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SMOKE ON THE WATER

Nick Denny took this long-exposure photo of a fire that broke out on Monday night inside a maintenance shaft at the Casino at Ocean Downs on Route 589 near Ocean Pines. Denny captured the blaze from the dock of his home about 200 yards away across Turville creek.

Breakthrough with Sandpiper? Nope

Parties agree on one thing: company hasn't started backpedaling

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 18, 2014) A report asserting that talks between Ocean Pines and Sandpiper Energy have cleared an impasse appears to be erroneous, according to representative from both parties.

The report, published in another newspaper, referred to a "breakthrough" in the talks and went on to say that the propane supply company informed the Ocean Pines Association by letter that it was willing to ne-

gotiate a franchise fee, pay Ocean Pines "roughly \$70,000" in legal fees and negotiate a turnover agreement.

Negotiations have been rocky for months, and the strained relations were on display during an Ocean Pines Association board meeting on Nov. 22 when President Dave Stevens said flatly, "We're not making any progress ... there is no real negotiation."

Stevens said the association sent a letter, from which he openly read during the meeting. It asked for a franchise fee, reimbursements for legal costs incurred during negotiations and a turnover agreement.

Jim Moore, vice president of Chesapeake Utilities Corporation, of which Sandpiper is a subsidiary,

agreed in a Nov. 26 interview with the Bayside Gazette agreed that the talks had produced little.

"It's a situation where we have ongoing negotiations and it's just turned into a slow process, that's for sure," he said at the time.

Asked this week about the claims that conditions had improved, Moore said, "Unfortunately that is inaccurate.

"The fact is that there isn't an agreement so far," Moore continued. "We've been engaged in negotiations, but there have been no agreements so far. Nothing's been signed."

Moore lamented the recent article, saying, "Our position all along has been that these are confidential business negotiations.

"We weren't going to try to negotiate an agreement through the press," Moore said. "That was the purpose of us having meetings and we've attempted on many occasions to try to pull something together. Unfortunately, it's just been an issue of getting timely responses back and forth and it's kind of drug out."

Board Vice President Marty Clarke, who was quoted frequently in the article, also disputed its veracity.

"Either I was the most misquoted guy who ever lived, or I was drunk when I talked to [the paper]," Clarke said. "I don't know where he got a lot of that stuff — mainly because it hasn't happened."

See SANDPIPER Page 2



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Sandpiper exec asserts stance hasn't changed

Continued from Page 1

Clarke admitted he had not read the story, although he said he had received phone calls about the contents.

"From what people tell me, I basically said everything is wonderful, and I don't think it's all that wonderful," he said. "Here's the bottom line: there's nothing that's being done or said that I won't repeat out loud, other than something that might jeopardize the negotiations. There ain't no secret stuff going on – not on my watch."

Moore denied the existence of the letter mentioned in the article.

"We've not sent a letter with regard to those specific issues," he said. "What we've done is we have tried to continue the discussions. We've continued to exchange emails and things of that nature, but all of it has been confidential in nature. There's nothing that we could say we have specifically provided to them or not provided to them."

"I will say what we have expressed to them is a willingness to discuss and come to some sort of an agreement on reasonable provisions," Moore continued. "But there has not been anything that would specifically align with what Marty set forth."

Clarke said Sandpiper did send a letter to OPA leadership agreeing to several issues on principal, but that neither side had discussed specifics.

"Everybody knows the devil is in the details," Clarke said. "It's one thing to say, 'hey, we're going to give you a fee – but it's only a dollar.' We don't know what it is. We've gone back and told them what we think it should be. We're just waiting to hear. It's still in negotiation."

Clarke's comments, Moore said, were "in bad taste."

"From that perspective it puts us in a little bit of an awkward position in that the general public may be now under the impression that if, in fact, we end up with an agreement that was somehow contrary to what was said in the paper, that we've maybe reneged on something we said, and that's not the case at all," he said.

"By the same token it doesn't impact the negotiations from our perspective," Moore continued. "We expect to continue to negotiate on a professional basis and we're not going to take that and just say, just because we disagree with the way that was presented that we would just take a different position."

One of the major obstacles in negotiations is the inability to reach a new franchise agreement. Worcester County granted Sandpiper an agreement allowing them to convert existing propane lines to natural gas.

Moore said it was "surprising" that Ocean Pines balked at a similar accord.

"When we go with a natural gas option to a community, generally the governing authority that we're talking with – whether it be a town council, mayor, or a developer – they recognize the benefits of natural gas and they're generally very supportive of the process," Moore said. "It's been a challenge [in Ocean Pines]."

"Our goal is to get something in place that clarifies the easement rights," Moore continued. "Obviously our objective is to get natural gas into the community as soon as possible. We believe that's the right thing to do and we believe it's the best thing for the customers."

Both sides are also at odds over who owns the infrastructure in Ocean Pines.

"Sandpiper bought those assets from Eastern Shore Gas," Moore said.

'I wouldn't be in any hurry either if I was selling propane for \$3.64 a gallon when I could readily buy it for \$1.27'

OPA Board Vice President
Marty Clarke

"All the mains in the development, all the service lines that are installed in the houses, all the meters in the houses and things like that, all that is property of Sandpiper."

Clarke disagreed.

"Without a franchise, they can't use them," he said. "Their argument is a legitimate argument under Maryland law if they're pumping a regulated utility product. They're not – they're pumping propane."

"They bought and assumed a franchise agreement that expired a year and a half ago and they have been unwilling to sign a new one," Clarke continued. "Hell, they were unwilling to even propose one until we did."

When the talks in Ocean Pines initially broke down, Sandpiper chose to focus on converting the existing propane lines in West Ocean City to natural gas instead. Moore said the company would be busy there until April 2015, meaning he is in no rush to strike a deal.

"Our objective is to get things done and in place so that we could be in a place to start get things done by the spring of next year," he said. "We don't consider ourselves really jammed at this point in time by any stretch."

Clarke questioned Sandpiper's motives.

"They are in no hurry because they're gouging the ...out of us," he said. "I wouldn't be in any hurry either if I was selling propane for \$3.64 a gallon when I could readily buy it for \$1.27. If I was them, I'd be just whistling past the graveyard, for God's sakes."

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Continuing discussions important, Moore says

Continued from Page 2
statewide cost of residential propane was \$3.03, as of Dec. 8. The agency does not list commercial prices.

Moore said the most important thing both sides can do at this point is continue discussions.

“From our perspective it’s really a question of just getting back to the table and making sure that we’re exchanging offers,” he said. I actually think that it’s not unrealistic to say that we could get an agreement in the next 30 or 60 days. By the same token, based on our track record so far, I would have to say that probably leans toward the optimistic side.”

Clarke was less hopeful. “They don’t want to do anything,” he said. “They’re selling propane for \$3.64 a gallon in a \$1.90 market. We’re paying \$2.96 a gallon for gas at the indoor pool and our manager is crying the blues because we’re over budget on propane.

“Sharp, the same people who own Sandpiper, will sell us gas for \$1.27 a gallon,” Clarke continued. “Why are we paying this? Are we just idiots or it is, what I think, other people’s money and nobody seems to care. (Sharp is a subsidiary of Chesapeake).

Moore defended Sandpiper’s propane rates.

“We recognize that most consumers are inclined to look at the price of a product first,” he said. “However, we also know that the most important consideration relates to the overall value of the service received. The residents of Ocean Pines have a unique opportunity to receive reliable delivery of propane now, and eventually natural gas through the Sandpiper piped distribution system.”

Last winter, Moore argued, when propane was scarce and many providers were not able to keep customer’s tanks filled, Sandpiper’s 400,000 gallons of propane storage in the Ocean Pines area ensured that its customers were not left out in the proverbial cold.

“Sandpiper was able to do that without putting one propane delivery truck on the streets of the Ocean Pines community,” he said. “When an agreement has been reached with the OPA, those same distribution pipes will be transitioned to deliver less costly natural gas. We believe that the residents of Ocean Pines deserve that opportunity and we will continue in our efforts to make natural gas a reality for the area.”



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Berlin Mayor Gee Williams, in an exclusive interview with the *Bayside Gazette*, discusses what’s next for “America’s Coolest Small Town.”

Gee Williams: new year and more opportunities

Pursuit of happiness key to Berlin’s plan for continuing growth

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 18, 2014) From the “Coolest Small Town” nod to the Little League World Series to the nearly \$2 million in grant money awarded for public utility improvements, it’s hard to ignore the across-the-board success that Berlin enjoyed in 2014.

No one has been happier about the town’s good fortune than 66-year-old Mayor Gee Williams.

Williams, a Berlin native who was elected mayor in 2008 and reelected in 2012, can remember a time when Berlin was not, exactly, cool. He, more than anyone, is determined to keep Berlin’s success going.

The first step in continuing that success begins in January, when the town will conduct a series of strategic planning sessions to gauge public interest in new municipal projects.

“I think for an encore we follow up on all the expressions of hopes and

dreams that have been just flowing from, obviously, our citizens who live here and the people who work here, but also many of our guests,” Williams said.

“I’m very much looking forward to getting organized input about all of these ideas. None of them have been bad – it’s just a matter of prioritizing things that people want in services, the things that people like to see in terms of events, the things that people would like to see in continuing to expand our economic base.

“It won’t happen overnight, but over time I think most of it can happen,” Williams continued. “The key is not starting with the money – it’s starting with the ideas. If you get the right ideas together and then you get the right people working together, the money will come.”

For the first time in years – perhaps decades – Main Street and the surrounding areas in downtown Berlin are at capacity, full of vibrant storefronts and restaurants. Williams said the town’s next period of economic growth would focus on the surrounding areas.

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Williams' pitch: move here and be happy

opment will be to take advantage of something that folks here have always taken for granted," Williams said. "That is that the real hub of Delmarva is Berlin, because it's the crossroads of U.S. 50 and U.S. 113.

"We have two major gateways, which will be excellent for commercial and residential development," Williams continued. "We also have Maryland 346, which locals call Old Ocean City Boulevard. All three of those have so much potential. Quite frankly I sincerely believe if we do this thoughtfully we'll be complimenting the downtown. We're not trying to create three different downtowns."

Williams said plenty of major commercial operations have expressed an interest in opening up shop in Berlin, although not all have been an ideal fit.

"They would be perfectly appropriate as long as they are on the gateway, on the major highways," he said. "That doesn't mean that we're taking business from one place and taking it to another.

"A very important foundation of our immediate and long-term growth is to continue doing what we've been doing in the recent past, and that is not trading dollars between our merchants to grow the financial pie," Williams continued. "That's exactly what we're going to be emphasizing here. Not every business is right for Berlin."

When new businesses approach Berlin, Williams said, he encourages opening with informal discussions before investing large amounts of capital.

"In a few cases, people came to us and we were very honest with them and said, 'You're good people, you've got a great reputation - it's just not a good investment for you. Let me suggest you call ...' and we give them the name, the number and the email," Williams said.

On the infrastructure side, stormwater improvements began last year with the creation of the utility and initial upgrades on Williams Street. Major improvements in several other sectors of Berlin will begin construction next year.

"Two things are happening simultaneously," Williams said. "One is we have the three major phases that will take

about three years to complete. While that's going on the maintenance is already going to another level. We've had to hire a couple of people who are well educated and well trained in that. We bought the necessary equipment and we'll probably have to buy a little more.

"The sewer is no different than your house," Williams continued. "If you keep it well maintained, it'll keep working and it will last a lot, lot longer. So if we're going to make this major investment of public dollars, regardless if it comes from the town, the county, the state - even the federal government - we have a responsibility to take care of that investment. I think that's going to be a critical difference."

It was not long ago, Williams said, that years passed before the town could be bothered to perform even the simplest maintenance projects, such as trimming the grass around drainage ditches.

"We're in a whole different league now," he said. "That those kinds of things have to be done is very basic."

