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FREE

Mathias calls for less divisiveness, more cooperation

Chamber recognizes achievements in 2012

By Sheila R. Cherry
Associate Editor

BERLIN — Maryland State Sen. Jim Mathias (D) stressed the need for reduced political polarity to achieve the types of cooperation needed from state and federal resources in the upcoming year. Mathias addressed the Berlin Chamber of Commerce Dec. 12 as it installed its president and board of directors for 2013 during an awards dinner at the Atlantic Hotel.

"We have to make certain that we work with our neighbors and the state," to find common good, Mathias said. He urged the businesses to help the local community maintain a tone of leadership and respect during times when political debates become torrid in order to help efforts to bring needed money back home.

Mathias said his main aim when the Maryland General Assembly convenes on Jan. 9, 2103 for its 90-session was to win budget approval for funding to complete the final segment of construction on Route. 113.

"When my day is done, I'd like to have that roadway finished," he said. The state senator, whose legislative district (38) includes Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties, also described his efforts to get the federal government to reconsider its denial of claims for reimbursement to help property owners offset the costs of damage caused by Hurricane Sandy and credited Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D) with being instrumental in seeking "elasticity" from federal decision makers.

Also during the dinner, several local businesses and business people were recognized for their contributions to the community.

Baked Dessert Café & Gallery received the Chamber's Business Philanthropy Award, which is presented to business owners who have given

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ALL IS BRIGHT

Leading the singing of "Silent Night" at the Worcester Preparatory School Christmas Candlelight Program are some students in the Grades 4-5 Chorus: front, from left, Zander Jett, Ocean City; Hannah Perdue, Salisbury; Nick Rilling, Hebron; Carly Young, Berlin; (back) Mina Trice, Millsboro; John Arrington, Salisbury; Graham McColgan, Millsboro; and Sydney Stebenne, Bethany Beach.

PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER PREPARATORY SCHOOL

OP homeowners switch on Christmas spirit

Decorating contest has 16 entries and light show throughout community

By Sheila R. Cherry
Associate Editor

OCEAN PINES—The annual "Light Up the Pines" Christmas decorating contest attracted 16 homeowners whose properties are literally glowing with Christmas spirit.

Entrants ranged from an entranceway garland highlighted with a colorful Marti Gras mask and wreath, to several Hallmark-quality home-for-the-holidays scenes that were so welcoming you can almost smell gingerbread cookies in the air, to an inflatable Toyland display that just smacked of "big kid having a great time," to winter wonderland enthusiasts who no

doubt are boosting Choptank Electric's year-end revenues.

John and Nancy Grunewald have been putting up Christmas decorations for the past 11 years, but decided to enter the contest two years ago. Their entry yielded them a trophy for third place, according to Nancy. She said she and her husband simply like to decorate for the season and each year they add a few additional touches.

"We don't like to go overboard," she said, proudly noting that over the years they have received many compliments on the tastefulness of their displays. One whimsical mainstay to look for, said Grunewald, is the concrete alligator that is part of the permanent landscape. The sculpture — positioned as peeking up from its perch in a ditch — gets dressed up for Christmas each year, Grunewald chuckled. Sometimes the alligator gets

dressed up as an elf, she said, but "most years he's Santa." (Note to those who've been naughty).

"This year he has a gift box."

The entries for this year's contest are:

741 Ocean Parkway,
259 Ocean Parkway,
181 Sandyhook,
162 Ocean Parkway,
145 Ocean Parkway,
110 Windjammer Road,
103 Pineforest Drive,
76 Ocean Parkway,
58 Drawbridge Road,
57 White Horse Park,
56 Quarter Staff Place,
39 Duck Cove Circle,
33 Martinique Circle,
27 White Sail Circle,
8 Admiral Ave., and
3 Watertown Road.

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SHEILA R. CHERRY/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Renovations to modernize the public restrooms next to Town Hall on Williams Street are scheduled to begin shortly after the new year.

Berlin restroom project would bring them up to standard

By Sheila R. Cherry
Associate Editor

BERLIN—The public restroom renovation project, scheduled to begin shortly after the new year, will include modernizations from signs to hands-free fixtures.

On Dec. 13, Robert Palmer, project engineer for Milton, Del.-based Beacon Engineering & Consulting, said the construction would be primarily an interior restoration. It will also bring the facilities into compliance with access requirements mandated under the Americans with Disabilities Act, he said.

Berlin officials are waiting what kind of bids they receive for the job before determining the how extensive

the renovation will be, but the floor and ceiling tile work will be completely replaced, according Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen. Depending on the budget, the walls will either be left as is or covered with either wall covering or paint she said.

The deadline for construction contractors wishing to bid on the project—to restore public restrooms next to Town Hall on Williams Street—is scheduled to close Dec. 21. Roughly six local businesses have requested bid specifications so far, according to Palmer.

Once completed, the restoration will bring the aesthetics of the public restroom facilities more in line with upgrades that have already been made to the town's other buildings and business facades, according Town Administrator Anthony Carson.

Carson told the Bayside Gazette in a Dec. 12 interview that construction will likely begin mid- to late January, after the Victorian Christmas season is over. It is expected to be completed by early March, he said.

The project is expected to provide jobs for approximately six workers. Berlin received funding for the project through a grant from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. Therefore the project is subject to regulations that require workers to be paid under a pre-set range of prevailing wage rates.

The prevailing wage rates for jobs associated with the project will range from \$12.56 per hour to \$30.07 per hour, according to Palmer.

According to the bid request, the project will include "demolition and removal of an existing floor slab and partition wall, installation of new bathroom fixtures; new floor, ceiling and wall finishes; entrance doors; partition walls; plumbing; electrical; HVAC; and other incidental work."

Residents should file for storm \$\$\$

MARYLAND — State officials are asking residents of Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties who sustained any damage to their home or business to contact the Maryland Department of Human Resources Relief Hotline for Superstorm Sandy. The toll-free phone number is 888-756-7836.

This request is being made to gather information needed to appeal the denial of individual assistance as part of the presidential disaster declaration for Sandy.

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OBITUARIES

Norman E. 'Ben' Matthews

PRINCESS ANNE — Norman E. "Ben" Matthews, 97, died Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2012, at Aurora Senior Living at Manokin. Born in Georgetown, Del., on Feb. 13, 1915, he was the son of the late E. Hunter Matthews and Lillian Joines Mathews of Ocean City.



