex, again deferring the gain.

To defer the entire gain, the replacement property must be of greater value than the property you are selling and all your equity must go back into the replacement property. Otherwise, part of the gain will be taxable. You do not have to purchase the new property from the same person who purchases your property.

Usually for the exchange to qualify as tax deferring,
Continued on Page 17

BIZ BRIEFS

DuPont named "Next Leader"

Alysson E. DuPont, human resources manager at Calvin B. Taylor Banking Co. in Berlin, has been named one of Maryland's "Next Leaders in Banking."



DuPont

The award, presented to DuPont on Nov. 9, was first introduced in 2011 by the Maryland Banker's Association, in conjunction with the Warren Group. The recipients, chosen independently by a panel of judges, are considered rising stars in the banking industry who have made significant contributions to their banking institutions, and communities in which they serve.

"We are proud of Alysson's professional achievements, and honored that she was one of only twelve recipients of this prestigious award this year," said Raymond M. Thompson, president and CEO of Calvin B. Taylor Banking Co.

Continued on Page 15



LISA CAPITELLI / OCEAN CITY TODAY

Showing off just a few of the several hundred toys donated to the Ocean City Police Department's Christmas Toy Drive during the Parrothead Club's 14th annual Hots for Tots Chili Cookoff at the West Ocean City Greene Turtle on Dec. 2 are Sgt. Ronnie Townsend and Public Safety Aide Leslie Santiago.

Local families helped during holidays

Representatives note an increase in need this holiday season

Lisa Capitelli

Assistant Editor/Ocean City Today

WORCESTER COUNTY — The Ocean City Police Department, Marine Corps League First State Detachment, Worcester G.O.L.D. and the Worcester County Sheriff's Department will again assist local families in need this holiday season, by collecting toys, food and monetary donations throughout the region. Representatives from these organizations said they have noticed an increase in the number of people looking for a helping hand this year, most of them because of the poor economy, job loss or unemployment. n Ocean City Police Department Holiday Food and Toy Drive

Founded in 1995 by Chief Bernadette DiPino, Ocean City's food and toy drive is a family tradition she has carried on from her father and grandfather, who were both Baltimore City police officers. Members of the OCPD, with the help of community organizations, residents and businesses, are organizing the drive. Last year, approximately 75 families, which included about 150 children, received toys and food, according to Mike Levy, public affairs officer for the department. "The Ocean City community is extremely benevolent and generous," Levy said. "They realize a lot of people are hurting this time of year." To qualify for assistance, families or individuals must be Ocean City residents or employed in town. People in need, but who do not live or work in the resort, will be referred to local churches or other organizations. The department tries to help ap-

proximately 75 families each Christmas, depending on the number of donations received. Levy said the police department began accepting names of people in need the week before Thanksgiving. As of Monday, Dec. 21, is the last day to donate toys and money to the drive. New, unwrapped toys may be dropped off at the Public Safety Building on 65th Street. Monetary donations will also be accepted at there, and at any Bank of Ocean City branch (account names are Town of Ocean City, Ocean City Police Department DBA-Holiday Food and Toy Drive). Checks should be made payable to "OCPD Christmas Toy Drive."

Donations may also be mailed to 6501 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Md. 21842. The money collected will be used to buy additional toys
Continued on Page 14




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Toy donations have been steadily flowing in

Guests donated several hundred toys during recent OCPHC event

Continued from Page 13

and food for the families. Toy donations have been coming in steadily. The department typically sees a huge influx of toy donations about a week before they are to be distributed. The OCPD recently felt a boost in donations, as it was the beneficiary of the Ocean City Parrot-head Club's 14th annual Hots for Tots Chili Cookoff, held Dec. 2, at the Greene Turtle in West Ocean City. Guests donated several hundred toys during the fundraiser. Donations will also be accepted during Fager's Island's annual "Customer Appreciation Party" tonight, Dec. 7. Guests are asked to donate a new, unwrapped toy or give a monetary donation for the police department's drive. Members of the department will collect donations at the 60th Street venue. The party starts at 5 p.m. The Greene Turtle on 116th Street will accept toys or a \$5 donation for the OCPD during a holiday party on Monday, Dec. 10. The festivities begin at 4 p.m. "We're getting a lot of toys coming in, but money has been coming in slower than normal," Levy said. "Toys are always awesome, but cash allows us to provide food to these folks." Typically,

between \$5,000 and \$6,000 is in the account by this time, Levy said. As of Dec. 3, there is about \$2,500 in the fund. All toys will be distributed to families on Saturday, Dec. 22, at 8 a.m. at the Public Safety Building. Families will also receive a large food box or grocery store gift cards, depending on the amount of monetary donations the OCPD has received prior to that date. "The drive is twofold: to distribute toys and to make sure people have a hot meal on Christmas and do so as a family," Levy said. For more information, to refer families or to volunteer on Dec. 22, contact Levy at 410-723-6665 or call OCPD Records Section Supervisor Michelle Monico at 410-723-6631, or Records Technician Tim Coyle, 410-520-5105. n Toys for Tots: The Marine Corps League, First State Detachment, has organized five luncheon/dinner buffets to promote the 2012 Toys for Tots campaign. The remaining events are: Tuesday, Dec. 11, 5-9 p.m., at Slainté Pub & Restaurant, Route 54 next to Harris Teeter in Selbyville, Del.; Friday, Dec. 14, 6-9 p.m., at The Cove Bar & Grill, in Selbyville, Del.; and Sunday, Dec. 16, 1-4 p.m., at Magnolia's restaurant in Ocean View, Del. Music will be provided by the band Imagine during all events. The organization began hosting luncheons in the early 1990s, according to coordinator Jack Carey. In years past, admission for

each buffet was either a \$10 donation or a new, unwrapped toy of equal value. Since the quality of toys donated had decreased over the past few years, beginning in 2011 the organization only accepted a \$10 contribution as admission to the buffets. "[The quality of the toys] just wasn't in the spirit of what we wanted," Carey said. "We can do more with the money if we buy toys through the organization. Last year, the money [that was collected] enabled us to distribute more toys." Carey will send the monetary donations from the buffet events to the national foundation. In turn, he will receive a credit card to purchase toys locally. According to Carey, 98 percent of every dollar donated will be used to buy toys. Two percent goes to the national foundation to fund operational costs, expenses and for the salaries of about a dozen paid employees. The First State Detachment has also set up boxes for toy donations at drop-off locations around the area. For a list of the approximately 40 designated spots in Ocean City, Ocean Pines and in Southern Delaware, visit <http://ocean-view-de.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites/Default.aspx> and click on "Toy Drop-Offs" or call Carey at 302-537-7272. The deadline to drop off toys is Wednesday, Dec. 19. The group will distribute the toys to various organizations, churches, Delaware and Maryland social services and the OCPD, which will hand them out to families in the Ocean City and southern Delaware areas. The First State Detachment has been collecting toys since 1998. The organization is based in Ocean View, Del., but meets at the VFW on 66th Street in Ocean City. In 2011, the First State Detachment distributed 8,243 toys to 3,462 children. "We're finding the need is about the same if not slightly more than last year," Carey said. While the requests for toys have gone up each of the six years Carey has coordinated the local drive, the total

TOYS FOR TOTS DROPOFFS OCEAN CITY:


- U.S. Coast Guard Station, 610 S. Philadelphia Ave.
- Ocean City Town Hall, Third Street
- Atlantic United Methodist Church, Fourth Street
- Layton's Family Restaurant, 16th Street
- VFW Post 8296, 66th Street
- BJ's on the Water, 75th Street
- Susquehanna Bank, 94th Street
- Denny's, 112th Street
- Greene Turtle, 116th Street
- Shore Management, 201 N. Heron Drive
- JC's Northside Pub, 127th Street
- Duffy's Tavern, 129th Street

OCEAN PINES:

- Denovo's Trattoria, 11310 Manklin Creek Road
- Edward Jones, 11200 Racetrack Road, Suite A102
- Family Dollar, 11070 Cathell Road
- Merrill Lynch 213-9084
- The Parke at Ocean Pines, 2 Arcadia Court
- Tidewater Physical Therapy, 11022 Nicholas Lane

donations received has kept pace. The Toys for Tots program was adopted by the Marine Corps Reserve in 1947. In 2011, nearly 16 million toys were distributed to more than 7 million children nationwide. n Worcester G.O.L.D. "Helping Hands for the Holidays" Worcester County G.O.L.D.'s (Giving Other Lives Dignity) "Helping Hands for the Holidays" program is now in its 16th year. According to Director Darlene Onley, between 50 and 60 county resi-

Continued on Page 15



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In January, 2010, in an effort to fund scholarships for students at Stephen Decatur High School forever, the Ocean City/Berlin Optimist Club established the Ocean City/Berlin Youth Foundation Endowment.