Today, not only are those projects addressed, they are done with so much finesse that it looks "like magic."

"Constantly monitoring and cleaning and maintaining the new systems that we put in is the part I hope most people never notice," Williams said. "I keep reminding all of our department heads, 'I want you to do everything possible to make people think you're magicians.' The less they see you all having to work the better a job you're doing. It's not because you're not doing the work, it's because you're doing work that doesn't cause a lot of disruption.

"If something fails, they respond," Williams continued. "They don't care what time of day it is. They don't care what time of night. Whether it's an electric utility line or a stormwater pipe or a waterline. If any of those things are compromised, they're on it. It's certainly not because they're the highest-paid employees around, but I do think the pride extends to the employees as well."

The sense of pride surrounding the resurgence of Berlin is an essential component of the town's success, according to Williams.

"If you've come to Berlin in the pur-

suit of happiness, you've come to the right place," he said. "If you've come to Berlin because your number one pursuit is to become rich, you're probably going to be disappointed. But if you come here to have a good balance between self-sufficiency, security, happiness and being part of a bigger family, we're exactly right for you."

As an example, Williams said more than 80 volunteers worked on the Christmas Parade in early December. Williams knows the exact number, because he recently hand wrote "thank you" notes to each one.

"We had 85 units [in the parade]," he said. "You think about that. There was almost one volunteer for every unit. I'm willing to bet a reasonable sum that, per capita, Berlin is in the top 10 percent in the country in terms of volunteers.

"What's happening is they spread the word on how much enjoyment they're getting out of it - how much satisfaction," Williams continued. "Our volunteers are our greatest recruiting tool for more volunteers."

A growing number of Berlin's volunteer class is nonresidents, some coming from as far away as the metropolitan areas in Annapolis, Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

"They have second homes in West Ocean City or Ocean City or Ocean Pines, and they time their stays around

a lot of our events - not just so they can attend them - but so they can volunteer for them because they feel like they're part of the community," Williams said.

"Plenty of people in the suburbs only know their most-immediate neighbors, and they may not be the best of friends, but when they come down here they know lots of people," Williams continued. "And if people don't know their names, they know their faces, and they're welcoming. Isn't that what community is supposed to be all about? That without any incentives or any emotions they feel the willingness and the desire to want to volunteer tells me everything."

At some point in 2015, another small town in America will take over the official title as "the coolest."

"We'll be happy for them and we're going to help them in any way we can," Williams said. "We feel that we have an obligation to the people who came up with the idea, and we have an obligation to all of the sister communities who have earned this distinction, to keep earning it."

Williams said the attributes that made Berlin cool - having citizens that actively care for and look out for each other, maintaining a solid economic base as well as community that is culturally viable, and maintaining tradi-

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Golf course talks range off course

Mixed messages lead to scramble format

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 18, 2014) A flurry of internal memos between Ocean Pines Association board members, General Manager Bob Thompson and others left plenty of confusion over whether the association canceled its contract with the current golf course management company, Billy Casper Golf.

A memo sent by Thompson to the directors on Dec. 3 ignited a chain of responses.

Allegedly, board President Dave Stevens informed Golf Director John Malinowski earlier that day that the board would terminate its contract with Casper at its next meeting in January.

Thompson said Stevens called him the previous day and informed him of the board's intent, adding that the decision stemmed from a unanimous vote by a review panel.

Stevens supposedly told Malinowski that Casper would have the opportunity to negotiate a new contract while the board considered proposals from two other companies, one to manage and one to lease the course. A fourth option included allowing the board to self-manage.

Thompson, in the memo, called the actions "incomprehensible," arguing that conditions had drastically im-



PHOTO COURTESY BILLY CASPER GOLF

Uncertainty surrounding the Ocean Pines golf course continued this week, as a flurry of internal memos between board members and the general manager ignited a fresh controversy.

proved under Casper. He said the panel had not reviewed all the information available to it and had not consulted him, and went on to decry what he labeled a "continued lack of professionalism, decorum and common courtesy."

Thompson also said in the memo that an early termination of the Casper agreement would come with a \$25,000 cancellation fee in accordance with the contract.

Attorney Joe Moore was included in the correspondence.

On Dec. 5, a letter sent to Malinowski, apparently drafted by Moore and signed by board Vice President Marty Clarke, attempted to clarify the board's position. According to the provisions in the managerial agreement, dated Oct. 2010, the board has the authority to terminate the

agreement in writing 30 days after receipt of the course's final determination of net operating income, expected to arrive on Dec. 18.

No formal board vote had taken place, the letter continued, but if the net operating income did not meet budget requirements, the board would maintain its right to terminate the contract without penalties.

Stevens sent an email to the directors while on vacation in Bali, saying director Sharyn O'Hare had called him at the airport, asked for further clarification and urged him to contact board Parliamentarian Tom Terry. Stevens refused, saying O'Hare "has a very poor understanding of what is or isn't 'urgent.'"

Stevens added that he would continue his communications with other board members during his vacation, expected to last most of December.

When the Bayside Gazette contacted Malinowski for comment, he acknowledged reading the Moore/Clarke letter, but said he had read no other communications.

"Our contract, at least as far as we know, ends April 30 so we're just business as usual," he said. "My understanding is that we'll get to meet with the Ocean Pines board sometime in January to discuss the details of the contract."

Malinowski said it was not his place to

comment on internal communications from the OPA, but that he anticipated continuing his role at the golf course.

"We've had a great year," he said. "Things are moving forward. We think that once they sit down and talk to us and look at all the numbers they'll feel the same way."

"The course is just in wonderful shape," Malinowski continued. "The comments that we've gotten from outside play has been phenomenal, from the people that book the packages have been great, the people that have been playing are loving it. Ocean Pines residents are talking about how great things are. Our members are saying it's the best they've seen the golf course in at least 30 years – maybe longer. To get that kind of feedback, it makes you feel like you are doing something right."

Relations between the board and Casper have been tenuous. In March, members of the community formed a coalition and called on the directors to either lease or franchise the course. The board responded by calling for proposals to that effect in October.

Malinowski, for his part, said he makes it a point to avoid controversy.

"I work in the Pines, and when I leave work, I want to play with my kids and spend time with my family," he said. "I really just don't spend any time paying attention to any of that."

Next year, strategic planning

Continued from Page 5

tional American values in an open and unapologetic way – will continue to make the town cool.

"All of these things can be built on," he said. "They are not strictly measurable in a quantitative way, but in terms of the way people feel about their community and the way a community feels about its residents, its workers and its guests, we have at least a hundred

years of opportunity right now.

"I'm very optimistic that that is what's going to happen," Williams continued. "As far as I'm concerned, it's up to the people of this community if they wish to remain 'America's Coolest Small Town.' We can do it for another hundred years just by continuing to do what we're doing by never stop believing in ourselves, and most importantly, in each other."

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Purnell adopts Shockley's broadband stance

New, former members of county board agree it's vital to business

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 18, 2014) Although he lost the election in November, former District 4 Worcester County Commissioner Virgil Shockley refuses to give up on the issue of broadband.

Shockley, the former chairman of the Maryland Broadband Cooperative and current vice chair, has championed the idea of bringing free or cheap countywide wireless internet service for years.

"There are people out there who would purchase this and pay a large amount of money to do it," he said. "You need to have the Verizons and [other companies] to realize that technology is technology driven. Once people get on the Internet, the more you give them the more they will want, and then it becomes a business and something you can make money off of."

Supplying free internet, said Shockley, "would be the smartest move they ever made."

"They won't do it because they're still looking at a business model, but they have the capability to do it," he said. "They have the towers. They have everything that they need to make it happen. When you get G4 to every tower, then and only then can you do what you want to do. And right now that's what they're doing – Verizon and everybody else are hooking up their towers to broadband."

Shockley's passion project may have found a successor in freshman District 2 Commissioner Diana Purnell.

"I had a commissioner call me just the other day and basically said that she did not want this to die," he said. "She understood exactly why I was fighting ... and what I was fighting for, and was asking my opinion on several things. She was looking at it on the business side."

Purnell, who championed technology improvements during the cam-

paign, stressed the importance of providing easier access to a rural community.

"We need broadband in the county," she said. "I spoke with Virgil because I need to understand more about it. I'm still on that learning curve, but I realize that when you're looking at economic development and bringing that industry within your county, broadband is a need."

Purnell said she is, "learning more and more about [broadband] all the time."

"Everything is high tech right now," she said. "We have to get together, we have to get our priorities and economic development and the technology underneath that are things that we'll be looking at. We've got to work through those things."

Melanie Ortel, associate director of public relations for Verizon Wireless in Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Virginia, said her company is leading the way in wireless Internet technology.

"Four years ago this month, Verizon Wireless was the first U.S. carrier to deploy a nationwide, high-speed mobile broadband network using the most advanced technology available, 4G LTE, delivering speeds 10 times faster than 3G networks," she said. "Over the past four years, Verizon Wireless has invested

billions in expanding the reach and increasing the capacity of its 4G LTE network, which has changed the way consumers, businesses, governments and first responders connect, communicate and access the web and data."

In 2014, the company launched its XLTE service in Ocean City, doubling bandwidth. Ortel said that kind of connectivity improves both urban

and rural communities in a host of ways, including increasing the flow of information, attracting new business, creating new jobs, decreasing healthcare costs and improving access and delivery, reducing carbon footprints, and stimulating creativity, innovation and competition.

"That's why we remain committed to delivering mobile broadband so-

'Everything is high tech right now. We have to get together, we have to get our priorities and economic development and the technology underneath that are things that we'll be looking at. We've got to work through those things.'

District 2 Commissioner
Diana Purnell

lutions to ensure access to the digital grid that is essential to growth and economic mobility, in Worcester County, as well as in communities across the country."

Of course, all of these advancements came on the consumer side. Shockley and other advocates continue to push for public access to the Internet, preferably provided by state or local government.

"There are counties in Maryland that are currently doing requests for proposal for wireless Internet for the entire county," he said.

As a commissioner, Shockley said, he lobbied for the county to buy a ring – essentially an antenna – allowing businesses to connect regardless of location.

"That's what you've got to have – you've got to have the ability to flip open a laptop anywhere in the county, because small business is what runs the county," he said.

"Once that happens – once those towers are hooked – then you have that capability that you need to do to flip open that laptop. Even if it was \$10 – \$9.99 a month – everybody and his brother would sign up."

Many rural businesses and consumers are restricted to expensive alternatives.

"If you're in the rural areas, basically you're on a satellite," Shockley said. "And that's \$50 a month."



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EVENING AMBIANCE
A view from the Ocean Pines Yacht Club at night on Thursday, Dec. 11.

Pine Tones' will present annual holiday concert

(Dec. 18, 2014) The Pine Tones Chorus will present its Christmas concert at Atlantic United Methodist Church on Fourth Street in Ocean City, Friday, Dec. 19, at 7:30 p.m.

The concert theme is "The Colors of Christmas" and features a song with that same title by John Rutter, a famous composer of choral music.

The popular songs "Blue Christmas" by Elvis, "Silver Bells" and "White Christmas" by Irving Berlin are well known holiday choices. The seasonal message of peace and good will is also represented by several selections.

"Our audience may be surprised to hear one song from Dr. Seuss," Chorus Director June Todd said. "This could bring some laughter."

The Pine Tones Chorus includes about 60 singers from Ocean Pines, Ocean City and nearby areas. Todd is the chorus director and Sandra Coston-Barkley is the group's accompanist. A guest musician, Tom Baione, will be playing string bass.

Admission is free and an offering will be received. After the concert, guests may enjoy refreshments in the church social hall.

The Pine Tones Chorus has been entertaining local audiences in the Ocean Pines and Ocean City areas since 1984.

For additional information, call Chorus President, Pat Beisler at 410-208-2682, or Todd at 410-289-7373.