He spent his early years in North Carolina, where he helped with his father's milling business. He later moved to Berlin and spent the majority of his life there. He was a devoted husband, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Mr. Matthews was a member of the Buckingham Presbyterian Church in Berlin. He was a member of American Legion Boggs-Disharoon Post 123 in Berlin for 60 years, and also a member of the Berlin Lions club. During WWII, he served with the Coast Guard in Norfolk, Va., on sub-hunting patrols. He worked at Magee Auto Parts and Tire Center in Berlin, Grier Tire in Salisbury and after he retired, he substituted part-time at the U.S. Post Office in Berlin for rural delivery.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 68 years, Dorthy Davis Matthews, in 2006; three brothers, Raymond, Milton and Everette Matthews; and one sister, Blanche Matthews.

He is survived by his daughter, Millie Neiswinter and her husband, Bob, of Fruitland; two granddaughters, Beth Watson and her husband, Mike, of Salisbury, and Lisa Neiswinter of Levittown, Pa.; and three great-granddaughters, Meagan Tanner and Julia Tanner of Salisbury and Sarah Baziow of Levittown, Pa. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Norma Matthews of Ocean Pines, and several nieces.

A private graveside service was held Thursday, Dec. 13, at the Trinity Gardens

of Memory, adjacent to the Trinity United Methodist Church, in Newark, Md. The service was presided over by Pastor Pat Jarrett. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested contributions be made to either the Wicomico County Humane Society, 5130 Citation Drive, Salisbury, Md. 21840, or the National Parkinson Disease Foundation, 1501 N.W. Ninth Ave./Bob Hope Road, Miami, Fla. 33136.

Mary Margaret McNamara

OCEAN CITY — Mary Margaret McNamara, 77, of Ocean City, died Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2012. She was the daughter of the late William McNamara and Lillian Esther McCarthy McNamara.

Ms. McNamara is survived by a son, Douglas Stanton Goggin of Ocean City, and three grandchildren, Douglas Sean, Daniel Seth and Dillon Skyler Goggin of Ocean City. She was preceded in death by a brother, William McNamara.

The family asked that donations be made in Ms. McNamara's name to Coastal Hospice, P.O. Box 1733, Salisbury, Md. 21804. Arrangements are in the care of Burbage Funeral Home in Berlin.

Anne Lee Ogburn Blank

SNOW HILL — Anne Lee Ogburn Blank, 81, of Snow Hill, died peacefully on Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012, at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. Born in Crisfield, Md., she was the daughter of Dorothy Holland Ogburn Hall and Richard Lee Ogburn.

Ms. Blank attended Western Maryland College, Salisbury University and the Family Institute in Philadelphia. She taught kindergarten in Salisbury and later established a children's mental health program with Dr. Charles Bagley in Wicomico County in the 1970s.

She had a lifelong love of flowers, art, nature and children. She was an excellent cook. She enjoyed literature and

lively political debates. She was devoted to her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She is survived by her three children, Martha B. Mourovic of Bridgeton, N.J., Nancy O. Blank and William B. Blank Jr. and his wife, Sharon, of Snow Hill; and her grandsons, Mathew A. Mourovic, Andrew M. Blank and his wife, Ashley, William D. Blank and his companion, Kevin Taylor, and Joshua T. Blank and his wife, Lindsay. She is also survived by six great-grandchildren, Jadelynn, Skylar, Andrew, Logan and Noah Blank and Timothy Mister.

She is preceded in death by her loving partner and companion of many years, Sorena Peterson.

A memorial service will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 22, at All Hallows Episcopal Church, 109 W. Market St., in Snow Hill. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to All Hallow Episcopal Church, 109 W. Market St., Snow Hill, Md. 21863. Arrangements are in the care of Burbage Funeral Home in Snow Hill.

Janice T. Povloski

OCEAN PINES — Janice Terry Povloski, 65, died Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012, at her home after a valiant fight with breast cancer. Born in Baltimore, she was the daughter of the late George B. Hoffman and Doris Bumguard Hoff-



J. Povloski

man. She is survived by her husband, Walt E. Povloski, and children, Christopher W. Povloski and Amy L. Povloski, both of Ocean Pines. There are two grandchildren, Pierce Liam Redmond and Peyton Reese Redmond of Ocean Pines, and a sister, Judy T. Hoffman of Ocean Pines.

Mrs. Povloski had been a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend to all. She was a founding member of the Ocean City Cruisers. She moved to Ocean Pines in 1997 with her husband to live out their dream of living down on the shore. She had been vacationing in Ocean City with her family since she was 6 years old. She was a friend to all who knew her and will be missed by many. There are so many happy memories to be shared by everyone who was touched by Janice.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, Dec. 18, at Burbage Funeral Home in Berlin. The Rev. David Dingwall officiated. Interment will be private. A donation in her memory may be made to Coastal Hospice, P.O. Box 1733, Salisbury, Md. 21804; Worcester County Humane Society, P.O. Box 48, Berlin, Md. 21811; or to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure, P.O. Box 650309, Dallas, TX 75265-0309.

E-mail obituary information to editor@oceancitytoday.net, or fax to 410-723-6511, for publication. Photos may be included. There is no charge.

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NOEL Community to serve free dinner on Christmas Day

By Lisa Capitelli

Assistant Editor/Ocean City Today

OCEAN CITY — St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church hall on Third Street will be festively decorated, with music playing, to put everyone attending the NOEL Community's 15th annual Christmas Day dinner in the holiday spirit.

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., NOEL (Nothing

Other than Eating and Loving) will serve not only a hot holiday meal — turkey and ham with all the trimmings, but volunteers will also provide fellowship and companionship to guests who may not have anywhere else to go on Christmas Day.

The atmosphere in the hall is "absolutely incredible," said Katie Coffman, chairwoman of the NOEL planning com-

mittee.

"It's just a beautiful place to be. Both the guests and volunteers look forward to it," she said. "It's an upbeat and positive place, with music playing and the decorations."

Jody Farley and Valerie Gartland, with the help of the Rev. Bryan Glancey, former priest at St. Paul's, organized the inaugural Christmas dinner in 1998. The church had supplied baskets for families at Christmas-time, but Farley and Gartland wanted to offer a hot meal for the holiday to those who were homeless, unemployed, underemployed, shut-in or alone, as well as to people who simply wanted to socialize.

This year, more than 100 volunteers will prepare, serve and deliver the food on Christmas Day. Local restaurants have donated turkey breasts and hams for the dinner and businesses, organizations and residents have contributed toys and money.

Two trees will be set up in the church hall, one with stuffed animals for children and another trimmed with gloves and hats for adults. A tree will also be adorned with candy.

Children will have the opportunity to enter "Toy Land," a room filled with holiday gifts. Adults will receive toiletry kits. Santa will be at the hall to greet guests.

Coffman said the church hall was filled to capacity last year. The holiday dinner began at 11 a.m. and a line to get in formed around 9 a.m.