The Endowment, which is funded by personal giving, is managed by the Eastern Shore Community Foundation. Personal giving takes many forms, including gifting through cash, wills, trusts and life insurance policies, gifting through retirement plans such as 401K's, IRAs, 403B and 457 plans, and/or gifting of personal property such as homes, condos and land.

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Endowment or if are interested in funding a
scholarship, please contact Larry Campbell at
410-991-3360 or
Rich Dalton at 631-278-5644.*



Many new families this year seek help from local program

Continued from Page 14

dents asked for assistance that first year. Last year, 946 people (about 320 families) benefited from the program during Christmas. To make sure all needy families in the area are recognized each holiday season, G.O.L.D. crosschecks its list with other organizations to make sure everyone receives something. Onley began taking names in early October. There are many new families on her list this year as well as some familiar names. Because Worcester G.O.L.D. has such a small staff and limited space, the organization set Dec. 3 as a cutoff date for accepting names, but she will still take emergency cases. On Monday, Onley said about 1,150 people (approximately 360 families) were on the list to receive assistance this year. "We've never had that many families on our list. There's a lot of need," she said. "This is a bigger year than what we're used to and it's going to take more money. No family will ever not get help if they are on our list." The Worcester G.O.L.D. "adopt-a-family" program provides the basic needs and Christmas presents for local children and families, youngsters in foster care and vulnerable adults (single senior citizens and those adults requiring assistance), all referred by social workers, case workers at the Worcester County Health Department, county schools and clergy. People can still adopt families or individuals and supply them with toys, gifts, food and everyday items. Donations of food, clothing and toys are always welcome. The emphasis is on meeting the basic needs and what is indicated on the family's wish list. At this time, more than 100 families are without spon-

Continued on Page 16

BIZ BRIEFS

Continued from Page 13

For more information about Taylor Bank, visit www.taylorbank.com.

Hinman is top ASC&D producer for Oct.

Travis Hinman, CRIS, has been named Atlantic/Smith, Cropper & Deeley's top October producer.



Hinman

Hinman is an account executive with the agency, who has seven years of experience. A U.S. Army veteran, he specializes in veteran organizations, churches, contractors and transportation insurance. He volunteers

with the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore organization. Hinman resides in Salisbury with his wife.

AGH recruits new oncologist, hematologist

Rabindra Paul, M.D., has joined Atlantic General Hospital and Health System to provide medical oncology and hematology services. In this role, he oversees treatments at the Outpatient Infusion Center and provides comprehensive care management for patients diagnosed with all types of cancer.



Paul

Dr. Paul is a highly experienced physician with 11 years of training, including a fellowship in hematology and medical oncology at Howard University Hospital in Washington, D.C. He is board certified by the American Board of

Infectious Diseases, Internal Medicine, Hematology, and Medical Oncology.

Dr. Paul sees patients at his office located within the James G. Barrett Medical Office Building at the entrance of Healthway Drive in Berlin, and oversees chemotherapy treatments at the Outpatient Infusion Center at Atlantic General Hospital. Dr. Paul is currently accepting new patients for oncology and hematology. To make an appointment, call 410-629-6888.

Members join Education Foundation board

SALISBURY, MD – Katherine Harting, Gains Hawkins and Virgil Shockley have joined the board of directors for the Delmarva Education Foundation. The mission of the Delmarva Education Foundation is to promote college access



Harting



Hawkins

and success for residents of the lower Delmarva Peninsula.

Harting, of Princess Anne, is the former executive director of the Delmarva Education Foundation, transitioning onto the board following her retirement after four years at the helm. Prior to joining DEF, she worked at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore as adjunct faculty in the Department of English and Modern languages for three years and as a media specialist in the Department of Agriculture for almost 20 years.

Hawkins, of Salisbury, recently retired from the University of Maryland



Shockley

Eastern Shore where he served as vice president for institutional advancement since 2003. At UMES he served on the President's Cabinet, the President's Executive Committee and the Gala Committee. Prior to

that, he was the assistant vice president of University Advancement at Salisbury University for five years and served as director of public relations at SU for 13 years.

Shockley, of Snow Hill, was elected as a Worcester County Commissioner in 1998 and is currently serving his fourth term. He has been in the farming and poultry business for 40 years and for 26 years has served as a Worcester County school bus contractor. He previously taught industrial arts and drafting at Wicomico Junior High School and is a member of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland.

For more than a decade, DEF's trained college access advisors have provided assistance to individuals, families and groups on a wide range of topics relating to post-secondary education, including finding money for college. Call DEF at 410-219-3336 or visit www.delmarvaed.org for more information.

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'We try to match a community sponsor with a family in need'

Many are seeking not toys this holiday, but warm clothing, coats

Continued from Page 13

sors. "We try to match a community sponsor with a family in need. When we run out of sponsors our volunteers will shop for those who haven't been sponsored," Onley said. "We have the most generous community. They always come through for the children. It's the people

who give, they are the ones who make it happen." For the fourth consecutive year, the Ocean City/Ocean Pines Elks Club has sponsored a coat drive for Worcester G.O.L.D., as many people have asked the program for warm coats. Last year, 150 coats were donated. For more information, contact Onley at 410-677-6830 or visit www.Worcester-GOLD.org. Checks can be sent to Worcester County G.O.L.D. at P.O. Box 39, Snow Hill, Md. 21863. n Worcester County Sheriff's Office Christmas Needy Program For about 30 years, the

Worcester County Sheriff's Office has assisted less fortunate families during Christmastime.

Coordinator Dena Holloway said 525 county families (about 1,001 children) and 45 senior citizens were on the Needy Program Santa House list requesting assistance as of Monday, and calls were still coming in. She began gathering names in early September.

Nonperishable food, toys, clothing and other items, for infants to senior citizens, can be taken to drop-off sites, including Calvin B. Taylor banks,

Worcester County Liquor Control Board building in Snow Hill, Dollar Tree in Berlin and Denovo's in Ocean Pines. Several schools are also conducting food and toy drives for the organization. Donations can also be taken to the Santa House at 5363 Snow Hill Road in Snow Hill. Mail monetary contributions to Worcester County Sheriff's Office, 1 W. Market St., room 1001, Snow Hill, Md. 21863, Attn: Santa House. Food and gifts will be distributed on Thursday, Dec. 20. For more information or to adopt/sponsor a family, call 410-632-4924.



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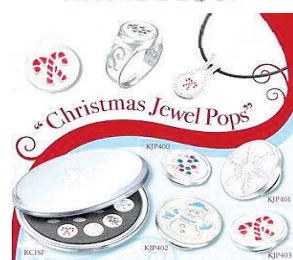
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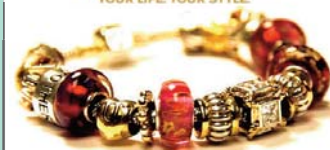
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FINANCIAL ADVICE

Identify 1031 exchange within time frame

Continued from Page 13

ferred, you must document your intention to exchange properties in the purchase agreement, not take constructive receipt of the sale proceeds, identify replacement properties within 45 days, and acquire the replacement property by the earlier of 180 days after the first sale's closing or the due date of your tax return, including extensions, for the year of the sale.

Typically, the most difficult part of a 1031 exchange is identifying the new property within the allotted time frame. In many cases the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) allows the purchase of the new property before the sale of the original property.

If you want to sell your property and get out of real estate altogether, then a 1031 exchange would not be appropriate. However, if you have other goals, such as trading up or owning a different type of property, then a 1031 exchange may help you defer gains from the sale.

As an example, this tax rule can be

used to help acquire a retirement home. Start out purchasing a small investment property. You can sell it at a later date and purchase a more expensive property, deferring the gains. You can continue this process until you eventually purchase your retirement home. However, before living in the home, you must first rent it out so the gain will be deferred.

While there are no clear-cut rules on how long the home must be rented, the IRS has validated a two-year period. After that, you can move into your retirement home and use it as your principal residence. As long as you live in the home for

two of the last five years before selling it, you could then sell the home and exclude up to \$250,000 of gain if you are single and \$500,000 of gain if you are married filing jointly.

As always, discuss this strategy with a qualified attorney or financial professional.