Funding for Pine Tones Chorus activities comes from individual donations and sponsors as well as the Worcester County Arts Council, Maryland State Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Wrestling with accident's aftermath

Safety committee does it's job, as others still fault investigation

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 18, 2014) More than a year after 16-year-old Tymeir D. Dennis and his then 17-year-old brother Tyeheim D. Bowen were struck by a police car while walking across Route 113 in Berlin, many members of the community are still reeling.

The police investigation into the crash, claiming the life of Dennis and seriously injuring Bowen, surfaced nearly a year later. Despite the apparent thoroughness of the report, which labeled the crash an accident, it did little to quell a public still in a state of shock over the loss of life.

In the immediate aftermath of the crash, several citizens launched a Pedestrian Safety Committee that was determined to improve conditions for nonmotorists and to prevent similar incidents from happening again.

Patricia Dufendach formed the Berlin-based group with business owner Gabe Purnell, resident Sue Beaman, Worcester County NAACP President Dr. Roxie Dennis, councilmembers Dean Burrell and Lisa Hall, Police Chief Arnold Downing and Town Administrator Laura Allen.

Since the committee's formation, speeds have dropped on 113, the town added, extended or otherwise upgraded several crosswalks, and bicycle paths were drawn.

Berlin's mayor and Town Council vigorously supported the initiatives in public meetings. Still, some members of the community felt unsettled.

Purnell, a member of the NAACP for more than four decades, spoke out during a council meeting in November, saying he had seen the coverage of the investigation conducted by state police.

"Berlin is a community of talkers," he said at the time. "People are talking, and people are confused and conflicted about it."

Confusion, Purnell suggested, is a normal reaction, and he does not expect anything to change drastically just because the community remains perplexed by the report.

"At this point, I just assume in my heart that it is what it is," he said. "Based on what we see across the country and what's going on, the reality is when you come up against law enforcement, you accept what they give you and you move on. You've just got to process it."

"As a community, we just have to suck it up and keep on going," Purnell continued. "Based on the realities of our time, that's it for me."

Purnell's problem with the investi-

gation — like many others in the community — is that the police themselves performed it.

"It's been said several times, in order to get change in law enforcement, we need outside investigations," he said. "If it's inside, it's going to be biased. That's just plain and simple. Unless some changes are made at the federal level, it's going to remain the same. And the community, as far as I'm concerned, is going to have to accept it. That's the culture of law enforcement."

"You keep beating it and beating it and you just beat yourself to death," Purnell continued. "You just have to tell your heart, 'This is it' and we have to accept the facts and move on. If somebody else has a solution, I'm sure everybody would be willing to listen. But, as of now, I don't see any recourse."

Tymeir Dennis' father, Quentin Dennis, told the Bayside Gazette in September he was unhappy with the investigation and was planning to speak with the state's attorney.

"I felt like it should have been another agency handling the investigation since it involved one of their officers," he said.

"I'm not satisfied with the findings (in the report)," Dennis continued. "I think it was an uneven job. The officer wasn't even charged with a speed-

See PEDESTRIAN Page 10

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Next movie in town may be right on Main Street

Other venues likely as entertainment group plans to show films

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 18, 2014) First Hollywood came to Berlin to shoot movies such as “Runaway Bride” and “Tuck Everlasting.” Now, Berlin Arts and Entertainment is planning to project Hollywood onto the town – literally – during a “Movies on Main Street” program next year.

“Every other town around us has movies at the beach, movies at the park, whatever. We really wanted to do something similar,” Arts and Entertainment President Heather Layton said.

Layton spoke with members of the Berlin Parks Commission and found its members had also considered the idea. Anna Mullis, executive director of the Worcester County Arts Council, helped Layton narrow her search for grants. Patty Gregorio from Salt Water Media volunteered to write grant applications.

As it happened, Mullis and the arts council also awarded the grant to fund Movies on Main Street.

“Both of us are here to promote the arts in Berlin,” Layton said. “It just so happened that this community movie project Berlin Arts and Entertainment was hoping to provide [met] requirements of this art council grant.”

Next, Layton approached Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen, the town’s liaison to the parks commission, who enthusiastically sup-

ported the idea. “The parks commission has actually been interested in doing something like this for quite a while. We just haven’t been able to work the logistics out,” Bohlen said. “When we spoke I told her Henry Park probably had the best location, because it had such a large, open area. We also talked about, if we were doing it with the parks commission, that’s where the parks would be most interested in holding it.”

Layton hinted that the group could also show movies at other locations.

“Tentatively we’re going to show one movie at Stephen Decatur Park, one movie at Henry Park, and we’re shooting for ‘Runaway Bride’ on Main Street,” Layton said.

The grant will cover the cost of renting equipment, including a projector and an inflatable screen, as well as pay for the licensing fees required to show a movie in public. Moonflicks, from Northern Virginia, would provide the equipment.

Movies will screen once a month, in April, May and June. Layton said the group is also eyeing a Kickstarter campaign to buy the equipment.

“That would allow us to do this more often, even on a year-round basis, as weather permits,” she said. “We want to appeal to all age groups and to families.”

Layton hopes to close out of the first series by screening “Runaway Bride” in downtown Berlin, surrounded by the shops and landmarks that appear in the film.

“We’re super excited about that,” she said.

‘Tentatively we’re going to show one movie at Stephen Decatur Park, one movie at Henry Park, and we’re shooting for ‘Runaway Bride’ on Main Street.’

Arts and Entertainment President Heather Layton

Pedestrian safety effort doesn’t allay all concerns

Continued from Page 9
ing ticket or anything. I think at least speeding or something. When you have a fatality and another young man that lost a limb, some charges have to come out of that.”

Purnell echoed that sense of frustration, while urging pragmatism.

“I think we need to keep a positive relationship with law enforcement as much as possible,” he said. “If you get in competition, that doesn’t help the relationship. You accept it as is and you go on and you try to conduct yourself accordingly.”

“There are bigger players than us,” Purnell continued. “You’ve got our governor, you’ve got our legislators – that’s where I feel it needs to be taken up at. They know the issue.”

Purnell praised the community’s

response after the crash, saying residents “stepped up to the plate.”

“The state has been right there working with the community so, going forward, we’re making some positive changes, which I think helps,” he said.

Although he plans to continue his work with the committee, Purnell suggested that safety improvements on Route 113 near the area of the crash “have gone as far as we can go.”

“I’m sure there are some other things, but that was the main course that we were confronted with,” he said. “I’m with the committee. Patricia is the chair and once we call a meeting, we’ll discuss what our next steps are. Whatever we decide in the committee is our next step, I’m sure it will be made public.”

Book finds beer here, there and everywhere

Russo explores origin, growth of craft brews on lower peninsula

By Josh Davis

Staff Writer

(Dec. 18, 2014) "Beer is a part of life," says the Doug Griffith-penned foreword in author Tony Russo's new book "Eastern Shore Beer: The Heady History of Chesapeake Brewing."

Russo, a former writer at the *Bayside Gazette*, turned "the occasional story" about the problematic opening of Burley Oak Brewing Company in Berlin into an in-depth examination of just how much life went into the local craft beer boom.

Beginning with Peter Underwood's tavern in the 1660s, Russo explores the timeline all the way to the most recent batch of breweries, including Fin City, Realerevival and Tall Tales.

"You don't need any excuse to cover opening a brewery," Russo said. "So I hung around, and I hung around for a couple of years and ended up writing a book about Burley Oak."

He shopped the book around, sending sample chapters and proposal outlines, eventually drawing interest from the History Press.

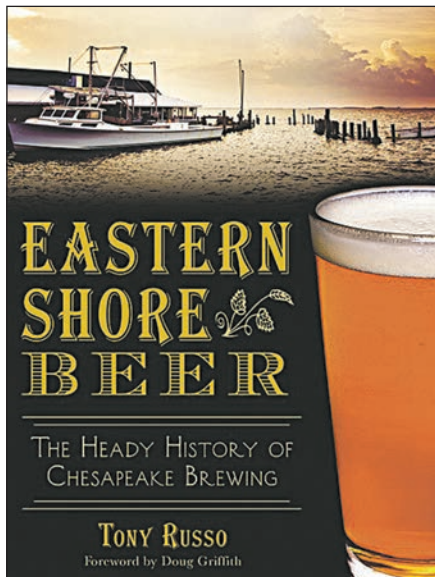
"In June they sent me an email and said, 'Hey, we'd like to talk to you about this Burley book.' So I called a friend of mine who had published with them before and said, 'What do you think?'"

His friend correctly predicted the publisher would pass – it wasn't exactly their style. Instead, she offered some sage advice.

"She said, 'You don't often get to talk to a publisher on the phone, so why don't you have a counter proposal ready?'" Russo said.

Russo had already written a book about Maryland taverns while in college. He used his prior research to develop a quick pitch about the history of brewing in the state. Russo presented it, and History Press asked for a proposal.

"I knocked it out that day and sent it along and they said, 'Alright, cool. You can write the book. Can you have it done by August?' I said, 'There's only



one way to find out," Russo said.

Russo signed a contract on July 2.

Drawing mostly from his notes on the Burley book, including hours of interviews with Evolution Craft Brewing Co. co-founder Tom Knorr, Russo worked feverishly in the sweltering summer heat of his attic for just over a month. New research took about three weeks and Russo spent just four days writing the actual book.

After sending individual chapters to brewers and breweries for fact checking, and correcting a spelling mistake here and there, Russo delivered the final draft to the publisher on Aug. 22.

"No one asked me to change anything and fortunately I didn't have to find out what would have happened if they did," he said. "Everyone was, for the most part, cool. Everybody had a chance to look at their chapter and they were all very generous with their time."

What makes brewers on the Eastern Shore unique, according to Russo, is the way they support one another. Knorr and Doug Griffith, owner of Xtreme Brewing, mentored Brushmiller, passing on years of experience and knowledge, trial and error, successes and failures. Brushmiller then passed what he had learned onto Vince Wright at Fin City.

"The quality of the beer is a statement about how responsible those guys feel

See BOOK Page 12



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Tony Russo's new book "Eastern Shore Beer: The Heady History of Chesapeake Brewing," examines the local craft beer boom.

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Annual Penguin Swim warm-hearted charity

AGH fundraiser gets
brave souls into cold
water New Year's Day

By Kara Hallissey
Staff Writer

(Dec. 18, 2014) The 21st annual Penguin Swim will take place on New Year's Day, when hundreds of people will plunge into the ocean off 91st Street and thousands of dollars will be raised for Atlantic General Hospital in Berlin.

"It is a great family event that pulls the community together and raises awareness for the hospital," AGH Development Assistant Heather Trader said. "The Penguin Swim is not your typical Ocean City event and everyone comes out to celebrate the new year with the ones they love."

In addition to jumping into a 40-something-degree ocean, participants also will have the opportunity for some picture taking with a huge, ice carving of a penguin with a surfboard, completed by ice carver Eric Cantine. In addition, miniature pony, Frankie, is scheduled to make another appearance at this year's event.

In 2014, close to 800 people plunged into the surf for the swim and raised more than \$93,000 for the hospital.

Besides knowing that it's all for a good cause, swimmers will have other incentives. Participants who raise \$25 will receive a pint glass or a scarf and swimmers who raise \$50 can choose between a baseball hat and a penguin novelty hat.

Those topping \$75 will take home a long-sleeve T-shirt or retro duffel bag. Swimmers who raise \$150 will have the option of a sweatshirt, Outback hat or a robe. A surfboard-shaped towel will be given to participants reaching \$250 and anyone raising \$500 or more will be able to choose one prize from each level, Trader said.

The top three earning teams from each category, which includes individuals and adults, businesses, community groups and under 18, will be awarded trophies and prizes. There will be a best costume contest and special recognition will be given to the oldest and youngest penguins.

Event organizers encourage participants to wear costumes, the more unique they are, the better, Trader said.