The NOEL Community served approx-

imately 1,300 meals last year.

About 400 visitors dined in the hall last year, and each was provided a meal to take with them. Volunteers also delivered food to members of the police and fire departments and public service workers on duty that day, as well as to shut-ins and others who could not make it to the church.

Approximately 900 meals were carried out or delivered.

Those who will be unable to get to the church this Christmas may request a delivered meal.

Non-perishable food, clothing, toiletry items and monetary donations are always accepted and can be dropped off at the church. Mail checks, made payable to NOEL Community, to P.O. Box 1207, Ocean City, Md., 21843.

Coffman said there is an ongoing need for items in the church's food and clothing pantry, which is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to noon. The pantry will be open Christmas Day.

One of NOEL Community's other projects is serving lunch to those in need. Some of the leftover food from Christmas dinner will be used to make lunches following the event.

The group was able to provide lunch at the church every Saturday in 2011. Guests who came in for lunch were also given a sandwich and snack to take with them. The NOEL Community prepared more than 6,300 meals last year. In 2012, the

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Donations sought for church pantry

Continued from Page 6

group again offered lunches on Saturdays, as well as on about a dozen other days.

January through April, guests are invited in for a sit-down hot meal. They can also take a hot meal with them as well as a sandwich and snack. An average of 200 meals are distributed in a day, Coffman said.

From May through December, lunch and sandwiches are provided. Between 80 and 100 meals are distributed each week.

Coffman said the NOEL Community is

on target to serve about 8,000 meals/sandwiches in 2012.

The 11th annual gLOVEs drive, another NOEL Community project, will take place in February. The NOEL Community organizes the gLOVEs drive with a Valentine's Day theme, asking people to open their hearts and share the gift of warmth and love by donating new gloves, hats, socks and blankets.

For more information about the Christmas dinner or the NOEL Community, call 410-289-3453.

Be wary of holiday scammers, BBB warns

MARYLAND — The Better Business Bureau is alerting consumers to reports of phony charity solicitations, supposedly on behalf of the families of victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, Conn., on Friday.

BBB recommends donors avoid giving to charities or funds through unsolicited phone calls, e-mails, texts or social media appeals.

BBT urges donors to:

■ Do your homework: Always research a charity at the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance Web site, www.give.org, before donating money. To research Maryland-based charities, search www.greatermdbbb.org and the Maryland Office of the Secretary of State.

■ Select a charity yourself: Charity cheats will use every method at their disposal to reach out to generous Americans in times of tragedy. However, rather than replying to a charity appeal, BBB recommends choosing a well-known charity or one that has been endorsed by local or state authorities.

■ Contact charities directly: Never click on links to charities on unfamiliar Web sites or in texts or e-mails. Donors may contribute to a victims' family fund through a collaborative effort between the United Way and Newtown Savings Bank. Donations may be sent to Sandy Hook School Support Fund, c/o Newtown Savings Banks, 39 Main St., Newtown, CT 06470.

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BERLIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SHEILA R. CHERRY/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Chamber of Commerce Immediate Past President Elaine Brady, above, publisher of the Bayside Gazette, will serve on the 2013 advisory board, and Mike Wiley, of the Church Mouse was installed as secretary, at the annual installation dinner at the Atlantic Hotel Dec. 12. Right, Berlin Chamber of Commerce Member Bert Raymond congratulates incoming President Steve Barrett, of Barrett Chevrolet.





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SHEILA R. CHERRY/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Aaren Collins, executive director of the Berlin Chamber, congratulates Bill Hoshal, who received the Volunteer Recognition Award.



SHEILA R. CHERRY/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Jennifer Davis with Bustle and Angela Reynolds with the Atlantic Hotel, received the Chamber's Bright Idea Award for creating the wedding shopping event, "Say 'I Do' in Berlin."

Chamber installs officers, presents awards for 2012

Continued from Page 1

selflessly of themselves to make significant contributions to the community. Café owners Robin Tomaselli and Shelly Eppard were recognized for their continuous contributions to the community, from their first donation of opening day revenue to the Berlin Little League, to their monthly donations of tip jar proceeds to various local charities in the Berlin community.

Angela Reynolds, of the Atlantic Hotel, and Kathy Walsh and Jen Davis, mother and daughter owners of Bustle, received the Reese Cropper III Bright Idea Award, for creating the wedding event, "Say I Do in Berlin." The award was named after the founder of the Berlin Chamber of Commerce and president of Insurance Management Group Inc., Reese Cropper III and goes to a person or persons who are instrumental in developing a successful new idea.

Developer Ernest Gerardi received the chamber's New Business Award, which is given to a business or person who has brought new business into town. Gerardi was recognized for bringing first Culvers Antiques to Main Street, and most re-

cently for adding the Italian and Mexican restaurants Si' Culi and Tex Mex & Beyond to the growing list of upscale eateries in town.

The chamber awards special recognition to a volunteer who has provided outstanding service throughout the year. Bill Hoshal, a Berlin native and employee of Lawson Products received this year's award. Two other volunteers, Mike Wiley, who co-manages the Church Mouse, and Carolyn Connelly, a volunteer in the chamber's office, received gift certificates in recognition of the excellence of their service to the chamber.

In her last duties as outgoing president, Elaine Brady called for votes on two changes to the chamber's by-laws. The first would reduce the requirement to establish a quorum from that of the full board to meet a quorum to those who are in attendance when there are at least five members in attendance. The second by-laws change allows e-mail to serve as part of the definition for mailed notifications. Both measures were approved.

Steve Barrett, of Barrett Chevrolet, was installed as the incoming president for 2013, along with Tom Sholtis, of Ocean 98.1 FM, as president-elect; Chris Hoen, of Ameriprise Financial, as vice president; Wiley as secretary; and Ryan Bergey, of Bergey & Company, as treasurer.

The advisory board for 2013 will consist of Brady, as past president; and Peggy Hagy, of the Berlin Coffee House; Sophia Christian, of Legal Sheild; Stacy Schaffer, of Taylor Bank; Steven Taylor, of Ayers Creek Adventures; and, Chris Carbaugh, of Atlantic Group & Associates. Jessie Turner, of the Shoe Box, and Michael Day, Berlin's economic and community development director, will serve as member emeritus and honorary member of the board respectively.

Pines decorating contest brings in 16 participants

Continued from Page 1

Photos of the entries are available at: <http://www.oceanpines.org/images/images.aspx>.

"We're so glad to see how many people got involved this year. It was a great turnout," Allison Stull told the Bayside Gazette.

"The contestants outdid themselves and the homes look spectacular. It makes the Pines an enjoyable and festive place to be during the holidays," Stull said.