Chip Gordy, MBA, CRPC is a financial advisor with Coastal Wealth Management, LLC, located at 10441 Racetrack Road, Unit 1, in Berlin, who specializes in wealth and retirement planning. He can be reached at 410-208-4545 or chip@coastalwealthmgmt.com.

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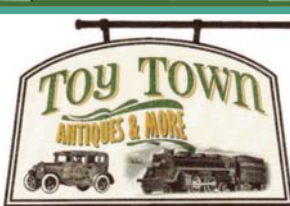
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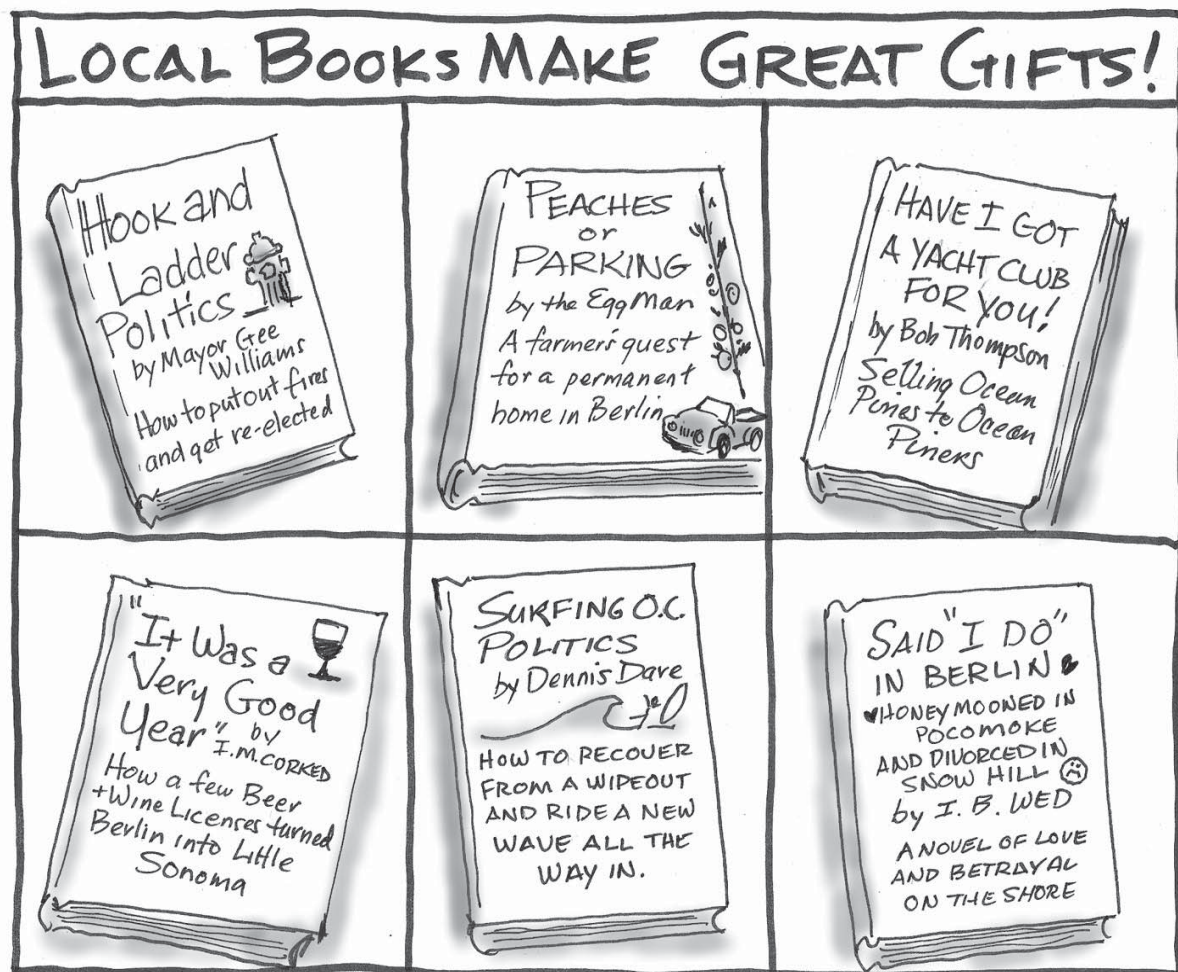
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COMMENTARY

Commentary: FHA about to put the squeeze on borrowers

By Robert Nusgart
The Daily Record Newswire

BALTIMORE — With all the political talk about reinvigorating and protecting the middle class, the government's most venerable program for first-time homebuyers — that run by the Federal Housing Administration — may be on the verge of getting a little bit more expensive to use.

Since the mortgage meltdown five years ago, the loan of last resort for many buyers who have minor credit issues or who can summon only a small down payment has been FHA. When all other low down payment programs practically vanished overnight for that segment of the purchasing public, FHA, run by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, came to the rescue. FHA now insures about 1.2 million residential loans — about 15 percent of all U.S. home loans. For comparison's sake, FHA insured just 5 percent of all U.S. home loans in 2006.

To keep itself solvent, FHA requires borrowers to pay a one-time upfront mortgage insurance premium and then a monthly mortgage insurance premium. Five years ago the formulas for figuring out these costs meant they were

relatively inexpensive to the borrower. But periodically FHA would either raise the upfront or monthly premiums to attempt to keep its reserves within its federally mandated guidelines.

Several weeks ago HUD reported to Congress that the FHA Mutual Mortgage Insurance (MMI) Fund is suffering from a \$16.3 billion deficit. And for the fourth straight year, the MMI Fund has failed to meet its 2 percent statutory reserve amount, an amount required under law to be held back to cover excess losses.

HUD is permitted by law to get funds from the U.S. Treasury to meet its insurance claim obligations, if there are not enough funds. However FHA has never had to go to those Treasury funds for a bailout during its 78-year existence. But now the reserves are at negative 1.44 percent.

This is not a good thing.

And as the report noted, most of the bad loans that FHA made came before 2010. More than a quarter of the loans made in 2007 and 2008 were seriously delinquent as of last summer.

Now there is talk that FHA is looking to raise the premiums once again, making it more expensive for those homeowners who need to use the program.

Five years ago, with down payments of 5 percent or less (the FHA minimum at that time was 3 percent; now it's 3.5 percent), the upfront premium was 1.5 percent of the base loan amount and the annual premium was based on 0.5 percent. So on a \$200,000 loan the upfront premium was \$3,000 and the total loan amount was \$203,000. The monthly insurance premium would be \$83.33.

But during the last five years, FHA has tinkered with both formulas, moving the upfront premium higher and then lowering it, while raising the annual premium. Today, the upfront premium stands at 1.75 percent of the base loan amount, and for minimum-down payment loans the annual premium (paid monthly as part of the overall mortgage payment) is 1.25 percent. Now the government is thinking of raising the one-time upfront premium to 2.05 percent and the annual premium to 1.35 percent.

So now that \$200,000 loan would have an additional \$4,100 placed on top of it for the upfront fee. And the monthly mortgage insurance premium would be \$225 a month.

Private mortgage insurance companies were hammered and nearly driven

out of business in the housing collapse. Higher FHA premiums only make them look better.

For a borrower, who doesn't have credit issues, putting down a little more to reach a minimum 5 percent down payment and going with PMI might be the wiser choice.

For that same \$200,000 loan, the monthly mortgage insurance comes to roughly \$111 a month — and there is no upfront mortgage insurance premium.

FHA is not dying, although it seems to be becoming a costly option for those who need to use it. But if that is the price that has to be paid, so be it — because if the housing industry is going to continue its comeback, there has to be an avenue for those borrowers who can only afford a minimum down payment or who may have some minor credit issues that would prevent them from using Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac conventional loans.

Robert Nusgart is a loan officer with Mortgage Master Inc. in Baltimore. He can be reached at 443-632-0858 or by email at rnusgart@mortgagemaster-inc.com. Visit his website at www.RobertNusgart.com for the latest mortgage and financial news.

Maryland taxpayers are facing their own fiscal cliff

By Alexander Pyles
The Daily Record Newswire

BALTIMORE — If Congress fails to prevent automatic tax increases by year's end, the typical family in Maryland will pay a bigger bill than the typical family just about anywhere else in the United States.

The Tax Foundation, a nonprofit, nonpartisan tax research group based in Washington, D.C., found in an analysis of U.S. Census and Internal Revenue Service data that a four-person family in Maryland with a median household income would owe an extra \$7,200 in taxes next year if some potential tax increases are not averted

through lawmakers' efforts to avoid the "fiscal cliff."