For the second year, participants who will be out of town on New Year's Day can engage in a "virtual swim." These penguins still raise money and register online, but must take a photo of their ice cold dip wherever they are and post it to social media sites. The photos will be shared at the event through a live feed. To show out-of-town photos on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, use the hashtag #OCPenguinSwim.

"We are thankful for the community support. Bull on the Beach raises tens of thousands each year. There are individuals who participate, where it is clear they have been raising money all year round and it was not a last minute effort. It's amazing," Trader said.

Registration for the 2015 Penguin Swim starts at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 1, at the Princess Royale Hotel on 91st Street, with the swim taking place at 1 p.m.

Early registration, advance check-in and prize pick-up will be available on Wednesday, Dec. 31, from 2-4 p.m. at the hotel.

An award ceremony will follow the swim inside Princess Royale and it will last until about 2 p.m.

To sign up for the 2015 Penguin Swim or to make a donation, visit aghpenguinswim.org. The event can be found on Facebook at facebook.com/penguinswim or call the hospital foundation office with questions at 410-641-9671.

The event is always looking for sponsors and there are five different money levels from which to choose. Make checks payable to AGH Foundation and mail to 9733 Healthway Drive Berlin, Md. 21811.

Proceeds from the event support strategic plans started by Atlantic General Hospital and back its mission to improve individual and community health.

The hospital has been providing health care to residents of Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset counties as well as Sussex County, Del., since May 1993. Since its inception, the Penguin Swim has raised more than \$800,000 for the hospital.



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Book gets brewers' pint across

Continued from Page 11

for another, like, 'I can't be the weak link in the chain,'" Russo said. "It's a competitive responsibility. Everybody has to be as good as Burley. Everybody has to be as good as Evo. Everybody has to be as good as Eastern Shore Brewing, who had a really rocky start, but their beers are quite good now. It's all about pushing one another to make a region where, if you walk in and you get a beer from this region, you're going to enjoy it."

Russo hopes to publish a few more

nonfiction books with small, regional presses before setting his sights higher.

"In the meantime, this is always going to be part-time unless I can pump it up to the next level," Russo said. "I would have to have something less regional. I have a couple of books in my head that I think have national appeal, but I figure maybe three books. If they'll print three more books for me I'll write three more books for them."

"Eastern Shore Beer" is available in paperback and e-book on Amazon.com.

BUSINESS

Bleached Butterfly a dream, then a shop

New downtown store has unusual pieces and home accents

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 18, 2014) Taking up one of the few remaining vacant spots in Berlin's vibrant downtown, Bleached Butterfly has become the latest business to attempt to capitalize on Berlin's cool year.

The business opened Dec. 2 and owner Autumn Graves, who has a background as a designer and a florist, said the shop is receiving rave reviews.

"It's going really well," she said. "We've had a lot of good feedback. Everyone's been super welcoming and supportive and we're getting a lot of foot traffic."

That includes traffic from other shopkeepers, as the owners of Ta Da, Sisters, The Church Mouse and Bruder Hill have all stopped in to say hello.

"I love the town. Everybody has been great," she said.

Graves described the shop, located on 3 Pitts Street, as an eclectic mix of new and old home goods sourced from estate sales, flea markets and auctions.

"I pick too," she said. "If I see an old house being torn down and there's a 30-yard dumpster in the back I'm going to be like, 'Hey, can I look in your dumpster?' I have found some beautiful stuff in doing so."

The shop's curious name has drawn more than a few questions. According to Graves, it all started with a dream.

"As corny as it sounds, I had a dream about six years ago that I had this store, and I woke up with this name in my head," she said. "I figured it had to represent something."

When she began to unpack the dream, "bleached" represented a clear, clean blank canvas. "Butterfly" evoked the idea of potential, of becoming or creating something beautiful.

"For me it serves a lot of purpose for the meaning behind the store because I want to inspire people to create things in their home," Graves said. "Hopefully, I inspire them with what I have, and in turn, maybe they go home and see things differently and switch up a setting in the house. Or maybe instead of having something on the floor, they hang it on the wall."

"It's just a funky name, and I wanted to brand myself," Graves continued. "I wanted to brand myself in what I was trying to do, like a Free People or an Anthropologie. They didn't think of the name and say, 'Are people going to get it?' They said, 'This is how we're going to brand ourselves and we're going to represent a certain look and a certain trend and a certain style.'"

Graves hopes Bleached Butterfly becomes a source for interior designers and decorators in the area.

"They can come and they might have a client who is looking for an eclectic piece or something that's not so ordinary or cookie cutter or coastal," she said. "I feel like there's enough of that over here. There's enough beached and not enough bleached."

"I want to be that person that everyone goes to and says, 'Hey, Autumn, I found this random piece of wood. Do you have any thoughts on it?' Or, 'Maybe you can come take a look at the house and see where we could do something different or change a color,'" Graves continued. "I'm hoping to inspire people and become a part of this new and growing style and trend."



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Owner Autumn Graves opened Bleached Butterfly, an eclectic home and design store, on Pitts Street in Berlin, Dec. 2.



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NOEL prepares for Christmas dinner

Seventeenth event helps homeless and local unemployed

By Taylor Sloan
Intern

(Dec. 18, 2014) The NOEL Community will host its annual Christmas Day dinner at St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, located on Baltimore Avenue and Third Street, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Dec. 25 for those homeless, unemployed, underemployed, shut-in, and who are alone.

"We are serving breakfast meals in the morning," said Katie Coffman, chairwoman of the NOEL planning committee.

There will be breakfast sandwiches, donuts and coffee available in the parish hall. The dinner will come pre-

cooked in a bag. Dinner includes ham, potatoes, macaroni and cheese, vegetables and rolls. Tables will be set up in the parish hall for visitors to enjoy their meals, where there will also be music, decorations and Santa Claus. All are welcome to join the NOEL Community for this holiday celebration.

In 2013, the group held its 16th annual NOEL Community Dinner in memory of Father David Dingwall. The organization came together to provide food and companionship on Christmas Day despite the tragic fire on Nov. 26 at Saint Paul's by-the-Sea and the Shepherd's Crook Food Pantry that took the life of Dingwall.

With the community's generous donations and efforts, NOEL distributed 400 cloth shopping bags each packed with pre-cooked items for

three meals, 100 cloth shopping bags with sandwiches for two meals, 200 breakfast sandwiches, 200 donuts, and 65 meals for the public service workers. More than 1,600 meals/sandwiches were distributed from City Hall on Third Street, located across the street from the church, to those in need of food on Christmas.

NOEL stands for Nothing Other than Eating and Loving. The organization provides services to the community including preparing and serving meals, working with local pantries and collecting food donations.

"We had leftover food one year to do a lunch in January and years later we had enough food...to do a few lunches in January," Coffman said.

Now, the NOEL community provides lunch every Saturday and several

weekdays during the year. Volunteers actively work with the local food pantries, shelters and social service groups to identify what is most needed by the individuals and families.

The Noel Community prepared lunches with leftover food and funds from Christmas last year. These meals were served at St. Paul's by-the-Sea or distributed as carry-outs from Shepherd's Crook. The group of volunteers prepared breakfast and/or lunch on 63 days providing more than 6,600 meals in 2013.

The Noel Community also served 90 meals/carry-outs at The Atlantic Club in West Ocean City in March and prepared 100 sandwiches for the Surfer's Healing event in Ocean City in August. The Noel Community provided 100 bags of food for the Homeless Census in January, packed 120 toiletry kits for a food pantry in Berlin in July, prepared 120 baskets for a food pantry in Snow Hill at Thanksgiving, and assembled 50 toiletry kits for the Community Resource Day in Worcester County in December.

The NOEL Community is asking for monetary and food donations. Checks can be mailed to: 302 North Baltimore Avenue, Ocean City, Md., 21842. Donations of non-perishable food and toiletries from individuals and organizations will be accepted on Wednesday, Dec. 24 from 10 a.m. to noon at St. Paul's by-the-Sea.

NOEL organizes events throughout the year. One is the gLOVEs drive in February. The gLOVEs drive is Valentine's Day themed, and NOEL asks the public to open their hearts and share the gifts of warmth and love by donating new gloves, hats, socks and blankets to those in need. For more information about the NOEL Community or the Christmas dinner, contact the parish at 410-289-3453.



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JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Hosting the Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce's Holiday Business After Hours at the community's Yacht Club on Thursday, Dec. 11, from left, are Chamber staff member, Sherri Lassahn; Board President, Anna Giles; Ocean Pines Association Public Relations Director, Teresa Travatello; Chamber Executive Director, Liz Kain-Bolen and staff member, Amber Fraser.



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Kelly O'Donnell, M.D., is a Venous and Lymphatic Medicine Specialist, a Registered Physician of Vascular Interpretation (RPVI) and a Registered Vascular Technologist (RVT).

CAR stats show sales on rise in Lower Shore area

Closings, prices gain strength, as market continues rebound

(Dec. 18, 2014) Home listing prices and sales prices are on the rise in the tri-county area, according to the latest figures from the Coastal Association of Realtors.

The November CAR Local Housing Statistics reflect an 11.5 percent jump in the average listing price and an 11.3 percent increase in the average sales price of single-family homes and condominiums as compared to October.

"Rising listing and sales prices reflect more and more homeowners having the ability to sell," said Sheila Dodson, executive director of CAR, pointing out that the National Association of Realtors annual survey, released last month, revealed that the typical sellers over the past year were in their homes for 10 years before selling, which is an all-time survey high for tenure of home.

"It's a very encouraging sign both locally and nationally," she said.

Condominiums in Wicomico County saw the largest increase in average listing price at 11.2 percent. Single-family homes in Somerset County saw the largest increase in sales prices at 46 percent. The average listing price for condominiums and single-family homes in all three counties during November was \$196,278 and the average sales price was \$185,399.

Contracts, or pending sales, continue to increase, with a total 40 percent jump in the tri-county area compared to the same time last year. Settlements, or completed sales, fell a bit, decreasing by 4.1 percent.

October's settlements saw a 3.9 percent increase compared to the same time last year, which was the first increase the area has experienced in several months. However, Linda Moran of Prudential PenFed Realty in Ocean City, said she expects the month of December will see a significant surge in settlement numbers.

"Most buyers will want to settle before the end of the year for tax write-off purposes," Moran said. "The market is good and will continue to be good through the end of the year."

November's statistics also reflected a decrease in days on the market for single-family homes in Wicomico and Worcester counties. Wicomico saw an 11 percent decrease and Worcester saw an 8.5 percent decrease.

Visit www.coastalrealtors.org for more information about CAR's local housing statistics.


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Sewer line construction work delayed until Jan.

By Brian Gilliland
Staff Writer

(Dec. 18, 2014) Major construction to replace aging sewer lines before moving on to insert and upgrade force main pumps and pipes will likely be put off until January, but construction crews are expected to get some preliminary work done as early as today or by Monday.

Deputy Director of Public Works John Ross said Tuesday in Snow Hill that workers may begin digging "test pits" to determine the exact location of utilities, which will affect traffic in Ocean Pines on Windjammer Road and Bird's Nest Road and on Ocean Parkway between Windjammer Road and Village Way.

"In my personal opinion we won't be seeing a lot done before Christmas," Ross said. He expects lanes and traffic to slow down, but not stop altogether. There will be changing traffic patterns and construction traffic, as well as lane and parking restrictions in these areas.

Workers will break for the holidays, and are likely to return before New Year's Eve will heavy construction beginning in early January.

Normally, Ross said, construction dates, times and approvals are more concrete, but when holiday traffic and travel are added to the mix these things become more fluid.

A-Del Construction of Dover, Delaware will install a new 12-inch diameter sewage force main to replace older lines in the area.

Construction is expected to be complete by late spring 2015.