This year, the contestants are competing for four prizes of goody-filled gift baskets and gift cards that can be used for Ocean Pines Association-related activities such as classes or seminars, admission fees, dinners, swim coupons, rounds of golf, or merchandise.

The prizes will four categories; Top Notch All Around, Most Creative, Most Lights, and People's Choice, according to the OPA.

The newest award, People's Choice, will this year be given to the house receiving the most votes from residents.


According to the OPA, "There will be one winner for each category, and contestants who placed will be notified and announced."

For more information about the contest or to vote on the entries, residents may contact Teresa Travetello by e-mail at: info@oceanpines.org, by calling 410-641-7717 ext. 3006, or by fax to 410-641-5581.



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Ocean Pines Association is hosting the Annual Light up the Pines Competition! The competition encourages residents to decorate their homes with lights and ornaments to bring holiday cheer to the Ocean Pines community. 16 homes have been entered in the 2012 contest, each are competing to win one of the four categories: Most Creative, Top Notch, Most Lights and People's Choice. Residents are encourages to view the homes at www.oceanpines.org and vote for the winner of People's Choice by December 20th. The winners of each category will receive a generous goody bag including a Gift Card that can be re-deemed for any of Ocean Pines recreational services. Email your vote to Info@oceanpines.org or text: 443-397-0585.



3 Watertowne



162 Ocean Parkway



33 Martinique Circle



58 Drawbridge Road



56 Quarter Staff Place



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NANCY POWELL/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Santa Claus does not need his velvet and fur suit Saturday at the Sports Core pool in Ocean Pines. Shorts and a shirt suited him for the Swim with Santa event.

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BUSINESS

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

FINANCE

Planned giving to charity offers multiple benefits

'Tis the season to give. Have you ever considered a substantial gift to a charity?

With a properly planned gift, you could rearrange your investment portfolio without paying capital gains tax on appreciated property or you could also possibly get an income tax deduction.

However, to get the tax advantages related with planned giving, your gift must be made to an eligible organization. To meet the criterion, a charitable organization must have been created in the United States, strictly be a non-profit business, and not be involved in politics.

You can contribute almost anything to a qualified organization. The deduction limits are more limited for gifts other than cash, but you are free to give almost any property that has worth.

In addition to making an out-and-out donation, there are a number of other gifting methods you can use. You can give life insurance, which may allow you to bestow a sizeable future gift at a comparatively reasonable cost. Of course this type of gifting can be complex, but it's a viable option.

Another choice you have would be creating a charitable remainder trust. This type of trust may allow you, or your beneficiaries, to receive payment of a specific amount annually, and at the end of the trust, the designated charity the gets the remaining assets.

When using a charitable remainder trust, the trustee can sell the gifted investments and reinvest the proceeds to generate income, possibly without incurring a capital gains tax liability. This means that a well-planned gift could permit you to realign your investment portfolio, create more diversification, and even possibly increase your cash flow. You may also get a current income tax deduction on the value of the remainder interest that will go to charity in the future.

An additional trust option would be a charitable lead trust. This strategy al-

Continued on Page 14



SHEILA R. CHERRY/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Main Street Sweets, at 116 N. Main St., combines candy and jewelry to put a small town vintage spin on upscale cosmopolitan indulgence.

Main Street Sweets offers its own twist

Chocolate and jewelry two shopping therapy mainstays in one store

By Sheila R. Cherry
Associate Editor

BERLIN — Holly Golightly might call it a confectionary remedy for the "mean reds." But if Audrey Hepburn were to sashay up Main Street, as her "Breakfast at Tiffany's" alter ego, in the early dawn to gaze through the windows of North Berlin's newest addition, she'd only need the coffee and black Givenchy gown.

Main Street Sweets combines two mainstays of female shopping therapy — chocolate and jewelry — in a small town hat-tip to the cosmopolitan jeweler that made the "little blue box" an icon for girly

girls. The boutique-like store is bathed in white, silver and, yes, a softer shade of that special turquoise blue.

Inside, it takes on the feel of a deli for chocoholics. The candy counters are stocked with milk, dark and white chocolates — note to truffle connoisseurs: your venue for sending yourself into a euphoric chocolate stupor has arrived. There is even a section for calorie-counting candy lovers.

A collection of baubles, bangles and beads pays homage to all things shiny and sparkly with a variety of upscale jewelry options. "Waxing Poetic," the California sterling insignia jewelry line is available and will be featured with its own section once all the boxes are unpacked at the three-month old enterprise.

There is already a special bridal section that offers shower gifts and other nuptial essentials.

Proprietor Connie Mayers, a transplanted Pennsylvanian who has lived on the Eastern Shore for 40 years, says she wanted to create a bright upscale environment with a vintage feel that is inviting for women who love to look around and shop. "Women love jewelry and they love candy," she said.

Gentlemen, you won't have to remember hair color, eye color or what your favorite lady was wearing this morning to find a suitable gift for her in this shop. Chocolate is universal and the jewelry selections are guy-friendly. Finding the right personal gift or stocking stuffer will be a breeze, especially when it comes wrapped and bowed in Tiffany-esque packages.

Pre-made holiday offerings include specialty truffles that celebrate Christmas, Hanukah, and Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Continued on Page 14




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Planned giving offer returns

Continued from Page 13

lows you to give the income generated to a charitable organization. At the end of the trust period, the remaining assets are paid to you or your beneficiaries. If planned properly, a charitable lead trust can let you can pass an appreciated asset to your beneficiaries with little or no estate taxes.

So, a charitable contribution set up in a trust may permit you to receive a current income tax deduction. But once you've given the gift, you can't try to get it back, or start selling assets and then keep the proceeds. On the other hand, you can change the charity that will in time receive your gift.

Whichever gifting strategy you choose, planned giving can be very worthwhile. Not only do you get to help a worthy cause, but you can potentially get some favorable tax benefits too.

Just remember that you should speak with your tax and/or legal advisors about your particular situation before using a gifting strategy.

Happy Holidays!

Chip Gordy, MBA, CRPC is a financial advisor with Coastal Wealth Management, LLC, 10441 Racetrack Rd, Unit 1, Berlin, MD, 21811 and specializes in Wealth and Retirement Planning. He can be reached at 410-208-4545 or chip@coastalwealthmgmt.com. Registered Representative, Securities offered through Cambridge Investment Research, Inc., a Broker/Dealer, Member FINRA/SIPC. Advisory services offered through Cambridge Investment Research Advisors, Inc., a Registered Investment Advisor. Coastal Wealth Management LLC & Cambridge are not affiliated.