That's the highest dollar-figure increase in the nation, and the second-highest increase by percentage of income.

"If Congress fails to deal with the fiscal cliff, Maryland taxpayers will be disproportionately impacted," said Scott A. Hodge, the Tax Foundation's president.

Much of the jump is attributable to more tax filers being forced to pay the alternative minimum tax, which is based on a formula intended to prevent the super-rich from using deductions to drastically lower their tax bill.

The alternative minimum tax kicks in at a certain dollar threshold depending on a taxpayer's filing status, but that threshold is not adjusted for inflation. Congress usually makes legislative adjustments, but has yet to do so this year.

If it doesn't pass a measure retroactively, an extra 26 million middle-class taxpayers may be forced to pay AMT rates for the last year's earnings.

Hodge said the problem is exacerbated in Maryland because it has the highest median income in the nation for a four-person family — more than \$106,000 — and because state and local taxes are higher than average.

"The AMT is triggered when taxpayers' deductions are in excess of a certain percentage of their income," Hodge said. "The whole point was to prevent high-income people from using too many deductions. So Congress put in these percentage triggers."

"So, yes, it is partly because of the higher median income. But also factor in high state and local taxes, which are a key component in determining whether or not a family could be captured by the alternative minimum tax."

Economist Anirban Basu, chairman and CEO of the Sage Policy Group Inc., said the tax hike would be especially devastating to business people.

"Often the people who take these deductions are people who are taking risks, including starting a business," Basu said. "And also, the folks who are affected by the AMT are entrepreneurs who did something they thought they would benefit from a deduction by

doing ... and then they find out they're trapped."

Basu, who is also a member of a Maryland coalition of business leaders, politicians and academics, expressed dismay at the impact on Maryland residents of a tax bill that was suddenly \$7,200 higher than last year's.

"That's just a massive, devastating, can't-make-my-mortgage number," he said. "No state has as much interest in having the fiscal cliff resolved as does Maryland. AMT is just one reason. Even if that family is not affected by the AMT, they would be affected by higher taxes."

The payroll tax credit, child tax credit and a series of cuts first enacted during President George W. Bush's administration are also set to expire.

According to some, the tax climate in this state has made matters worse than they might be otherwise.

Anti-tax group Change Maryland has fought a persistent public relations battle with state leaders over Maryland taxes. Its chairman, Larry Hogan, former Republican Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr.'s appointments secretary, has been a frequent critic of Gov. Martin O'Malley's administration when it comes to business climate and tax rates.

"O'Malley has raised taxes and fees 24 times, taking \$2.4 billion out of the economy annually on the state level," Hogan said in an emailed statement. "He ought to be the loudest voice advocating for hard-working Marylanders on Capitol Hill where the timing of these looming tax increases could not be worse."

LETTERS

Thank you from Worcester County Humane Society

On November 2nd the 32nd annual Worcester County Humane Society Fall dinner was held at Adolfo's on the Ocean. On behalf of the shelter animals and staff, I would like to thank the following for contributing their time, talents and expertise to this event: Rhonda Apple, Atlantic Gold Brenda Bennett, Mary Bixler, Dale Britt, Erin Carrington, Christy Curran, Kenille Davies, Darrian Day, Bill Dooley, Cathy Jarman, Linda Kuchta, Tyler Layton, Mindy Lupiwak, Peggy Katona, Carolyn Miller, Bob Pf-sano, Sandy Summers, Bev Sweitzer and Karen Valentine.

The benefit took place on 13th Street and the Boardwalk, only 3 days after Hurricane Sandy. It was especially heartwarming to see a benevolent group of people, such as the dinner guests and Apple and Britt come together for the abandoned dogs and cats in our area.

Many thanks to all.

As always, this fundraiser is not invitation only and the local newspapers will announce our event in their calendars every Fall.

To reach the shelter please contact us at 410-213-0146.

Barbara Conner
Dinner Committee
W.C.H.S.

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BAYSIDE LIFE

West Ocean City Station 7 takes home top award

Hundreds turn out for "Hots for Tots" benefit event

By Lisa Capitelli

Assistant Editor/Ocean City Today

WEST OCEAN CITY — More than 500 people filtered in and out of the West Ocean City Greene Turtle on Sunday, Dec. 2, for the chance to sample chili recipes from 13 restaurants and to cast a vote for their favorite concoction during the Ocean City Parrothead Club's 14th annual Hots for Tots Chili Cookoff.

"It gets better year after year. It was a great day, especially for the Needy Program for the Ocean City Police Department and for Worcester G.O.L.D. and their families in need," said OCPHC President India Bandorick. "I couldn't be happier. We love working with Chad and Kelly Rogers from the WOC Greene Turtle. Their enthusiasm makes the event fun for everyone involved."

The chili blends had a variety of flavors and tastes — from mild to spicy and everything in between. They were served to guests in small portions during the contest, which has become one of the coastal area's favorite pastime events, according to Bandorick.

When the ballots were counted, Station 7 Restaurant, which opened last week on Route 707 in West Ocean City, took top honors with its "Firehouse Chili."

The chili is served at the West Ocean



LISA CAPITELLI/OCEAN CITY TODAY

Kelli Duffy, left, and Amber Lynch serve Station 7 Restaurant's "Firehouse Chili" Dec. 2, during the Ocean City Parrothead Club's 14th annual Hots for Tots Chili Cookoff. Station 7, which opened last week on Route 707 in West Ocean City, took top honors.

City restaurant as well as at the Pittsville and Laurel, Del. establishments. The blend took first place in the contest in 2008 and second in 2009 and 2010.

"We go for a well-balanced, flavorful chili," said owner Todd Wampler. "It's nice to have a new restaurant in the area

and then win a local competition."

Mother's Cantina, located on 28th Street in Ocean City, had won the competition each of the past three years, but in 2012, its "Chili Con Café" earned second place.

"Ryan and I are both disappointed because we live and breathe food. Our restaurant and our food don't just provide our living, they are our passion," said Neely James, owner of Mother's Cantina with her husband, Ryan. "So yes, we're disappointed that our best efforts didn't give us the result we wanted. However, the Parrotheads said Sunday was their second best turnout ever, which is awesome, and thinking about that really eases our disappointment. Station 7's opening in West Ocean City will also benefit from their title, and we are definitely happy for them."

Tern Grille in Ocean Pines earned third-place honors with "Chuck's Chili."

The Greene Turtle West captured the "Best of Show" award for the crowd favorite chili station decor. Don Pielert and Mollie Wyatt donned Alice in Wonderland-themed attire while serving the restaurant's "Mad Hatter's Brew."

Other participating restaurants were Oasis Bar 'N' Grill, Liquid Assets, Harborside, BLU Crabhouse & Raw Bar,

Buxy's Salty Dog Saloon, Coins Pub, The Globe, Seaside Deli and The Woodlands of Ocean Pines.

"Everyone had a great time tasting chili, and as always, there were votes for everyone across the board," Bandorick said.

Visitors were asked to make a \$10 donation at the door or donate a new, unwrapped toy for the Ocean City Police Department's annual toy drive. Several hundred toys were collected.

More than \$1,800 was also donated Sunday. Monetary donations will benefit the 10 families, which consist of 25 children and 12 adults, adopted by the OCPHC for Thanksgiving and Christmas as part of Worcester County G.O.L.D. (Giving Other Lives Dignity), a countywide program that works to improve lives of people throughout the community. One family lives in Bishopville and one resides in Ocean City. Three are from Berlin and five live in Snow Hill.

"Next year marks our 15th year and we are planning a huge event for the first Sunday in December," Bandorick said. "I hope everyone will come and experience one of Ocean City's favorite winter pastimes, the Hots for Tots Chili Cookoff."



LISA CAPITELLI/OCEAN CITY TODAY

Handing out ballots and wristbands to guests attending the Ocean City Parrothead Club's 14th annual Hots for Tots Chili Cookoff Dec. 2, at the West Ocean City Greene Turtle are, from left, Tom Troup, Bob and Marie Rose and Cheryl Spanninger.

SNAPSHOTS



LEGO ROBOTS
SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Students Laura Meadows, Ryan Smith and Jimmy Willey at the Berlin Intermediate School After School Academy construct mechanized robots out of Legos. The structure is first built and then it is connected to a computer to make it move. Watch out...here they come!