Bertino sets 'town hall' session

(Dec. 18, 2014) Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino, who represents the Ocean Pines District, has scheduled his first Town Meeting for Saturday, Feb. 21, at 10 a.m. at the Ocean Pines library.

Bertino was sworn in as a county commissioner on Dec. 2, at the Worcester County Government Center in Snow Hill. He succeeds Judy Boggs, who initiated the commissioner-town meeting concept in Ocean Pines during her tenure and which Bertino is adopting.

For more information about the meeting or other issues of public concern, contact Bertino at 443-783-3248 or cbertino@co.worcester.md.us.

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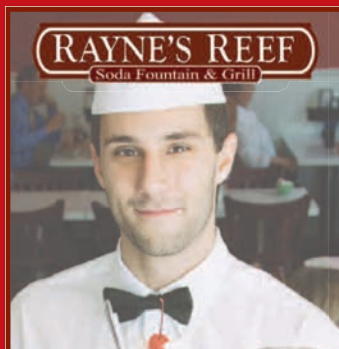
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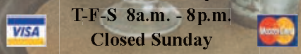
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OPINION

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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

Miscommunications make medium issues big ones

Here we go again in Ocean Pines, where miscommunications or misconstrued communications or too many different communications have made significant issues into bigger ones.

There is, for instance, the matter of the golf course’s management, with Casper Golf being told, or not told, that its role as course operator will or won’t continue in the coming year as the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors considers its alternatives.

All the parties involved, from Casper Golf to the directors to OPA General Manager were either angry or confused by this recent whirlwind of mixed messages, even though nothing official had occurred at the point.

That’s because everyone was waiting, theoretically, for the release of the course’s financial report, which was expected to happen at the end of this week.

And then there’s the discussion of the Sandpiper Energy contract with Ocean Pines and the report that Sandpiper gave in to the board’s demands, when, according to the company and others, it did not.

The problem in both instances, it would seem, is the relatively simple matter of more people attempting to run things than is necessary. This doesn’t mean that anyone has anything but the best intentions, but it does create conflict as well as a muddled picture of what has or what is about to take place.

We don’t want to discourage directors or General Manager Thompson from speaking openly about anything. The more information the public receives, the more it will understand about circumstances that affect them.

On the other hand, the directors, Thompson and the public need to accept that no matter what anyone says, nothing is final until a vote takes place. That makes a decision official, with all that’s said beforehand just a matter of opinion.

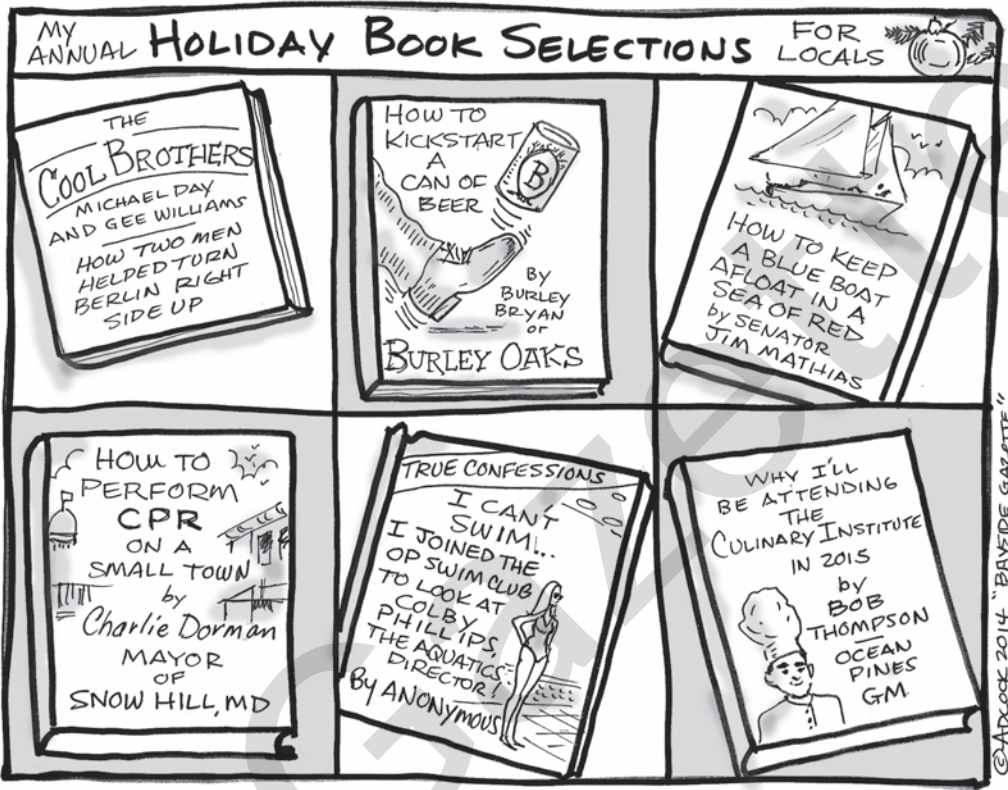
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Hogan issues budget warning

Budget shortfall means difficult decisions ahead

By Bryan P. Sears

The Daily Record Newswire (Dec. 18, 2014) Gov.-elect Larry Hogan said he is giving his budget team 10 days to deliver a plan to impose a balanced budget for each of the next two years.

Hogan, in a briefing with reporters, said that the state faces significant budget challenges including a nearly \$300 million shortfall in the current budget as well as a project structural deficit for the Fiscal 2016 budget that he will have to deliver to the General Assembly two days after he is sworn in.

“Our state is facing a budget crisis that has the potential of impacting us for years to come,” Hogan said. “The problems that we have uncovered are great but so is our resolve to fix them.”

Former state Sen. Robert R. Neall, Hogan’s leading budget adviser, said state spending is out of line with revenue.

“The state’s fiscal condi-

tion is a very serious one. It is not one that has happened overnight. Maryland has been struggling with a so-called structural deficit for many years, possibly for over a decade.”

Neall said a number of state programs are growing at rates faster than revenues, including pension payments, the “state’s commitment to the Medicaid program” and the payments on state bonds — which has grown larger in recent years as Gov. Martin J. O’Malley has used cash from dedicated funds to offset budget deficits while replacing that cash with borrowed money.

Debt service on that borrowing is outpacing the revenue generated by the state property tax, which is dedicated to pay for the bonds. The difference is paid out of the state general fund.

By fiscal 2019, the gap between the property tax revenue and the amount owed will exceed \$500 million. Neall said failing to control the situation now could have dire consequences.

“There will be no money for pay raises,” Neall said. “No money for new pro-

grams. No money to buy pencils. This is the track that we’re on.”

Neall said controlling the situation will “take a good eight to 10 years and some discipline in issuing new debt.”

“We have to set a clear set of fiscal decisions that are grounded in sound fiscal discipline,” Neall said.

Neall said the Hogan administration is working with T. Eloise Foster, O’Malley’s budget director, to help reduce state spending in the last six months of the current budget year.

Last week, an O’Malley spokeswoman and the University System of Maryland confirmed they were reducing spending, including freezing hiring and spending, in an attempt to offset the budget gap.

Neall said part of that sound fiscal discipline for the coming budget will include “a thoughtful departure from the way things have been done and preparing that budget is going to require a rebasing of every major expense that we have any flexibility over.”

Have an opinion?

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

Commissioners seek delay in ag rules

Phosphorus regs will hit economy quickly, officials say in letter

By Josh Davis
Staff Writer

(Dec. 18, 2014) Legislators in Worcester County are scrambling after the Department of Agriculture announced proposed regulations on phosphorus that could affect the majority of area farmers.

County and state lawmakers are calling for hearings to stall the new rules that would restrict how much chicken manure farmers can use to fertilize their crops.

The Worcester County Commissioners drafted a letter to Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review Committee Senate Chair Paul Pinsky and House Chair Samuel Rosenberg on Dec. 1, stating their concern with the potential economic impact from new regulations.

The Commissioners requested the state hold a hearing “to discuss the true fiscal implication that would result from the implementation of these regulations.”

“These regulations will have a major impact on the agricultural operations on the lower shore, particularly in Worcester County,” the commissioners wrote. The letter added that the infrastructure needed to relocate the manure in order to meet new mandates “does not exist on the shore today.”

New Worcester County Commissioner President Jim Bunting admitted he was still getting up to speed on the issue, but said the impact of the regulation “is going to be huge.”

“I’ve talked to poultry growers,” he said. “The cost of raising crops is going to increase drastically because you have to buy fertilizer. I think it’s estimated anywhere from \$85 to over \$100 an acre extra if you can’t use manure. And then there’s the cost of moving it and taking it other places, which the state can subsidize. I guess the taxpayers are going to bear that burden.”

Bunting said the county has not gotten a response since sending the

letter, but stressed the urgency of action.

“The problem is if we don’t have a hearing before the new governor takes office it’s going to be a law,” he said.

Former District 4 Commissioner Virgil Shockley said he has targeted the AELR committee on numerous occasions.

“I championed that fight three times before, trying to get that and three times they didn’t hold it,” he said. “This is a very sensitive, touchy issue for the Eastern Shore. The economy of the entire shore, quite frankly, is at stake here.”

Proposed regulations came on the heels of an economic impact study conducted by Dr. Memo Diriker and the Business Economic and Community Outreach Network at Salisbury University. Diriker estimated a six-year phase in of regulations, designed to protect the Chesapeake Bay, would carry a projected cost of \$22.5 million.

Shockley estimated the proposed regulations could affect 70-90 percent of farms on the Eastern Shore.

One of Shockley’s biggest problems with the study is the question of what happens to the manure. Diriker, in his study, suggested excess manure could be transported 50 miles offsite.

“If you start from Salisbury and drive 50 miles, how far do you get?” Shockley said. “This is what I don’t understand. In order to do anything you’re going to have to send it out of the state of Maryland to get it out of the watershed.”

“If it’s bad for the Chesapeake Bay in Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset County – and I’m not saying it is – what makes it not bad for the Chesapeake Bay in Talbot and Queen Anne’s and on up?” Shockley continued. “I don’t understand the logic on that. It’s like someone just gave you a certificate so you can hang it on the wall.”

Storing the manure, Shockley suggested, is out of the question.

“You’re talking about a disaster waiting to happen,” he said. “You got a hurricane come through, you got a good nor’easter come through, five or

six inches of rain – on the Eastern Shore there’s no such thing as high ground. You talk about pollution, there’s where your pollution will come in.”

Shockley said he ran the numbers on using phosphorus-free manure on his own farm.

“It cost \$108 an acre to me to replace what two tons of chicken manure would do on my farm with commercial fertilizer for a corn crop,” he said. “There are 45,000 acres in Worcester County and about half of that sees chicken manure. Multiply it out.”

Shockley said that number, spread out statewide and across six years, far exceeds the \$22.5 million estimate. In Shockley’s scenario the cost for Worcester County alone exceeds \$24 million.

“I don’t think \$22 million will touch it, quite honestly,” he said. “I don’t think it’s even close.”

“I had hoped that common sense would prevail on this and they would realize that they had no alternative in line in place, but my grandfather basically said it, ‘you don’t burn one bridge before you build another,’” Shockley continued. “These guys just struck the match and poured kerosene on it.”

District 38 Sen. Jim Mathias has tangled with phosphorus regulations for more than a year.

“I appreciate the county commissioner’s support, and working with them is exactly what it’s all about,” he said.

Mathias’ office sent letters to Maryland Senate President Mike Miller and House Speaker Mike Busch three weeks ago, urging caution and calling for hearings. The senator also sent letters to the AELR chairs.

“We went on record early, and I’ve talked to some of the senators and delegates personally,” he said. “In addition to the political side I’ve been talking frequently with the industry and those that are representing the industry to try and make certain they tell us exactly where they want to go.”

“Our goal is to get a hearing and put these regulations on hold, and there’s been a variety of approaches to that,” Mathias continued. “We’re putting our collective heads together trying to figure this out.”