Local business shop's focus

Continued from Page 13

Other seasonal themes highlight Labradors, valentines, ladybugs, and bunnies. Mayers said that she can box chocolates to match selected themes, including single-sized truffle boxes for wedding favors and bridal showers.

Mayers said she was drawn to Berlin for its historic feel and wanted to add

something the town didn't already have — a candy shop. Since she opened she has already shipped one order to the Carolinas, but her focus will be on getting established locally.

Main Street Sweets is located at 116 N. Main Street, adjacent to the Shoe Box and Downtown Video. The phone number is 410-629-1930

BUSINESS BRIEFS

ResortQuest names top Nov. producers

ResortQuest Real Estate recently announced the November top producers for its southeast Sussex County, Del. locations.

Robert Kauffman of the Bethany Beach office received top honors for both listing volume for the month. Other top listing volume awards for individual agents by office were Kauffman of the Bethany Beach office; Jennifer Smith of the Sea Colony/Edgewater office; Colleen Windrow of the Marketplace at Sea Colony office; and Karla Morgan of the West Fenwick Office.

Reese Cropper III testifies in Annapolis

Reese Cropper III of Insurance Management Group, Inc. in Ocean City testified before the Economic Matters Committee on Dec. 13. The task force, chaired by Sen. Thomas M. Middleton and Delegate David D. Rudolph, was convened to study the availability and affordability of personal and commercial property and casualty insurance in coastal areas in Maryland.

Cropper is owner of Insurance Management Group, Inc., an agency that primarily insures coastal condominiums and homes in Maryland, Delaware and Virginia.

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ST. MARTIN'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PHOTO COURTESY TED PAGE

The St. Martin's Board of Directors held its year-end meeting Dec. 13 at the Guerrieri Family Library on the grounds of Worcester Preparatory School in Berlin. The board reviewed the site plan drafted by architect David Quillin that includes a comfort station, an interpretative space area and an intimate amphitheater. Plans will be unveiled during an open house in the spring. For more information, visit www.historicstmartinschurch.org. Pictured first row, from left, are Susan Mariner, secretary, Sherrie Beckstead, president, Teresa Brunner, vice president, and Cindi Wilde. Back row, Chris Cannon, assistant treasurer, Sean Rayne, Dr. Geoff Robbins, Natalie DeHart, Edward Phillips, J.D. Quillin, Bob Purcell, and Ruth Kemp. Missing from photo are Alberta Harrison, Will Esham and Lavern Powell.

Commission for Women seeks nominations for two awards

WORCESTER COUNTY — The Worcester County Commission for Women will recognize two local women whose lives exemplify exceptional vision and leadership at the Women's History Month Luncheon on March 27, 2013. Nominations are being sought for two prestigious awards: Woman of the Year and the Woman in History.

The first award recognizes a woman who is or has been engaged in activities that enhance the lives of residents. Last year's winner was Andrea C. Barnes for her commitment to education and significant impact on the cultural development of Worcester County. The "Woman in History" award recognizes a woman of

the past who helped build the community. The 2012 Woman in History was Eunice Q. Sorin for her extraordinary life, worthy of celebration and remembrance.

The annual March luncheon, which draws more than 200 women and community members, coincides with Women's History Month. This year's theme is "Women Inspiring Innovation through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics." Ticket sales will begin in January.

Nomination forms may be obtained by calling 410-208-2569; nominations should be submitted no later than Dec. 31.

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Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department officers take the oath of office at this year's installation banquet.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

OPVFD installs officers for 2013 at annual dinner

The Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department held its annual installation dinner on Saturday, Dec. 8. Officers were sworn in by Worcester County Fire Marshall Jeff McMahon.

The 2013 officers are: line officers, Chief Tim Canham, Deputy Chief Bill Bounds, 1st Assistant Chief Steve Grunewald, 2nd Assistant Chief Rich Angelo, Captains Ed McNeill, Kevin Rosser, Harvey Booth, Fire Police Cap-



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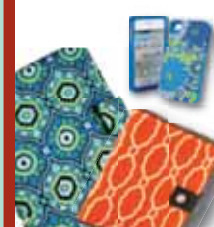


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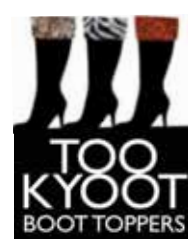
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Administrative officers are President Steve Rosen, Vice-President Robert Gilbert, board members Neil Gottesman, Tim Canham, Steve Grunewald, Jack Panuska and Ron Thorwart.

The dinner was opened by Rosen, who welcomed all and introduced OPVFD member Father Glenn Duffy, who gave the invocation. Canham followed with a brief report

about the services provided year to date. Fire calls made, 186, and EMS/ambulance calls, 1,227, for a total of 1,413 calls so far this year.

Rosen reported that the OPVFD provided ready ambulance service for 40 nights at Ocean Downs Race Track, completed Swift Water Rescue training, completed First Combat Ready training program, had sold-out 2012 house raffle fundraiser, put a new special operations truck into service, held the Annual Steve Calloway Memorial 5k Run and Walk, started a new cadet program and replaced all

the old beepers.

Also a part of the evening was the presentation of service awards. Fire Awards: top responders, #1 Robert Gilbert, #2 Michael Allen, #3 Neil Gottesman. EMS Awards: Top Responders, #1 Barbara Ross, #2 Michelle Rhodes, #3 Dale Shord. Fire Police Awards, Top Responders: #1 Steve Rosen, #2 Ralph Decker, #3 (Tie) John Heiger and John Henglein. Cadet Awards: Top Responders, #1 Jonathan Bush, #2 Jarred Johnson, #3 Jimmy Englishman.

There were awards for years of serv-

ice recognizing five years, 10 years and 20 years and Life Members. A Combat Challenge Award and Emergency Operations Citations were given to many members. Paramedic of the Year was Jamie Englishmen and the Chief Passwater Participation Award went to Dale Shord.

Local dignitaries attending were Worcester County Commissioners Judy Boggs and Madison Bunting, Ocean Pines President of the Board Tom Terry, OP Police Chief Dave Massey and Worcester County Clerk of the Court Steve Hales.

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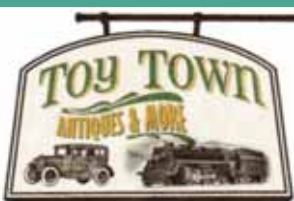


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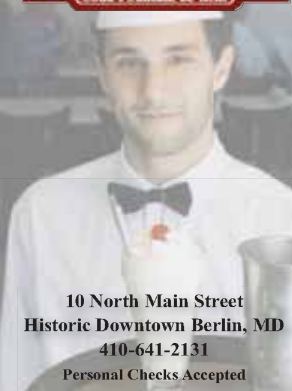
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Housekeeping "Seasonal"

Temporary/40 hours. Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel, Ocean City MD has 26 openings to work from March 10, 2013 through November 30, 2013. Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel will offer wage of \$8.09/hr no overtime is available. Must be available to work flexible hours, nights, weekends and holidays. Housing is available from March 10, 2013 through November 31, 2013. On the job training will be provided. All deductions from the worker's paycheck required by law will be made. A single work-week 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
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Requisition Order # 266415
Job Location: Ocean City, MD

Or at your local SWA.