ANNUAL DONATIONS
SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Kiwanis Club of Greater OP-OC made donations to local programs. The schools having Kiwanis student clubs each received \$500.00 from President Barb Peletier. Pictured are the Kiwanis Club's liaisons to the school clubs: (L to R) Jackie Todd for the Builder's Club at Stephen Decatur Middle School, Roy Foreman for the Stephen Decatur High School Key Club, President Barb Peletier, Dan Peletier for The Salisbury School Key Club, Peg Morton for the Builder's Club of Berlin Intermediate School and BJ Baker for Buckingham Elementary School.



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH
SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Ocean City Elementary School honored the November Students of the Month on Thursday, November 29 with a special t-shirt and luncheon sponsored by the Ocean City-Berlin OptiMS and a delicious cake donated by the OCES/PTA. These outstanding students are truly leaders in and out of the classroom. Pictured are: Grade 1 (row 1 left to right): Layla Hargrove, Gavin Solito, Rylee Houck, Kalena Ethridge, Hailey Smith, and David Janney. Grade 2 (row 2): Lucian Dyer, Eva Purnell, Sandra Pawlowska, Emma Sheppard, and Collin Bunting. Grade 3 (row 3): Jake Gillespie, Kamilla Dymova, Cyia Quillen, Lorelei Auker, Patrick Fohner, Matthew Burns, and Logan Patrick (absent in October). Grade 4 (row 4): Gavin Conner, Tonia Wilgis, Steven Hoffman, Jacob Feldman, Ally Russell, and Colin Porter.



CRIME SOLVERS
SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Vermelle Moore and Hunter Wolf of the Crime Scene Investigation Club at Berlin Intermediate School work with clay to reconstruct tire tracks found at a crime scene. In the CSI club, students are introduced to a crime and gather clues to solve it.



COLLECTION FOR SOLDIERS
SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Ocean City Elementary School third and fourth grade students are holiday cards and collecting items for our soldiers in Afghanistan. Many of the students personally know men and women who are fighting for our country and spending the holiday season away from their families. Pictured with some of the supplies are Logan Patrick, Bailey Pusey and Gabrielle Sodomini.



THANKSGIVING DINNER
SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Pre-K, Kindergarten and 1st Grade students at Seaside Christian Academy enjoyed a Thanksgiving dinner for lunch. Pictured are the Pre-K students.

OCEAN PINES TREE LIGHTING



TIS THE SEASON

The Ocean Pine Association presented its second annual tree-lighting celebration, accompanied by music, last Friday during “An Old Fashioned Christmas” at White Horse Park. Businesses, community residents, civic groups and organizations had the opportunity to sponsor and decorate a tree, approximately 8 to 12 feet in size. Twenty-four trees, including a handful of smaller trees in the new “Children’s Tree Garden,” as well as larger tree sponsored by the Democratic Women’s Club, Arcadia Questers, Pink Ribbon Pin-ups, Republican Women of Worcester County and the Ocean Pines swim team, among many others, now adorn the park.

PHOTOS COURTESY
ANNE LITZ PHOTOGRAPHY (WWW.ANNELITZ.COM)



A performance by the children’s choral group from Most Blessed Sacrament School opened the evening tree-lighting event.



The Delmarva Chorus



Christmas tree sponsored by the Ocean Pines Garden Club

CALENDAR

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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

ONGOING EVENTS

BINGO NIGHT

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

SQUARE DANCING

Wednesdays
Ocean Pines Community Center, 7:15-9:15 p.m. All are welcome. For more info call 410-208-6777.

SHEPHERD'S NOOK THRIFT SHOP

Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays
Shepherd's Nook Thrift Shop open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Community Church, Rt. 589, Racetrack Road, Ocean Pines. Accepting donations of gently worn clothes and small household items.

DIAKONIA FURNITURE CENTER

Wednesday thru Saturday, 10 am-4 pm, 'Used to be Mine' Furniture Center. Corner of Rte 611 and Sunset Ave. 410-213-0243.

PINE'EER CRAFT & GIFT SHOP

Saturdays and Sundays
Pineëer Craft and Gift shop open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. White Horse Park, Ocean Pines. Handcrafted items created by members.

BUILDING MATERIALS SALE

Every first & third Saturday
Habitat for Humanity, 310 E. Market St., Snow Hill, 8 a.m. to noon. Building materials, appliances, doors, windows, cabinets, vanities, fixtures, furniture and more. Selection and prices vary depending on inventory. Proceeds fund the Flower Street, Berlin house construction.

STORY TIME FOR CHILDREN AGES 3-5

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Stories, rhymes, finger plays, music and crafts. Info: 410-208-4014.

KIWANIS CLUB

Wednesdays
Meeting 7:45 a.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Hall, except for third Wednesday which meets at The Woodlands in Ocean Pines. Meeting at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. For more info: 410-641-7330.

DELMARVA CHORUS

Mondays
The Delmarva Chorus under the direction of Carol Ludwig meets 7-9 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center. Women interested in learning and singing in a barbershop format are welcome. For more information call 410-208-4171.



LOCAL 'STARS' GATHER GIFTS FOR SOLDIERS

PHOTO COURTESY TED PAGE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Anna Foults and her Star Charities volunteers from Ocean Pines have been busy gathering gifts for our soldiers in Afghanistan and on Dec 4th, along with members from the Maryland National Guard in Salisbury, packed the gifts in a van for delivery overseas. Shown with the gifts all loaded for the journey are from left: Front, sitting: Anna Foults, Lou Ann Trummel, Lee Tilghman, and Sandy McAbee. Rear: Mary Ellen Schreiner; Sgt. Jessica Hunt; Jeremy Werner, Family Assistant Center Specialist; Christy Collins, Battalion Family Readiness Group Leader; Judy Chuvala; Barbara Mazzei; and Peggy Rumberg.

SALTWATER SPORTFISHERS

Atlantic Coast Chapter of the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association meets on the fourth Tuesday of the every month except for July, August and December at the Ocean City Lions Club, Airport Road, West Ocean City, 7:30 p.m.

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN

Democratic Women of Worcester County meets 9:30 a.m. for coffee followed by a meeting at 10 a.m., the third Monday of the month at the Ocean Pines Community Center. Guests and new members welcome.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturdays
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, includes coffee and juice. Bloody Marys cost \$3. Info: 410-524-8196.

SANCTIONED BRIDGE

Mondays: noon
Tuesdays: 10 a.m.
Weekly open duplicate Bridge

games. Ocean Pines Community Center. Cost is \$5, special games \$6. 1 p.m. on the third Sunday of every month is Swiss Teams. Partners guaranteed. Info: Felicia Daly, 410-208-1272, Pat Kanz, 410-641-8071.

FRIDAY NIGHT BINGO

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

BEACH SINGLES

Thursdays
Beach Singles 45-Plus meets for happy hour at Clarion Hotel, 10100 Coastal Highway in Ocean City, 4-7 p.m. Info: Arlene, 302-436-9577; Kate, 410-524-0649; or www.beachsingles.org.

BERLIN FARMERS' MARKET

Fridays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
On the corner of West and Main streets. Fresh produce, eggs, garden plants, fresh cut flowers,

seafood, meat and breads.

TACO NIGHT

Thursdays
VFW Post 8296, 66th Street, Ocean City. Benefits veterans. Three tacos and a Corona plus dessert, \$8 per person.

BREAKFAST

Knights of Columbus #9053, every second and fourth Sunday, 9 a.m. to noon.
\$8 per person, half price for 12 and younger. 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, rear St. Luke's Church. Info: 410-524-7994.

SI BOC GROUP

Second Tuesday of every month, the Woodlands in South Ocean Pines, 6 p.m. dinner, social time meeting begins 6:30 p.m. Info: President Marty Cropper, 410-213-1592.

LIFE AFTER LOSS

Non-denominational support group will meet 11 a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at The Community Church at Ocean Pines, room 38 in the Thomas McKelvey Family

Life Center. Info: 410-641-5433.

AARP

Ocean City AARP Chapter 1917 meets at the Elks Lodge, 138th Street and Sinexpuent Avenue, 9:30 a.m., on the second Thursday of the month (January, June, October and November).

SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE

Meets the third Wednesday of every month 6 p.m. at the Worcester County Health Department, 9730 Healthway Drive, Berlin (adjacent to Atlantic General Hospital). Open to anyone who has lost a friend or loved one to suicide. Hosted by a survivor and a licensed social worker. Free of charge. Info: 410-629-0164 or www.jessespaddle.org

WEEKLY SALE

Fridays
Stevenson United Methodist Church Thrift Shop, 5 Stevenson Lane, Berlin, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m..