Governor O’Malley previously tried to fast-track legislation on phosphorus restrictions in 2013. Mathias helped stall that effort, leading to a series of statewide hearings.

“We had a thousand farmers come out to talk about how adverse this would be and how costly this would be – how the science is not in place here,” he said.

After the hearings, Mathias intro-
See COUNTY Page 20

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Country's Jimmy Charles to perform Dec. 23

(Dec. 18, 2014) Country artist Jimmy Charles will perform a benefit concert for Coastal Hospice on Tuesday, Dec. 23 from 6-10 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club.

The event will include a silent auction and an opportunity for attendees to donate to Coastal Hospice.

Last year, Coastal Hospice provided more than \$515,000 in charity care to patients who had no ability to pay. Donations made at the Ocean Pines event will help fund the hos-

pice's charity care and also honor the donor's loved one, whose names will be printed on a red angel ornament and hung on the Coastal Hospice angel tree.

Charles chose Coastal Hospice for the benefit because it was the local non-profit that cared for his grandmother. The musician grew up in Ocean City and graduated from Towson University.

"I wanted to target an organization that was local to my home on the Eastern Shore," Charles said. "Coastal Hospice did so much work to help my grandmother as she stayed with us in our home during her final years. I learned that it takes some really special people to do what

they do."

Coastal Hospice was a "blessing" to his family, he said. "doing so much for nothing, and now it is time that I give back to them."

"This is my way of saying 'Thank You.' When I read they were in need of funds, it was an easy decision for me," Charles said.

Charles had an impressive beginning to his professional music career as a Season 9 contestant on the TV show "American Idol" where he earned a golden ticket to Hollywood.

Currently a resident and working musician in Nashville, Charles has played many venues in the music town. He was named Top 50 on the show "Nashville Star" and sat as a

guest judge on "CMT's Next Big Star."

Charles has worked with some of the biggest names in country music, including Lady Antebellum, Montgomery Gentry, Kip Moore and Kacey Musgraves.

For two years, Charles was the featured artist for the Mrs. North Carolina United States pageant, and judge and performer for the Miss University City, Miss Appalachia and Miss Southern Delaware pageants.

More information about Charles and his music is available at www.jimmycharlesmusic.com.

Founded in 1980, Coastal Hospice is a nonprofit health care organization that cares for individuals facing life-limiting conditions.

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Aquatics sets junior lifeguard class

(Dec. 18, 2014) Future lifeguards are invited to join Ocean Pines Aquatics for a day of skill-building, swimming and fun at a one-day winter junior lifeguard program on Tuesday, Dec. 30 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Sports Core Pool in Ocean Pines.

Aquatics Director Colby Phillips, who worked for 20 years with the Ocean City Beach Patrol, will be the instructor for this class. Children ages 8 and older will learn lifeguarding

skills, play games, visit a local fire department and enjoy a pizza lunch.

The cost of the class is \$75 per person, which includes a T-shirt, whistle and lunch. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. To register, call the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department at 410-641-7052.

Ocean Pines Aquatics hosts a variety of aquatic fitness classes, swim lessons and special events year-round. Upcoming events include

Friday Family Fun Night on Jan. 2 and an adults-only Dive-In Movie Night showing of "The Big Chill" on Jan. 10.

For more information, contact the Ocean Pines Aquatics Department at 410-641-5255. Information regarding additional Ocean Pines Aquatics programs, including an online version of the Ocean Pines Winter 2015 Activity Guide, is available at www.OceanPines.org.

County seeks delay in fertilizer regs

Continued from Page 19

duced language in the budget calling for an economic impact study before new regulations went into effect.

"This is a huge, huge issue," he said. "It's very complicated. It's very complex. To try and discuss this over a 30-day, 60-day, 90-day time period – let alone up against the clock when you've got a governor that's going out on the 21st of January – is extremely difficult. Even after we've been deal-

ing with it for a year-plus, the facts are just starting to come out."

Mathias said he has sought help from interstate and federal leadership, as well as Governor-elect Larry Hogan.

"I had a very at-length conversation with [Hogan] last week," Mathias said. "We spoke about this specifically, and I've been talking with his policy folks. They told me directly that they are opposed to these

and I think they're looking at the different options that are available to them."

If no hearings are scheduled and no additional delays occur, the proposed regulations could go into effect as soon as January 16.

"This is extremely, extremely vital," Mathias continued. "If I'm ever going to go to war, I gotta go for my agriculture industry. This is critical to our district and our family farms."

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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.

THURS. Dec. 18

STROKE SUPPORT GROUP — Atlantic Health Center, 9714 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 2-3 p.m. Providing physical and emotional support for survivors and caregivers to share personal experiences and challenges. Key speakers with expert knowledge concerning areas of concern for those affected by a stroke.

YOUNG AND RESTLESS - REINDEER GAMES — Pocomoke library, 301 Market St. Holiday games and crafts for 3 to 5 year old children. Info: 410-957-0878.

YOUNG AND RESTLESS — Pocomoke library, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Reindeer Games holiday games and crafts for 3-5 year old children. Info: 410-957-0878.

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

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

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

PINE'EER CRAFT CLUB HOLIDAY LUNCHEON — Ocean Pines Yacht Club, 1 Mumford's Landing Road, 11 a.m. Reservations: Sharon, 410-208-3032.

FRI. Dec. 19

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.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT — Atlantic United Methodist Church, 105 Fourth St., in Ocean City, 7:30 p.m. Featuring the Pine Tones Chorus. Theme is "The Colors of Christmas." Admission is free and an offering will be received. Refreshments after the concert. Info: Pat Beisler, 410-208-6282 or June Todd, 410-289-7373.

MUSIC, WINE AND BEER — Sisters, 113 N. Main St., Berlin, 5 p.m. A percentage of all sales will be donated to Believe in Tomorrow. Musical entertainment provided by Spare Change. Raffle tickets available. Info: Wayne Littleton, 410-723-2842 or wlittleton@believeintomorrow.org.

SAT. Dec. 20

FREE CHRISTMAS TRAIN DISPLAY — Georgetown Public Library, 123 W. Pine St., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Delaware Seaside Railroad Club will present five operating model railroad layouts. Info: 302-856-7958 or Delawareseasiderailroadclub.com.

PARENTS' TIME OUT — Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, West Ocean City, 1-4 p.m. Children ages Pre-K through grade 3 can participate in activities, games and crafts. Free event. Register: 443-614-3870.

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

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

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA & RAVENS CHEERLEADERS — Pickles Pub, 706 N. Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 8 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$10 and includes breakfast and a prize from Santa. Parents are welcome to bring cameras for photos. Proceeds benefit Believe in Tomorrow's House by the Sea. Info: Wayne Littleton, 410-723-2842 or wlittleton@believeintomorrow.org.

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT SPAGHETTI DINNER WITH SANTA — Berlin Fire Hall, Main Street. Dinner is 4-7 p.m., Santa from 5-7 p.m. Salad, bread, beverages and bake table. Take cameras. Cost is \$7 for adults, \$4 for children 10 and younger. Proceeds benefit Berlin Fire Company Cadet Program. Info: bfc@berlinfire.com.

SUN. Dec. 21

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

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

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

MON. Dec. 22

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

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

TUES. Dec. 23

PLAY TIME — Berlin library, 220 N. Main St., 10:30-11:30 a.m. For infants to 5 year old children. Info: 410-641-0650.

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

WEIGHT LOSS SUPPORT GROUP - WOC Fitness, 12319 Ocean Gateway, Suite 203, Ocean City, 5 p.m. Cost is \$5 per meeting. Talk nutrition, exercise, health, tips for weight loss and more. Info: 410-213-7000.

WED. Dec. 24

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE — Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, West Ocean City, 7 p.m. Includes a children's nativity pageant involving all children (no rehearsal needed), Christmas carols, Holy Communion and the message "Good News-the Light is Here!" Info: 410-641-2186.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE — Atlantic United Methodist Church, 105 Fourth St., Ocean City. Family Service/Communion held at 7 p.m. All children who attend will be invited to participate in Nativity procession. Candlelight Communion held at 11 p.m. Info: 410-289-7430.

CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - Snow Hill Christian

Church, Park Row and Bay streets, 7 p.m. Info: Pastor Dale, 302-436-5974.

ONGOING EVENTS

WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS — More than one million holiday lights throughout the resort and at Northside Park, 200 125th St. in Ocean City, through Jan. 4, 2015. The heated Winterfest Village pavilion features hot chocolate, Yukon Cornelius' gift shop and photos with Santa. Board the Winterfest Express to tour hundreds of animated, lighted displays. Admission. Hours are Sunday through Thursday, 5:30-9:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 5:30-10:30 p.m. Info: 800-OC-OCEAN, 410-250-0125 or www.ococean.com.

HORSE & CARRIAGE RIDES — Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., through April 26, 2015. Passengers board near Thrasher's at the Ocean City Inlet and travel around the pier and down the Boardwalk to Fourth Street and back. Carriage is heated. Cost is \$10 for adults and free for children 3 and younger. Info: Randy Davis, 443-783-1409.

MOTOWN, THE MUSICAL BUS TRIP — Motown founder Barry Gordy's journey from featherweight boxer to a musical mogul who launched the careers of Diana Ross, Michael Jackson, Smokey Robinson & many more. This show has now come to Broadway Philadelphia. Bus departs the Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway on Jan. 18, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. and returns at approximately 6 p.m. Cost for this trip is \$105 per person (family circle seats). Register: 410-641-7052 or stop in the Ocean Pines Recreation Department.

HELP FOR VETERANS — Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, third Wednesday of each month, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Michelle Licata, a representative from the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, is on hand to help veterans (of any conflict) with whatever help they need in navigating available VA programs, need special assistance, etc. Info: Licata, 410-713-3482.

HELP FOR PHARMACEUTICAL DRUG ABUSE — Call Narconon for a free brochure on the signs of addiction for all types of drugs. Narconon also offers free assessments and referrals: 877-413-3073 or www.narcononworks.com.

SINGING MESSAGES — Members of the Delmarva Chorus of Sweet Adelines International, is available for singing songs locally for birthdays, anniversaries, Valentine's Day or any special occasion. Your special someone will be serenaded with two songs at the location of your choice. Cost is \$25. Available 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Call 410-641-5091.



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Daily	Assateague Point, Berlin	1BR/2BR/3BR	Mobile	From \$100,000	Resort Homes/Tony Matrona
Daily 10-5	Gateway Grand – 48th Street	3 & 4BR, 3BA	Condo	From \$904,900	Condominium Realty/Fritschle Group
Daily 11-3	Villas, OC Inlet Isle	3BR/4BR	Condo	\$795,000	Condominium Realty/Fritschle Group
Daily 10-4	1111 Edgewater Ave	3BR/2.5BA	Condo	From \$595,000	Condominium Realty/Fritschle Group
Mon-Sat 10-5	70th St. Bayside Broadmarsh	3BR/2.5BA	Townhomes	From \$304,900	Fritschle Group/Condominium Realty
Mon-Sat 10-5	Seaside Village, West Ocean City	3BR/2BA/2 half baths	Townhome	From \$289,900	Condominium Realty/Fritschle Group
Thurs.-Mon. 11-5	12602 Bay Buoy Ct. West Ocean City	3,4,5BR/2.5-2.5BA	SF-New Construction	From \$299,900	Harbor Homes/Monogram
Friday thru Sunday	Sunset Island	-	Condos, TH, SF	\$389K/\$509K/\$900K	Terry Riley/Vantage Resort
Saturday 10-1	505 Edgewater Ave.- Ocean City	4BR/3.5BA	Townhome	\$599,900	Darryl Greer/Resort Real Estate
Sat & Sun 11-4 p.m.	Heron Harbour Sales Office, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2/BR/3BR/4/BR+	Condo, Towns & SF	—	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Sunday 12-5	Seaside Village, West Ocean City	3BR/2.5BA	Townhome	From \$289,900	Condominium Realty/Fritschle Group
Sunday 12-5	70th St. Bayside Broadmarsh	3BR/2.5BA	Townhomes	From \$304,900	Fritschle Group/Condominium Realty

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SNAPSHOTS



SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

CHECK PRESENTATION

Atlantic General Hospital Auxiliary Executive Committee members present a check for \$125,000 to President and CEO, Michael Franklin, for second floor renovations. Pictured, from left, are Michael Gough, vice president; Mary Ellen Arena, corresponding secretary; Ann Hamilton, treasurer; Jane Wolnick, president; Franklin and Barbara Loffler, recording secretary.



JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

CORN IN MY POCKET

Baby O'rion Acker takes in the Barter Fair at Zenna Wellness Studio during Berlin's 2nd Friday on Dec. 12.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

EGYPTIAN MASK

Adham Labwam applies the beginning touches to the Egyptian Death mask that will cover Luke Davis' face. As part of world history class, Berlin Intermediate sixth grade students made masks out of paper mache and then painted them to look authentic.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

NEW OFFICERS

Atlantic General Hospital Auxiliary celebrates the installation of its new officers during its annual membership meeting on Dec. 2. New AGH Auxiliary officers, from left, are Michael Gough, president; Janice Slaysman, vice president; Ann Hamilton, treasurer; Barbara Loffler, recording secretary and Mary Ellen Arena, corresponding secretary.



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

When the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department holds its annual Breakfast with Santa, the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City participates by preparing the food. Pictured with Mr. and Mrs. Claus during the Dec. 6 breakfast, from left, are Dan Peletier, Barb Peletier and Ralph Chinn.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

PARENT CONFERENCE NIGHT

Stephen Decatur High School National Honor Society members take time out from serving as tour guides during Parent Conference Night to pose with the Seahawk mascot (Justin Meekins). Pictured in back row, are Craig Snyder, Matthew Krall, Ryan Bennett, Claire Edmunds, Mallory Rolleston and Lauren Bodolus, and in front, Claire Esham, Jordan Klebe and Delilah Purnell.

CUISINE

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Spritz cookies easy to make, Suplee says

How many of us remember the smells that wafted through the houses of family and friends during the holiday season? For me, I'm talking the early '70s. For some of you, it may very well be the Dark Ages, but I won't pick on you.



By Paul Suplee,
CEC PCIII

I will never forget the cookies fresh from the oven or the roast beef and Yorkshire pudding overshadowing the honey ham. Once the mashed potatoes were scraped from the Kitchenaid to one of our Franciscan bowls, it was game on. We knew that there was a gallon of gravy somewhere and the stage was set. And it wasn't just our house, it was everyone's house.

One of my fondest Christmas memories was the annual pilgrimage we would make to Uncle Tom and Aunt Terry's house on Christmas Eve. We lived outside of Annapolis and they lived outside of D.C. All in all, it was a 45-minute drive, but as children it felt like an eternity.

But once we got there, we knew there would be a mountain of food, with brie wrapped in puff pastry being one of my favorites. The kids would retire downstairs to race the Green Machines on the concrete floor and, of course, we would scout out the stack of presents under the tree in the basement.

Upstairs, the table would be set with cheese and crackers, a fantastic meal seeing as how Tom was and is quite the gourmand, and it would be finished with divinity, spritz cookies, preacher's cookies and fruit cake.

Of course, like 99 percent of the rest of the country, I never personally warmed up to the fruitcake. I agree with Johnny Carson that there are only three actual fruit cakes in the world, and they just keep getting refigured since no one eats them.

One of my favorite holiday treats on the table was the plate of spritz



cookies, which I haven't made since I was a little kid. Once I was old enough, it was definitely not cool to bake cookies with your mother, but as a younger tot, I remember the process, the tools and, of course, eating the broken pieces and mistakes. After all, we couldn't leave a mess, could we?

Maybe I'm feeling nostalgic because this is our first year without our mother. Maybe I'm just tired of looking at the spritz press as it collects dust without us ever using it. Or maybe I just want to eat some spritz cookies, which I haven't done in a very, very long time.

Whatever the reason, I know that this is going to be a worthwhile endeavor, so I'll wait for the kids to come home so they can help me. Hopefully, they'll enjoy it as much as I did when I was younger.

As we packed up from a night of dinner, drinking (we had to stick with

soda), presents, Green Machines and frivolities at Tom and Terry's, it was time to pack into the Polara station wagon and make the long trek home. There was a buzz in the air, since we knew that we were only one more wakeup to Santa. A quite palpable tension flew through the car until one by one, we all fell asleep; except for our father, who, of course, was driving.

I always pretended to be asleep when we got home, because having my dad carry me inside still remains one of my favorite memories of him. It was the only time during the year that this great courtesy would be bestowed, so I took advantage of it until he finally said "enough."

I'm excited that the house now smells like Christmas cookies, and I'm thrilled to know that I'm sharing a tradition with my kids as it was shared with me. Holidays and family, what a wonderful thing.

Spritz Cookies

Makes about 60 cookies

2 c. Cake flour
1/4 tsp. Salt
3/4 c. Unsalted butter, room temperature
1/2 c. Sugar
1 egg yolk
1/2 tsp. Almond extract
1/2 tsp. Vanilla extract
Food coloring and sprinkles, optional

A slight variation to the original recipe is to replace parchment paper with buttered baking sheets. When chilled in refrigerator, the butter helps to hold onto the dough as you pull the press upwards

Preheat an oven to 350F.

Sift together the flour and the salt. Set aside.

Put butter in a stand mixer with a paddle attachment and beat until soft.

Slowly add sugar and beat on medium speed until it is creamy and light.

Turn the mixer on low and add egg yolk and extracts, mixing until well combined.

Add flour in a steady stream and combine.

You can leave it as is, add some food coloring, or split it into three batches. The first keep plain, the next use red food coloring and the third use green food coloring. This is a simple way to add a great deal of color to the cookie tray.

Follow manufacturer's instructions when pressing the cookies. Make sure to change out the press tip so that you have multiple designs. This is the great thing about spritz cookies. They're so easy to make!

Decorate with sprinkles or anything that you like.

Bake for 8-10 minutes or until cooked through and just lightly coloring.

Cool on a rack and serve.

Source: MSN Food & Drink App

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

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Merry
Christmas!

PUZZLES

‘WELL, GOLLY!’

BY JIM PEREDO / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

1 Bed cover

6 Flips

12 Symbol in the logo of “The Big Bang Theory”

16 ____ test

19 Drops

20 Title hunter of a 1922 film

21 “____ chance!”

22 It may be beaten, with “the”

23 Religious rituals for cats?

25 Web browsers

27 “Off the hook”

28 Cookware brand

29 Tofurky, to turkey, e.g.

30 Nagging question?

32 Demanding sort

35 Having left the company, maybe

36 Seeds

40 “Let’s Be Cops” org.

42 Master of Japanese writing?

47 Sound before a big blow?

49 Orbitz offering

51 Poet who wrote “Let us not speak of them, but look, and pass on”

52 Strange pond scum?

54 Ingredient in some London pies

55 Jim of children’s TV

56 Shred

57 “Zounds!”

59 Swear

61 Day care attendee

62 The tiniest amount

64 Never: Ger.

65 “Gilgamesh,” e.g.

66 Turns down

67 “Grant your own damn wishes,” e.g.?

71 “Do the Right Thing” pizzeria

73 Fire proof?

74 Part of E.U.: Abbr.

75 Former auto exec Lee

78 Way of the East

79 Former White House press secretary Perino

80 Cop (to)

82 Markdown marker

83 Futilely

85 Born abroad?

87 “How deep is your love?” or “You should be dancing”?

89 Abnormal swelling

90 Olive Garden starter

92 Full complement for a Quidditch team

93 Comment from a driver who finally reached his destination?

95 Jog

97 Stop what you’re doing

98 Goggle

99 ____ bean

101 Per

103 Arsenal workers

107 Viet ____

109 Closest friend, slangily

114 Discusses at length

115 Surprised comment upon rummaging through a tea chest?

117 Cause of wear and tear

118 Chef Paula

119 See 80-Down

120 Calrissian of “Star Wars”

121 “Just ____”

122 Start to go down the drain

123 Literary prefaces

124 Convinces

13 It might be clipped and filed

14 Capital on a river of the same name

15 Like early Sears business

16 Leftover bit

17 When doubled, part of many a Robin Williams tribute

18 Abbey area

24 Faithful, in old poetry

26 Korda who directed “Sahara”

31 Chemical compound often labeled “S”

33 Barn attachments

34 Pot money

36 Took care of

37 Blue expanse

38 Some queenly attire

39 Fighter pilots fly them

41 Friday night series?

43 Veracruz’s capital

44 Not learned

45 Keep a low profile?

46 Circus sights

48 Classic theater

50 Play again

53 Mosaicist or glassblower

55 About 2 ½ acres

58 Made a false move?

60 End of a famous boast

63 “____ Flux,” 2005 sci-fi film

65 Most chill-inducing

66 Many a bored student

68 Actress Woodward

DOWN

1 Deity in the Edda

2 “Sure, put me down for that”

3 Cavils

4 James of jazz

5 “God Must Have Spent a Little More Time on You” group

6 College for a Brit

7 “Tennessee Waltz” singer

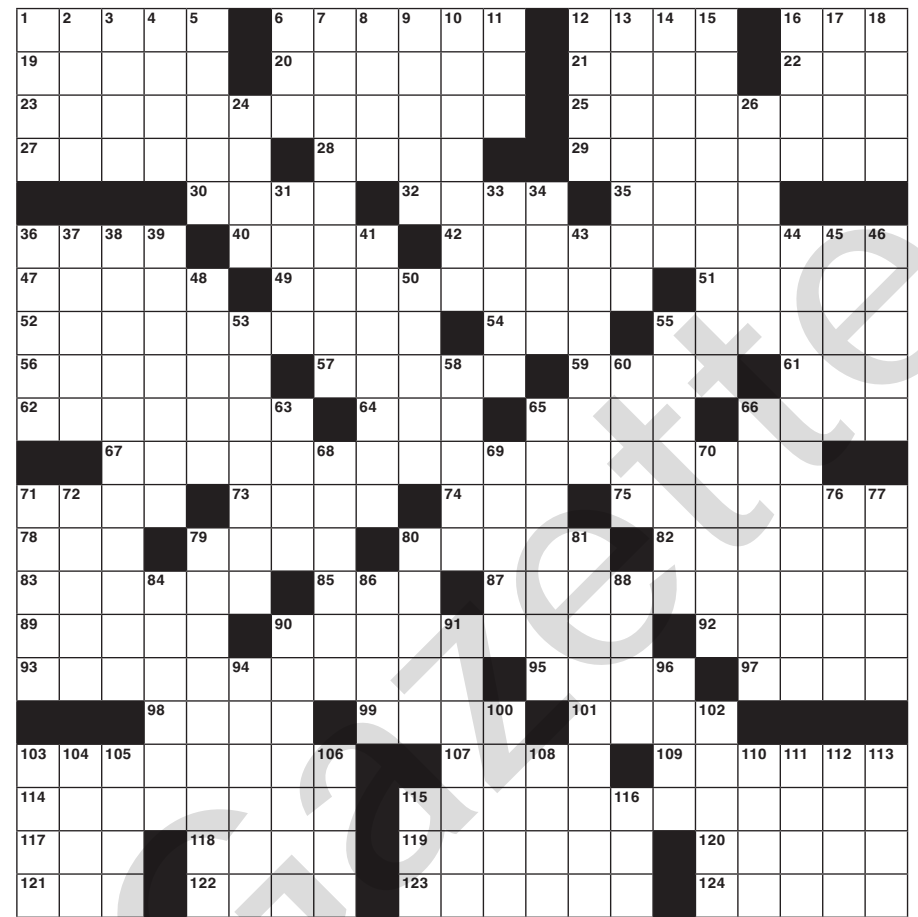
8 Sufficient, informally

9 Santa Claus-tracking org.

10 Descriptive of dingos and jackals

11 Blue expanse

12 Actress Paquin



- 69 Relative of the cha-cha

70 Brain-freeze drinks

71 Larsson who wrote “The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo”

72 U.S.’s first grocery chain

76 University of Miami athletes, for short

77 Means
- 79 Transportation service for the disabled

80 Alphabetical 119-Across

81 Any four-letter word

84 Pals

86 Dict. info

88 Hair gel, e.g.

90 Sidestepped
- 91 Ending with cow or hole

94 Warmed up the crowd (for)

96 “____ honest ...”