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Condo Resident Management Team Vacancy
The condo association of a highly regarded, mid-rise, Ocean City building is seeking an experienced, full-time Resident Management Team to replace a husband/wife team that will be retiring in the spring of 2013. Applicants must have computer skills, maintenance experience, outgoing personalities, and the ability to interact with owners, tenants, contractors and government officials. References required, as well as an excellent credit history and resident management experience or equivalent. Veteran's preference is a positive in the applicant evaluation process. Salary and benefits to be negotiated. Financial and police checks may be performed. Resumes will be accepted until December 31, 2012; interviews will be scheduled beginning in December, and the anticipated start date for the new team is about March 1st, 2013. Please send application including desired salary to: ccacondo@verizon.net or mail to: CCA, P.O. Box 4561, Ocean City, MD 21843.

Security Guard
Hi-rise condo - security needed for year round, part time positions 4pm-12 midnight and 12 midnight - 8am shifts. Background check and Transportation is required. All interested persons please fax your resume to 410-524-5449.

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Due to Christmas holiday, Classifieds deadline for Dec. 28 edition is Friday, Dec. 21, 5 p.m.

Off season/year round rental Room-in WOC, single family home, A/C, cable, W/D, newly remodeled. \$100/week. 443-373-1319 or 240-281-5288

Sunset West-2BR/2BA Unit for Rent-Living space all on one floor. \$1000/mo. Call 410-726-8528

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Year round, furn., 3/BR townhouse 123rd St., \$1200/mo. Washer/dryer central a/c, outdoor pool. Utilities and Security Deposit extra. No/Pets. **Resort Rentals, 410-524-0295.**

YR, Bayside 2BR/1BA-W/D, great view. No Smoking/Pets \$1000/mo. + Sec. Dep + Util. Also, **2/seasonal boat slips for rent** April thru Oct. \$2800 + \$3500. 443-235-1843

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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 to make sure your ideas and events are printed.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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INTERN

EDITORIAL

Distracting divisiveness not good on any level

Now that the new Ocean Pines board is settled in, those who were elected are facing the challenge of how to work together and keep both their focus, as well as the focus of the community, on solving the issues at hand rather than being distracted by a war of personalities and convictions.

Voters knew when they elected Marty Clarke that they were getting someone who keeps a keen eye on how their dollars are spent. Not a bad thing for anyone elected to office of any kind.

However, voters also certainly knew that in Clarke they were getting a wild card. Unfortunately Clarke's outspoken manner, while at times refreshing and sometimes amusing, does not always work to their benefit.

For every leader, the easy road to take is one of finger-pointing, becoming a critic of every move someone else makes. The more challenging course is to find a way to work with others to create dialog, implement ideas and effect change.

Clarke's propensity to grandstand when things don't go his way, rather than bring a willingness to the table and work in a thoughtful manner with his fellow directors to help come to consensus, has put a majority of the board in the uncomfortable position of figuring out how to make him play nicely in the OPA sandbox when he would rather throw sand in their faces.

Not unlike the federal morass the country is facing, voters in Ocean Pines should be able to expect their leaders to put personal agendas aside and work to the betterment of those they serve.

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"Oh no, these aren't gifts. If I'm going to go off a Fiscal Cliff, I'm going to look good doing it."

Report questions if state monitors tax breaks

By Alexander Pyles

The Daily Record Newswire

MARYLAND — A report by the Pew Center on the States says when it comes to responsibly managing tax incentives, Maryland is helping to bring up the rear.

The report, released by Pew last week, says the state is among 25 others that are "trailing behind" in terms of monitoring the cost of tax breaks it uses to attract and retain businesses.

Only 13 states, the study said, are "leading the way." Researchers found "mixed results" in other states. Maryland is one of 16 states that has not published a report evaluating tax incentives between 2007 and 2011, Pew's study found.

The report's authors say states designing tax credits should include reliable fiscal estimates and an annual spending cap.

"States should consistently use these two tools together to ensure that tax credits, exemptions and deductions for economic development are affordable and manageable from day one," said Jeff Chapman, research manager at the Pew Center on the States. "When policymakers create tax incentives without knowing the expected costs and guarding against economic changes beyond their control, they leave their states vulnerable to budget pressures that are entirely avoidable."

The Daily Record found last year that of the more than 300 loopholes in the tax code, very few are actually monitored for effectiveness by the state. Some are controlled, however, such as a credit that defrays costs for film and television production in the state. That credit caps annual spending at \$7.5 million.

Other Maryland tax loopholes, however, are less well-managed, Pew found.

Researchers highlighted Maryland's enterprise zones, a commonly used economic development tool meant to revitalize stressed areas. There are

28 enterprise zones in the state (including such zones in Berlin, Snow Hill and Pocomoke). Pew found the state has not published a rigorous evaluation of the program.

A spokeswoman for the state Department of Business and Economic Development did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Some tax credits are being reviewed by state lawmakers. Legislation sponsored by Sen. Richard S. Madaleno and Del. Bill Frick, both Montgomery County Democrats, was approved by the legislature and signed by Gov. Martin O'Malley this summer. The law calls for eight tax credits to be reviewed between July 2014 and July 2017.

The original bill called for 31 tax credits to be reviewed, but Madaleno said at the time that the Department of Legislative Services did not believe it could handle such a hefty workload.

But Chapman said even periodic review of tax breaks was not enough. He cited a 1994 tax exemption passed in Louisiana for natural gas drillers that cost the state just \$285,000 in fiscal year 2007. But the discovery of a large natural gas deposit in the state — combined with the expansion of horizontal drilling technology that has coincided with hydraulic fracturing in the northeast — had pushed the price tag to \$239 million in fiscal 2010.

Arizona's Quality Jobs Tax Credit of 2011, California's Film and Television tax credit of 2009 and Florida's Manufacturing and Spaceport Investment Incentive of 2010, were all pointed to as examples of how to responsibly cap incentives' cost.

"Regular evaluations of existing incentives are essential, but not sufficient to prevent the unexpected costs these policies can cause," Chapman said. "Clear estimates and annual spending limits from the outset are the best approach to avoid unnecessary fiscal risk without sacrificing the economic returns of effective tax incentives."