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Hospital, chapel, 9733 Healthway Drive in Berlin, 7-8 p.m. The group gath-

ers the fourth Wednesday of each month. Pre-registration is not necessary. Info: Pastoral Care Services, 410-641-9725 or gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org.

DELMARVA HAND DANCING CLUB

Meets every Wednesday at Skyline Bar & Grille at The Fenwick Inn, 138th Street and Coastal Highway in Ocean City. Beginner and intermediate lessons, 5:30-6:30 p.m., followed by dancing until 9 p.m. Jitterbug, swing, cha-cha to the sounds of the '50s, '60s and Carolina beach music. All are welcome. Discounted food and drink prices. Info: 302-337-3638.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

Mondays
Berlin group No. 169, Atlantic General Hospital, conference room 2, 9733 Healthway Drive in 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.

ELKS BINGO

Every Wednesday at Ocean City
Continued on Page 28

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 27

Elks Lodge 2645, 138th Street across from Fenwick Inn. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., games start 6:30 p.m. A \$1,000 jackpot available, food, snacks and non-alcoholic beverages. No one under 18 years allowed in the hall during bingo. Info: 410-250-2645.

FIRESIDE CHAT

Berlin library, 220 N. Main St., 3 p.m. Monthly book discussion. Take a book you've enjoyed or one that you want to discuss. Get ideas for new authors to try. Free and open to the public. Info: 410-641-0650.

THURSDAY, DEC. 6

BERLIN CHRISTMAS PARADE

Forty-second annual parade will commence at 7 p.m. at the Berlin Fire Company. Will travel along North Main Street, and conclude at the corner of South Main and Tripoli streets. Featuring 80 entries, including floats, marching and performing units, fire companies, vehicle clubs, motorcycles and equestrian. Info: JoAnn Unger, 410-641-3858 or Sharon Timmons, 410-629-1716. Rain date is Dec. 13.

BARISTA AND BOOKS

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. For children ages 3-5 years and their caregivers. Stories, crafts, cocoa and pastries for children. Freshly brewed coffee for parents. Info: 410-208-4014.

STORY TIME

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. For children ages 3-5 years. Stories, rhymes, finger plays, music and crafts. Info: 410-208-4014.

YOUNG AND RESTLESS

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. For children ages 3-5 years. Creative science, art and music activities. Dress for a mess. Pre-registration required by calling 410-632-3495.

WOMEN'S CLUB OF OCEAN PINES HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Captain's Table Restaurant, located on the lobby level of the Courtyard by Marriott on 15th Street, Ocean City, 11:30 a.m. Choice of one of three entrées with a dessert of chocolate brownie a la mode for a cost of \$22 (taxes and gratuities included). Info: Sharon Stockman, 410-279-3355.

'IRVING BERLIN'S WHITE CHRISTMAS: THE MUSICAL'

Possum Hall, 441 Old Laurel Road, Georgetown, Del., 8 p.m. Performance by the Possum Point Players. Tickets cost \$23 for adults and \$22 for students and seniors. Tickets: www.possumpointplayers.org or 302-856-4560.

FRIDAY, DEC. 7

'IRVING BERLIN'S WHITE CHRISTMAS: THE MUSICAL'

Possum Hall, 441 Old Laurel Road, Georgetown, Del., 8 p.m. Performance by the Possum Point Players. Tickets cost \$23 for adults and \$22 for students and seniors. Tickets: www.possumpointplayers.org or 302-856-4560.

BINGO

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

'DECK THE HALLS' MOVIE

Mar-Va Theater Performing Arts Center, 103 Market St., Pocomoke City, 7 p.m. Featuring "Deck the Hall," rated PG. Tickets cost \$5. Tickets: www.marvatheater.com. Info: Box office, 410-957-4230.

PICTURES WITH SANTA

Snow Hill Canoe Company, Snow Hill Road, 5:30-8 p.m. Snow Hill Elementary School PTA members receive a free picture. Pictures for non-members cost \$7. Attendees can join the PTA — help the school, get discounts with membership card and free picture with Santa. Visit model train display on second floor. Santa arrives at 5:30 p.m., train garden open all evening. Info: Snow Hill Elementary PTA, 410-632-5210.

BEST OF THE BEST EXHIBIT AND OPENING RECEPTION

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th Street in Ocean City, 5-7 p.m. Winners of first, second and third place and Best of Show at exhibits in 2012 will be on display and for sale. Works will be shown in conjunction with Holiday Show and Sale, which runs until Dec. 16. Open to public, Complimentary refreshments will be served. Gallery open Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info: 410-524-9433.

SATURDAY, DEC. 8

TRADITIONAL CRAFTS DAY

Town of Berlin, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Featuring traditional craft artists demonstrating and selling their handiwork in participating Berlin businesses. Crafts include rug-hooking, basket making and quilting, spinning fine fibers into yarn, tatting or lace-making, knitting, bow- and wreath-making, hand-painted gourds and glass-blowing.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Salisbury Zoo, Critter Christmas, 1-4 p.m. Handmade crafts by local artisans. Info: 410-546-3440.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 11 a.m. Fun for all ages. Sponsored by the Friends of the Ocean City Library. Info: 410-524-1818.

WINTER WATERMEN'S FESTIVAL

Delmarva Discovery Center, 2 Market St., Pocomoke City, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Meet local watermen and hear their stories, enjoy music, free food samples, local artists. Info: 410-957-9933.

'IRVING BERLIN'S WHITE CHRISTMAS: THE MUSICAL'

Possum Hall, 441 Old Laurel Road, Georgetown, Del., 8 p.m. Performance by the Possum Point Players. Tickets cost \$23 for adults and \$22 for students and seniors. Tickets: www.possumpointplayers.org or 302-856-4560.

FAMILY BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AND FRIENDS

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 8-11 a.m. Fun, food, photos with Santa and other festivities. Gift Shop for kids to buy presents at a cost of less than \$1. Breakfast will include pancakes, sausage, pastries, coffee, juice and milk. Cost is \$6 for those 11 and older, \$4 for children 5-10 years and free to children 4 and younger. Attendees are encouraged to take an unwrapped gift (toys, games, books, etc. for boys and girls) or non-perishable food that will be donated to the Worcester County Sheriff Department's program for the needy. Photos with Santa available for \$5. Info: 410-641-7052 or www.oceanpines.org.

COOKIE WALK & COUNTRY STORE

Holy Trinity Cathedral, 11021 Worcester Highway, 9:30 a.m. until all gone. Variety of homemade Christmas cookies (\$7 per pound), plus breads, jams, candies and gift items for sale. Info: 410-641-4884.

4TH ANNUAL COOKIE WALK

Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway in West Ocean City, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Assortment of decorated Christmas cookies for \$7 per pound. Cookies can be packaged with ribbons and bows. Truffles available for \$8 per pound. Info: 410-641-3224.

BEEF & DUMPLINGS HAITI MISSION FUNDRAISER

Atlantic United Methodist Church, 105 Fourth St., in Ocean City, 5-7:30 p.m. Homemade dinner and desserts for donation. Benefits the church team's mission to Haiti. Info: 410-289-7430.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

VFW, Post 8296, 104 66th St., bayside in Ocean City, 8-11 a.m. A \$5 donation for all-you-can-

eat pancakes or 2-2-2, two eggs, two pancakes and two bacon slices, includes coffee and juice. Bloody Marys cost \$3. Info: 410-524-8196.

OCEAN PINES ANGLERS CLUB

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:30 a.m. A Fishing Flea Market will be held where members and guests can take fishing gear (rods, reels, lures, etc.) to sell, swap or give away. Members asked to take non-perishable food item or cash donation for Diakonia. All are welcome. Info: Jack Barnes, 410-641-7662.

TAYLOR HOUSE MUSEUM TOURS

Visit the Taylor House Museum, 208 N. Main St., Berlin, to explore historic displays of Berlin and Worcester County. Part of Museums of Worcester County traditional Christmas celebrations, each county museum will feature different holiday traditions throughout the month. A Berlin Victorian Christmas event.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Buckingham Presbyterian Church, 8:30-10:30 a.m. All-you-can-eat breakfast buffet. Santa available for photos. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children ages 3-12 and free to those 2 and younger. Tickets available at the door. Info: 410-213-2022. A Berlin Victorian Christmas event.

BLACKSMITH AT WORK

In front of the Atlantic Hotel, 2 N. Main St., Berlin, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Demonstrations and wares for sale. Weather permitting. A Berlin Victorian Christmas event.