100 “Heaven forbid!”

102 Strips

103 Rarity in un desierto

104 One of the friends on “Friends”

105 Deferential
- 106 Electronics giant

108 ____ the Great of children’s lit

110 Picnic side dish

111 Brown who founded The Daily Beast

112 Annual “500”

113 Vanity cases?

115 Antithesis: Abbr.

116 Attorneys’ degs.

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HARD – 29

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



Answers to last week’s puzzles

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

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

NOW PLAYING

BJ'S ON THE WATER

75th Street and the bay
Ocean City
410-524-7575
Dec. 19: Tranzfusion, 9 p.m.
Dec. 20: Go With The Flo, 9 p.m.

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

CASINO AT OCEAN DOWNS

10218 Racetrack Road
Berlin
410-641-0600
Dec. 20: New Dawn Duo, 4-8 p.m.;
Bad Since Breakfast, 9 p.m.
to 1 a.m.

FAGER'S ISLAND

60th Street and the bay
Ocean City
410-524-5500
Dec. 19: Lauren Glick & Mike Arm-
strong, DJ Hook
Dec. 20: DJ Groove
Dec. 25: DJ Hook

GALAXY 66

66th Street, bayside
Ocean City
410-723-6762
Dec. 19: Philly George Project, 8
p.m. to midnight

HARBORSIDE BAR & GRILL

12841 S. Harbor Road
West Ocean City
410-213-1846
Dec. 19: Ladies Night w/DJ Bill T
Dec. 20: Simple Truth, 2-6 p.m.;
DJ Jeremy, 9 p.m.
Dec. 21: Opposite Directions,
2-6 p.m.

HARPOON HANNA'S

Route 54 and the bay
Fenwick Island, Del.
800-227-0525
302-539-3095
Dec. 19: Dave Hawkins, 6-10 p.m.
Dec. 20: Dave Sherman, 6-10 p.m.
Dec. 24: Bobby Burns, 3-6 p.m.
Dec. 25: Aaron Howell, 6-10 p.m.

HOOTERS

Rt. 50 & Keyser Point Rd.
West Ocean City
410-213-1841
Dec. 19: Ladies Night w/DJ BK,
8 p.m.

JOHNNY'S PIZZA & PUB

56th Street, bayside
Ocean City
410-524-7499
Every Wednesday: Randy Lee
Ashcraft & The Saltwater Cowboys
Dec. 19: Darin Engh
Dec. 20: One Night Stand

MARYLAND WINE BAR

103 N. Main St.
Berlin
410-629-1022
Dec. 19: Ed Sparks, 7 p.m.

OCEAN CLUB NIGHTCLUB

In the Horizons Restaurant
In the Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel
101st Street and the ocean
Ocean City
410-524-3535
Every Thursday-Sunday: DJ Dusty,
9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Dec. 19-20: On the Edge, 9:30
p.m. to 2 a.m.

SEACRETS

49th Street and the bay
Ocean City
410-524-4900
Dec. 19: Element K, 9 p.m.
Dec. 20: The JJ Rupp Band,
5 p.m.; Gypsy Wisdom, 10 p.m.

THE COVE AT OCEAN PINES YACHT CLUB

1 Mumford's Landing Road
Ocean Pines
410-641-7501
Dec. 19: Jack Worthington, 5:30-
9:30 p.m.
Dec. 20: Kevin Poole,
5:30-9:30 p.m.
Dec. 23: Jimmy Charles Christmas
Concert, 6-10 p.m.

WHISKER'S BAR & GRILL

11070 Cathell Road, Suite 17
Pines Plaza, Ocean Pines
443-365-2576
Dec. 19: Karaoke w/Donnie
Berkey, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

DECEMBER 31 | 7:30pm til 1:30am

New Year's Eve Party

Cocktail Reception
Bar Opens @ 7:30pm
DOWNSTAIRS at The Cove

Dinner & Dessert
@ 9pm **UPSTAIRS**
at the Yacht Club

Champagne Toast
Dance Party til 1am
with **DJ DomDiG**

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beverages, beer, wine!
*Cash bar for liquor or specialty drinks

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to purchase tickets

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Plus, a winner will be randomly selected every 30 minutes to win \$200 Slot Dollars at the top of the hour and \$100 Slot Dollars at the bottom of the hour!

Drawings held on Wednesday, December 31 • Noon - 11:30pm
Thursday, January 1, 2015 • 10am - 9pm
Must be present to win.

10 minutes from Ocean City, MD
Route 589, Racetrack Rd, Berlin, MD
410.641.0600 OCEANDOWNS.COM

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NOW HIRING!!
Afternoon Production Supervisor, \$13-\$15

Apply via email at:
dunkindonutjobs@gmail.com



AMERICA RUNS ON DUNKIN'

NOW HIRING!!
West OC Cashier position starting at \$9/hr.

Apply online at:
delmarvadd.com

LOCAL MODELS WANTED
for South Moon Under

No experience necessary. Female applicants must be at least 5'7" size 0-2. Male applicants must be at least 6'0" size 31-34 waist.

Please contact models@southmoonunder.com and include name, at least one full length photo, height and sizes.

HELP WANTED



AMERICA RUNS ON DUNKIN'

Maintenance Technician Wanted (Ocean City, MD)
Help build and maintain Delmarva's fastest growing restaurant group

Perform interior and exterior finish work, such as drywall, painting, paneling, ceiling and floor tile, plumbing repairs, heating and air conditioning system repairs

Perform routine and emergency repairs on restaurant equipment, including diagnostics on electrical and refrigeration components

On call on a rotating emergency schedule for week-ends and holidays

Basic skill sets must include some Electric, Plumbing, Carpentry, Refrigeration

Salary Starting at \$10.00/HR
Health Insurance 401K
Sick Leave

Apply online only at:
<http://delmarvadd.com/DunkinDonuts/construction.html>

Classifieds
410-723-6397

HELP WANTED

Now Hiring YR, F/T Housekeepers - Apply in person - Club Ocean Villas II, 105 120th Street, Ocean City, MD



We are hiring CNAs!

Coastal Home Care, an extension of Capital City Nurses, is hiring for short and long hours, Monday through Sunday, Part-time and Full-time on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and in the state of Delaware. Applicants must have CNA certification and at least 1 year of experience working on staff at a hospital or nursing home.

To apply, visit our website at www.capitalcitynurses.com and click on "Our Team" to submit an online application. For more information, call us at (410) 572-5606.

HELP WANTED

Courtyard by Marriott, 2 15th Street, Ocean City, MD 21842

Now accepting applications for the following positions:
Seasonal, F/T Front Desk Associates with possible YR

Looking for qualified candidates that have previous hotel experience. Stop by the front desk to complete an application. No phone calls. All candidates must go through a satisfactory background check.

LACROSSE COACH VACANCIES
Worcester Preparatory School, a coeducational college preparatory day school serving over 500 students in grades PK-12, seeks a Middle School Girls' Lacrosse coach and a Head Junior Varsity Boys' Lacrosse coach. Minimum of 2 yrs. experience required.
Contact: Matt McGinnis at 410-641-3575 or email mmcginnis@worcesterpriprep.org
www.baysideoc.com
www.oceancitytoday.net

* Early Deadlines *

Classified deadline for issue of Dec. 26th will be Friday, Dec. 19th, 5 p.m.



HELP WANTED

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YR, Selbyville 3BR/2.5BA - New carpet, new paint, lawn care, off-street parking, DW, W/D. No pets. \$900/mo. 302-362-6538

YR, 2BR/2BA Condo - Very nice, furnished Condo. \$1250/mo. for WR \$750/mo. Now till May 1st. Bill 301-537-5391.

YR South OC, Bay View @ 9th St. 3BR/1BA, furn./unfurn. Condo. \$985/mo. + utils. & 1 mo. sec. dep. No pets/smoking. 443-889-2193

Winter Rentals OC - Nice & clean. 2BR Apt. \$499/mo. 5BR Apt. \$750/mo. 7th Street, downtown. 443-235-6770

WR Oceanfront 2BR Condo - Fabulous views. Cheap heating & electric bill. WiFi, cable included. \$899/mo. No smoking/pets. 410-490-0427

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Efficiencies \$185
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Year Round, Full/Part Time: Catering Assistant, Front Desk/Reservations, Busser/Room Service, AM Dishwasher

Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel
Attn: Human Resources Dept.
10100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842
Phone: 410-524-3535 Fax: 410-723-9109
EOE M/F/D/V

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Employment Opportunities:

Seasonal

Temporary/40 hours. Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel, Ocean City MD has 30 openings to work from March 10, 2015 through November 30, 2015. Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel will offer wage of \$9.41/hr no overtime is available. Must be available to work flexible hours, nights, weekends and holidays. Housing is available from March 10, 2015 through November 30, 2015. On the job training will be provided. All deductions from the worker's paycheck required by law will be made. A single workweek will be used to compute wages due. Employees will be paid biweekly. The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. The employer guarantees to offer work for hours equal to at least three fourths of the workdays in each 12 week period of the total employment period. Transportation (including meals and to the extent necessary, lodging) to the place of employment will be provided, or its cost to workers reimbursed, if the worker completes half the employment period. Return transportation will be provided if the worker completes the employment period or is dismissed early by the employer. H2B workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing, and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (excluding passport fees). Successful background investigation and favorable employment references required. Duties include maintaining hotel/restaurant premises in a clean and orderly manner. Making beds, changing linens, dusting, vacuuming guest rooms and public areas, empty trash, clean restrooms facilities, wash windows, move/arrange furniture, turn mattresses, collect soiled linens for laundering, receive and store linens and supplies in closet, deliver supplies to guest rooms upon request. Apply with a copy of this ad to:

Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel
Linda Watson, HR Dept.
10100 Coastal Hwy., Ocean City, MD 21842
Requisition Order # 363765
Job Location: Ocean City, MD
EOE M/F/S/V

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See at Juneweek.com
410-422-4780

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WR, Executive 4BR/3.5BA Home in WOC, Martha's Landing - Lg. Home w/yard. 2.5-car garage, W/D, great views. Pets negotiable. \$2100/mo. 240-643-6800

YR 3BR/3.5BA Townhouse for Rent - \$1600/mo. or Roommate Option. Off 94th Street on canal. 443-235-5147 leave message.

Y/R Rentals - Berlin Rentals starting at \$605/mo. 400 sq. ft. Office Space starting at \$400/mo. Bunting Realty, Inc. 410-641-3313, Bunting-realty.com.

YR, Ocean Pines, 3BR/2BA Home - Clean, like new, 1450 sq. ft. Screened porch, lge patio, 2 sheds, \$1350/mo. + utils. No Smoking/Pets. 410-236-1231

YEAR-ROUND / OCEAN PINES - Waterfront Condo bordering golf course. 3BR/2BA, fireplace + boat dock. \$1500/month. Call 410-603-7373.

Y/R, 3BR/3BA Townhouse avail now in OP. Gated community w/beautiful views of the new Yacht Club and harbor off front decks and views of the bay/OC off back decks. Elevator, garage and FP. Call 443-523-2838

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