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BAYSIDE LIFE

Ocean Pines lists classes for 2013

JUST SAY "NO" TO RESOLUTIONS

Join Kelley Rakow of CrossFit OC to discover a better way to transform in 2013. Uncover your motivational word of the year in this dynamic and fun session. This program will show you how to awaken your heart and soul so you can create lasting change. The cost of this 1-day program is \$20 and will be held Saturday, January 12 from 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM.

For more information, you may contact Bethany Beck at the Ocean Pines Recreation & Parks Department at 410-641-7052 ext. 3016

IMPROVING BALANCE TO DECREASE FALLS

Learn ways to decrease risks of falling and how to improve body mechanics for the winter season. Dr. Christine Kappes will be giving FREE screening and evaluations of back and body posture at the Ocean Pines Community Center. Screenings will be given every Wednesday from 2:30-4:00 PM starting January 9 through February 13.

For more information, you may contact Bethany Beck at the Ocean Pines Recreation & Parks Department at 410-641-7052 ext. 3016

COUPONING TIPS AND TRICKS

Become a smarter shopper in 2013! Learn simple strategies for saving time and money. This FREE seminar is perfect for moms, people on a budget and anyone who wants to keep money in their pocket. Join Lora Luzier on Wednesday, February 13 from 10:00-11:15 AM at the Ocean Pines Community Center.

For more information, you may contact Bethany Beck at the Ocean Pines Recreation & Parks Department at 410-641-7052 ext. 3016

Bus trip set to see Disney's 'Beauty'

OCEAN PINES — Ocean Pines will be hosting a trip to Newport News, Va., on Saturday, Jan. 19, to see Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" at Christopher Newport University's Ferguson Center for the Arts.

The bus will depart the Ocean Pines Community Center at 8 a.m. to arrive at the University for the 2 p.m. show. Immediately following the show, the bus will return to Ocean Pines, stopping for dinner at Stingray's Restaurant. The bus is scheduled to arrive home at approximately 9:30 p.m.

The cost of the trip is \$90, which includes transportation and admittance to the show. For more information, contact the Ocean Pines Recreation & Parks Department at 410-641-7052.



SHEILA R. CHERRY/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

A waterproof "Little Free Library" box is perched at child-level in front of the Arts Council building at 6 Jefferson Street in Berlin. The next library will be installed on 3rd Street in Ocean City Jan. 27.

Little Free Library gets big reception

Yes, it's a library but it's also an art installation on Jefferson Street

By Sheila R. Cherry
Associate Editor

BERLIN — Paige Wisniewski could barely wait for the official ribbon cutting ceremony on Dec. 14 to end to take her pick from the collection of children's books in the crisp, white house-shaped box with its red roof, green doorway, and metal gate and trellis.

She had her sights set on two books, but her mom made her downsize to one at a time. So she chose the touch and feel book "Zoo's Who?" with its pages bulging with fuzzy pictures of animals throughout.

Paige's dad, metal sculptor Larry Wisniewski painted the box and designed the gate and trellis. It was fashioned from recycled chair metal, from where else? The ultimate reading chair, a recliner.

With the December sun setting in the background and the house-shaped waterproof box illuminated with a spotlight, Anna Mullis, executive director of the Worcester County Arts Council cut the ribbon initiating the county's first Little Free Library, along with a small friend. The "library" is located in front of the Arts Council building at 6 Jefferson Street, just off Main Street.

The opening of the Little Library was timed to coincide with Berlin's Second Friday Art Stroll, since the brightly painted structure is considered an art installation that serves to beautify the community while its function is to promote literacy in Worcester County, according to Mullis. To make the library kid-friendly, it is positioned at the eye level of a child, she said.

The most popular books, she said, tend to be children's books, best sellers and "beach reads." Donations are welcomed and organizations can even make themed book donations, she said. Mullis said she was very proud that the Arts Council was able to roll out the Little Free Library concept, which was achieved through a grant the Arts Council awarded to the Red Doors Community Center.

According to its Web site, the Red Doors Community Center is an outreach program of St. Paul's By-The-Sea Episcopal Church, which is designed for people of all faiths or no faith. Fawn Mete, director of the Red

Doors Community Center, told the Bayside Gazette that she was inspired to bring Little Free Libraries into the area by a story she heard during a National Public Radio program. She said that she thought it would be a "good fit," especially for Berlin, and saw the Arts Council as a "natural partner" for the endeavor.

The next Red Doors Little Library will be installed and dedicated on Third Street in Ocean City on Sunday, Jan. 27, at noon.

Mete said the dedication will be followed on the same day by a Little Libraries Builder's Day event. She said all ages of children attending Showell, Buckingham and Ocean City Elementary Schools have been invited to participate in the Builder's Day event, to help construct and paint Little Libraries that would be installed in other locations throughout the county in 2013.

More information about Little Free Libraries is available at www.littlefreelibrary.org. For more information, contact Fawn Mete, director of The Red Doors Community Center, at 410-289-5576 or Anna Mullis, executive director of the Worcester County Arts Council at 410-641-0809.



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SNAPSHOTS



BES RECOGNIZES TOP STUDENTS

Buckingham Elementary recently honored its November Students of the Month. Pictured are top third-graders, from left, Mildred Sanchez-Cruz, Zach Goodwin, Francesca Richwalski and Erika Kolacz.



SINGING THE TIME AWAY

Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School songbirds Caroline Engle, Carrissa Gabbard, Jessa Hoover and Keely Allison sing carols at Sunset Park in Ocean City last weekend while awaiting the arrival of Santa.



DIFFERENT STROKES

Emily Smith, Samantha Boger and Evan Thompson, kindergarten students at Showell Elementary School, enjoy a Van Gogh-type painting created by their art teacher as he taught colors, strokes and swirls as art concepts.



JUST TRUST

Buckingham Elementary students Ambria Cooper and Sunny Trivits participate in a trust exercise during after-school Drama Academy. Students in the drama program are preparing for a performance later this spring featuring an anti-bullying theme.



BALANCING ACT

Kindergarten students at Showell Elementary School, Madison McGinnis, Nick McDonald, Mark Kiefer and Sophia Clark, engaged their minds as well as their bodies on the balancing boards during physical education class. This skill enhances life-long wellness by developing characteristics such as problem solving, goal setting, courage, positive risk taking, perseverance, willpower, patience, confidence, and self-esteem.



TAPE-ESTRY

Duct Tape Again! is an After-School Academy class offered at Stephen Decatur Middle School that allows students to use their artistic talents to create works of art from Duct tape. Displaying the Christmas trees the students have been working on are Karla Maldonado, Candace Allen and their teacher, Louis Davis.