'DECK THE HALLS' MOVIE

Mar-Va Theater Performing Arts Center, 103 Market St., Pocomoke City, 7 p.m. Featuring "Deck the Hall," rated PG. Tickets cost \$5. Tickets: www.marvatheater.com. Info: Box office, 410-957-4230.

SUNDAY, DEC. 9

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST BUFFET

Knights of Columbus, 9901 Coastal Highway (rear of St. Luke's Church) in Ocean City, 9 a.m. to noon. With coffee and juice. Cost is \$8 for adults, children 11 years and younger eat at half price. Info: 410-524-7994.

'IRVING BERLIN'S WHITE CHRISTMAS: THE MUSICAL'

Possum Hall, 441 Old Laurel Road, Georgetown, Del., 2 p.m. Performance by the Possum Point Players. Tickets cost \$23 for adults and \$22 for students and seniors. Tickets: www.possumpointplayers.org or 302-856-4560.

TREE LIGHTING

Sponsored by the Sharptown Historical Commission and held on Main Street, 7 p.m. Refreshments to follow at Asbury Methodist Community Hall. Caroling and Santa Claus. Info: 443-880-0418. Rain date is Dec. 16.

TRADITIONAL DECEMBER MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE

Lower Shore Family YMCA, 1900 Worcester Highway, Pocomoke City. Registration at noon, race starts at 1 p.m. All level, adult riders welcome. Expert and novice courses. Riders will choose 10- or 20-mile races on single-track dirt trails. Refreshments provided and cyclists can ride the race course after completion, at approximately 3 p.m. Take a water bottle and snacks/pot luck. YMCA members and ESIMBA members \$5, non-members \$10. Register: 410-430-4992. Sponsored by the Eastern Shore International Mountain Bicycling Association.

MONDAY, DEC. 10

HAND DANCING

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

FRIENDS OF THE OCEAN PINES LIBRARY MONTHLY MEETING

Ocean Pines library, large meeting room, 11107 Cathell Road. Coffee at 9:30 a.m., meeting at 10 a.m. Wendy Myers, Program Manager for The Cricket Center, explains the "Enough Abuse" program. Myers will show a short film that chronicles one child's situation. Info: 410-208-4014.

TUESDAY, DEC. 11

YOUNG AND RESTLESS

Berlin library, 220 N. Main St., 10:30 a.m. For children ages 3-5 years. Creative science, art and music activities. Dress for a mess. Pre-registration required by calling 410-641-0650.

STEPPING ON WORKSHOP

Selbyville Library, Del., 10 a.m. to noon. Stepping On is a well-researched falls prevention program. This free workshop meets for seven weeks (Oct. 30-Dec. 11). Pre-registration is necessary by calling Dawn Denton, 410-641-9268.

OC ART LEAGUE HOLIDAY LUNCH, GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Horizons Restaurant at The Clarion Resort, 10100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$15 and includes all gratuities. Hear about new Art Center, opening in early 2013; honor group's volunteers; and elect board members. RSVP to ocart@verizon.net or call 410-524-9433.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 12

BARISTA AND BOOKS

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. For children ages 3-5 years and their caregivers. Stories, crafts, cocoa and pastries for the children. Freshly brewed coffee for parents. Info: 410-524-1818.

THURSDAY, DEC. 13

OC AARP 1917 GENERAL MEETING

OC Elks Lodge, 13708 Sinepuxent Ave., 9:30 a.m. Installation of new board members and a homemade holiday celebration. Numerous travel opportunities for 2013 will also be presented. All persons 50 and older welcome. Info: aarp1917.org.

CELIAC SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Hospital, conference room 3, 9733 Healthway Drive in Berlin, 7-8 p.m. Support and information for those affected by Celiac Disease. Info: Betty Bellarin, 410-603-0210.

WORCESTER COUNTY TEA PARTY

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., meeting begins at 7 p.m. All interested citizens invited to attend. Info: 410-430-7282, WorTeaParty@gmail.com or WorcesterCountyTeaParty.com

ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT

Stephen Decatur High School, 9913 Seahawk Road, Berlin, 6 p.m. Presented by the Stephen Decatur High School Choirs, featuring Women's Ensemble and Show Choir singing a variety of holiday songs. Admission is free. Donations accepted at the door. Info: Josephine Cover, 410-641-2171.

KEVIN CHESTER FUNDRAISER

Ponzetti's Pizza, 144th Street in Ocean City, 6 p.m. Auction and live music featuring Full Circle, Monkey Paw, The Electric Co. and a special reunion performance from The Sophies. Cost is \$10 donation at the door. Proceeds to benefit Chester, who is battling cancer.

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

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Dec 7 Melissa Alesi
Dec 8 Kevin Poole
Dec 14 Dave Sherman (Acoustic)
Dec 15 Nate Clendenen
Dec 21 Tommy Edward
Dec 22 Josh Pryor
Dec 28 Danny Shivers (Acoustic)
Dec 29 Ginger Duo (Acoustic)

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LIVE MUSIC



Galaxy Collective @ Burley Oak Brewery

■ 19th Hole

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410-213-9204

FRIDAY - Scott Glorioso
SATURDAY - TBA

■ BJ's on the Water

75th St. Bayside, Ocean City
410-524-7575

FRIDAY - Chest Pains
SATURDAY - Comfort Zone
WEDNESDAY - Sir Rod

■ Burley Oak Brewery

10016 Old Ocean City Blvd, Berlin
443-513-4647

FRIDAY - Tom Larson
SATURDAY - Galaxy Collective
TUESDAY - Open Mic Night

■ Clarion Resort

101st St., Ocean City
410-524-3535

FRIDAY - Power Play
SATURDAY - Power Play

■ Dead Freddie's

64th St. Bayside

FRIDAY - DJ Wax
SATURDAY - DJ Wax

■ DeNovo's

South Gate - Ocean Pines
410-208-2782

THURSDAY - Al Prescott
SATURDAY - Al Prescott
TUESDAY - Al Prescott
WEDNESDAY - Al Prescott

■ Fager's Island

60th St. & the Bay, Ocean City
410-524-5500

FRIDAY - Kevin Poole / DJ Hook
SATURDAY - DJ Groove / No Green
JellyBeenz
SUNDAY - Everett Spells

■ The Globe

12 Broad St. Berlin
410-213-1846

FRIDAY - Tom Principato
SATURDAY - Lovin Cup

■ Harborside Bar & Grill

12841 S. Harbor Rd., West OC
410-213-1846

THURSDAY - Opposite Directions
FRIDAY - DJ Billy T
SATURDAY - Simple Truth / DJ Jeremy
SUNDAY - Opposite Directions

■ Harpoon Hannas

142nd St., Fenwick Island
800-227-0525

FRIDAY - Dave Hawkins
SATURDAY - Dave Sherman
WEDNESDAY - Bobby Burns

■ OP Yacht Club

Mumfords Landing Rd., Ocean Pines
410-641-7501

FRIDAY - Melissa Alesi
SATURDAY - Kevin Poole

■ Seacrets

49th & the Bay, Ocean City
410-524-4900

FRIDAY - Element K
SATURDAY - Captain Jack



Chest Pains @ BJ's on the Water

PUZZLES

LO AND BEHOLD! By Steven E. Atwood / Edited by Will Shortz

Across

1 [It's gone!]

5 A pop group might have one on Facebook

12 Pouch

15 64 or 1,000

19 Head of a family

20 Woodcutter of legend

21 Rings

23 Consideration in choosing a deli?

25 Without rhyme or reason

26 Baby pig, e.g.

27 Name part meaning "from"

28 Part of a butcher's stand-up routine?

29 Camouflage

30 Sharpness

31 French wave

32 Pallid

35 Laundry basket of just colors or just whites?

41 ____-Pei (dog breed)

42 Reqmt. for certain graduate studies

44 Get an ____ effort

45 Actress Sommer

46 Wise lawmaker most likely to be re-elected?

51 Miniature

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

52 Protestant denom.

53 Anthony Eden, Earl of ____

54 Red-berried tree

55 French spouse

58 Rock's ____ Fighters

59 Seeks, as office

61 Artistic expression on the slopes?

64 Levels

66 Thrust upward

67 Causing Election Day delays?

73 Car category

77 Skin growth

78 Negatives

79 Time ____

80 Mideast capital

81 Dallas player, for short

82 Jungle critter

84 Chart indicating the progression of darkness after sunset?

87 Disturb

88 Sched. listing

91 Eve preceders

92 Boy: Lat.

93 Power in Hollywood?

98 "Don't be ____"

99 Caught in ____

100 Thick skin

101 Prop for Mr. Monopoly or Mr. Peanut

103 Paintball weapons?

107 Voluminous ref.

108 Comes by

112 Salsa specification

113 When there might be a two-for-one special on ice cream drinks?

116 Beat in a price war

117 Props for Mr. Monopoly and Mr. Peanut

118 Make

119 Building support

120 Some printers

121 Curse

122 Mil. awards

Down

1 Loan figs.

2 Nuuanu Pali Lookout locale

3 Grp. that has held summit meetings in Caracas and Riyadh

4 Paul Bunyan, e.g.

5 Used a FedEx Office service

6 Actress Woodard

7 Actress Vardalos

8 Source of northern exposure?

9 Belarus neighbor

10 Old minelayers

11 Critic Clive

12 Quarantine

13 Composer Salieri

14 1957 #1 R&B hit for Chuck Willis

15 Or or nor: Abbr.

16 "Let ____ good unto all men": Galatians 6:10

17 Suffice

18 Salinger girl

22 Like superhighways

24 Actress Lena

30 Counter orders

32 To the same extent

33 SeaWorld attraction

34 Offshore bank, e.g., for tax purposes

35 Normandy campaign city

36 Writer Fleming

37 Writer Wallace

38 11th-century king of Denmark

39 City on the Little Cuyahoga

40 Clear, in a way

42 Italian port on the Tyrrhenian Sea

43 Attic's purpose

47 Sport involving paddles

48 Olive ____

49 Grazing area

50 "Wise" one

51 Patronized, as a restaurant

55 Fr. title

56 Unyielding

57 Lunatics' outbursts

60 Denver-to-Albuquerque dir.

61 ____ Paulo

62 Quaker cereal

63 Contents of jewel cases

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14		15	16	17	18
19					20									21			22			
23				24										25						
26									27					28						
			29					30					31							
32	33	34					35					36					37	38	39	40
41					42	43						44					45			
46				47					48	49	50					51				
52				53					54				55	56	57			58		
59			60					61				62					63			
			64				65					66								
67	68	69							70	71	72			73				74	75	76
77				78					79				80					81		
82			83					84					85				86			
87					88	89	90					91					92			
93				94					95	96	97					98				
				99					100					101	102					
103	104	105	106						107					108				109	110	111
112									113				114	115						
116									117								118			
119					120				121								122			

65 Ones going through channels?

67 Fencing unit?

68 "Vive ____!"

69 Kind of personality

70 Up to, briefly

71 Brian of ambient music

72 Big maker of 65-Down

74 Permeate

75 Jewelry chain

76 Turn inside out

80 Separate out

83 Braves' div.

84 High-performance cars

85 Bond girl Adams

86 Given enough to be happy

88 Out around midday, say

89 Emphasize

90 Some car radio buttons

94 B-baller

95 Small rented farms, in Britain

96 Keep out of sight

97 High, in a way

98 Pay for a hand

101 Terra ____

102 "Aristotle Contemplating ____ of Homer"

103 Certain bra specification

104 Legal scholar Guinier

105 Quaintly antique

106 German quaff

109 Actress Lupino and others

110 Undercover agent

111 Bits and pieces, e.g.: Abbr.

114 "That's it!"

115 Roofing material



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MEDIUM - 97

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

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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

CUISINE

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Consider inviting Chef Paul to your holiday party

It is no easy task to juggle the various jobs of a chef and regardless of working in education or in the field, busy is busy.



By Paul Suplee,
CEC PCIII

I was surprised years ago to learn that being a high school teacher was in many ways more challenging than being a professional chef. While I am grateful for the four years that I taught at the high school level, I am even more so to be teaching at the college level.

And when I'm not concentrating on the studies that I am trying to build and perfect for years to come, I am writing this food column, or working on my food blog. Sometimes I am even picking up a catering gig or two or moonlighting in the Washington area for some extra 'DC' money.

But I hate to say that, at home, the cobbler's children have no shoes. Last night was pizza night, and on some occasions it's even the golden arches (I am regularly accosted at our Ocean Pines location for eating there, although I love their signature, decades old double-decker sandwich).

As of late, I have hit some homeruns with the kids, one of them surprisingly being a pizza crust peppered with white truffle essence (If I told them that before they ate it they wouldn't even try it, so mum's the word).

But generally speaking, we eat as do most Americans, based on convenience for the working family with many children (four being many in today's economy; that's four college educations and two weddings that we have to plan for).

In the mayhem that is the holiday season - and I don't think it's just me but it seems to start earlier with each passing year - I do end up cooking parties for good people wanting to entertain friends, family and colleagues.

And one of my favorite, standby dishes is smoked salmon mousse on bleu cheese

crackers. It's quick and dirty and makes people smile.

There is a basic ratio for cheese crackers that I learned at the CIA some years, but I'm not sure that I can divulge that information without challenging my standing in some obscure CIA club of sorts, which I don't really think exists; I just don't want to tell you.

Just use the quantities below, and get creative with nuts and seasonings. If you want to press sesame seeds in, go crazy.

Crackers are a fun thing to make at home, and if you have made icebox cookies before, you have in essence been properly trained to knock these out with your eyes closed and a glass of chardonnay or Natural Light in one hand.

So as the holiday season marches on, add this simple hors d'oeuvre to the mix and people will constantly ask you for the recipe. It then becomes your job to blow them off and tell them to find their own. That's part of the fun of cooking.

And when the dust settles, hopefully you will be invited to a holiday party so you don't have to do all of the cooking. Wouldn't that be nice?

Smoked Salmon Mousse

4 oz. Smoked salmon
8 oz. Cream cheese
½ c. Heavy whipping cream
Salt & Pepper as needed
Dill to taste
Bleu Cheese Crackers (recipe follows)
Fish roe
Fresh dill for garnish

1. Place salmon in the bowl of a food processor in chunks
2. Process, scraping the sides, until smooth
3. Add the cream and cheese and run, scraping periodically, until a smooth puree
4. Season and set in the refrigerator for at least two hours to let it set up
5. When ready to pipe, lay out your crackers in an orderly fashion
6. Using a star tip in a pastry bag, evenly pipe a dab of smoked salmon mousse on each cracker. Be sure to make the entire hors d'oeuvre bite-



sized, or maybe two bites, but not too big as to be a nuisance, especially if the cracker should crumble

7. Top with a tiny bit of fish roe and a sprig of fresh dill. Do not add too much of either since you want to compliment the mousse and not overpower it

Bleu Cheese Crackers

4 oz. Whole butter, cold
8 oz. Good Bleu cheese
1 ½ c. AP Flour
Freshly ground pepper
Salt only if needed

1. Put the butter and bleu cheese in a food processor

and work until smooth, scraping down the sides regularly. You need to make sure that there are no chunks of butter left in your 'dough'

2. Add the flour and process until it comes together akin to pie dough

3. Crack some fresh pepper into it and process to mix

4. Pull a small piece off and test it. If it needs salt, add some. If you are using a high-quality bleu cheese (which will be pricey) it will probably be salty enough. Check it and see

5. When combined, drop it on some wax paper and roll it into a tube which will be 'cracker size'

6. Place in the icebox (get the similarity to icebox cookies?) until firm and then slice evenly

7. Bake at 350F until golden brown. Remove from oven, and as the crackers cool they will get crunchier. You want some soft but you definitely want some crisp, as these are crackers and should 'crack' after all!

Paul Suplee is Assistant Professor of Culinary Arts at Wor-Wic Community College. He lives in Ocean Pines with his wife and four children, and sidelines as a mercenary chef, food writer and photographer.



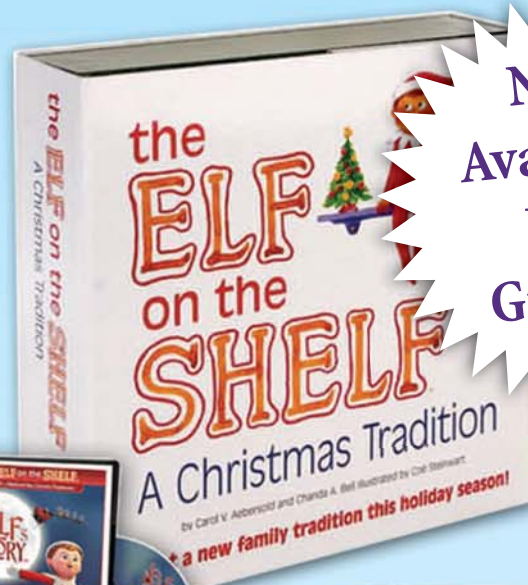
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