CALENDAR

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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

ONGOING EVENTS

BINGO NIGHT

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

SQUARE DANCING

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

SHEPHERD'S NOOK THRIFT SHOP

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

DIAKONIA FURNITURE CENTER

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

PINE'EER CRAFT & GIFT SHOP

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

BUILDING MATERIALS SALE

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

STORY TIME FOR CHILDREN AGES 3-5

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

KIWANIS CLUB

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

DELMARVA CHORUS

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

SALTWATER SPORTFISHERS

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

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN

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

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

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

SANCTIONED BRIDGE

Mondays: noon
Tuesdays: 10 a.m.
Weekly open duplicate Bridge games. Ocean Pines Community Center. Cost is \$5, special games \$6. 1 p.m. on the third Sunday of every month is Swiss Teams. Partners guaranteed. Info: Felicia Daly, 410-208-1272, Pat Kanz, 410-641-8071.

FRIDAY NIGHT BINGO

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

BEACH SINGLES

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

BERLIN FARMERS' MARKET

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

TACO NIGHT

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

BREAKFAST

Knights of Columbus #9053, every second and fourth Sunday, 9 a.m. to noon.
\$8 per person, half price for 12 and younger. 9901 Coastal Highway,



HEALTHY CAFÉ CAMPAIGN

The executive committee of the Atlantic General Hospital's Auxiliary presents a check for \$150,000 to Michael Franklin, AGH president and CEO. This donation will go toward the Berlin hospital's Healthy Café Campaign. Pictured, from left, are Jane Bartolomeo, Andrea Watkins, Franklin, Jane Wolnik, Betty Franke and Sue Harting.

SUBMITTED PHOTO / BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ocean City, rear St. Luke's Church. Info: 410-524-7994.

SI BOC GROUP

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

LIFE AFTER LOSS

Non-denominational support group will meet 11 a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at The Community Church at Ocean Pines, room 38 in the Thomas McKelvey Family Life Center. Info: 410-641-5433.

AARP

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

SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE

Meets the third Wednesday of every month 6 p.m. at the Worcester County Health Department, 9730 Healthway Drive, Berlin (adjacent to Atlantic General Hospital). Open

to anyone who has lost a friend or loved one to suicide. Hosted by a survivor and a licensed social worker. Free of charge. Info: 410-629-0164 or www.jesses-paddle.org

WEEKLY SALE

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

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Hospital, chapel, 9733 Healthway Drive in Berlin, 7-8 p.m. The group gathers the fourth Wednesday of each month. Pre-registration is not necessary. Info: Pastoral Care Services, 410-641-9725 or gmanzell@atlanticgeneral.org.

DELMARVA HAND DANCING CLUB

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

Info: 302-337-3638.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

Mondays
Berlin group No. 169, Atlantic General Hospital, conference room 2, 9733 Healthway Drive in Berlin, 5-6:30 p.m. TOPS is a support and educational group promoting weight loss and healthy lifestyle. It meets weekly. Info: Edna Berkey, 410-251-2083.

ELKS BINGO

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

FIRESIDE CHAT

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

THURSDAY, DEC. 20

STORY TIME

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

COMMUNITY GIVE BACK PROGRAM

Dine at Ruby Tuesday at The Centre at Salisbury, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., present event flyer and 20 percent of the check will go to Humane Society of Wicomico County. Flyers: www.wicomico-humane.org

FRIDAY, DEC. 21

LAP TIME

Berlin library, 220 N. Main St., 10:30 a.m. For infants and young toddlers. Children will be introduced to songs, games, finger plays and movement activities. Parents and caregivers will learn new ways to communicate with their toddlers. Registration is required by calling 410-641-0650.

'MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET' MOVIE

Mar-Va Theater Performing Arts Center, 103 Market St., Pocomoke City, 7 p.m. Feature
Continued on Page 28

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 27
ing "Miracle on 34th Street," rated PG. Tickets cost \$5. Tickets: www.marvatheater.com. Info: Box office, 410-957-4230.

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.

SATURDAY, DEC. 22

'MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET' MOVIE

Mar-Va Theater Performing Arts Center, 103 Market St., Pocomoke City, 7 p.m. Featuring "Miracle on 34th Street," rated PG. Tickets cost \$5. Tick-

ets: www.marvatheater.com. Info: Box office, 410-957-4230.

'A LITTLE BREAKFAST WITH SANTA'

Lobby of the Comfort Suites, 12718 Ocean Gateway, West Ocean City, 8-11 a.m. Santa will be available to hear Christmas wishes. Info: 410-213-7171.

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.

SANTA CLAUS VISITS BERLIN

Visitors Center, South Main

Street, Berlin, noon to 2 p.m. Take cameras and visit Santa. A Berlin Victorian Christmas event.

SCENIC HORSE & CARRIAGE RIDES

Visitors Center, South Main Street, Berlin, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Enjoy an old-fashioned carriage ride through historic Berlin. No charge. Weather permitting. A Berlin Victorian Christmas event.

DONATIONS SOUGHT FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER

Noel Community is preparing for its 15th annual dinner on Christmas Day. Volunteers serve a free turkey and ham dinner with all the trimmings from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Paul's by-the-

Sea, 302 N. Baltimore Ave., Ocean City. The dinner is an important part of the Christmas celebration for many including the homeless, unemployed, underemployed, shut-in and those who are alone. Noel provides gifts and toys to many who attend. Meals are delivered to those who cannot leave their homes and police, fire departments, and others who serve our community on Christmas Day. For monetary donations, make checks payable to the Noel Community and mail to P.O. Box 1207, Ocean City, Md. 21843. Donations of non-perishable food and toiletries from individuals or organizations will be collected Dec. 22 and 24, from 10 a.m. to noon at St. Paul's by-the-Sea. Info: 410-289-3453.

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.

SUNDAY, DEC. 23

PRaise AND WORSHIP

Atlantic United Methodist Church, 105 Fourth St., in Ocean City. Praise and worship at 8:30 a.m. Worship at 10 a.m. Info: 410-289-7430.

MONDAY, DEC. 24

PRaise AND WORSHIP

Atlantic United Methodist Church, 105 Fourth St., in Ocean City. Silent Communion, 4 p.m. Family candlelight Service, including carols, special music, children's choir and communion, 7 p.m. Candlelight Service with carols, Chancel Choir, communion, 11 p.m. Info: 410-289-7430.

DELMARVA SWEET ADELINe CHORUS MEETS WEEKLY

The Delmarva Sweet Adeline Chorus, under the direction of Carol Ludwig, meets each Monday from 7-9 p.m., at the Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, White Horse Park. Women interested in learning and singing in a barbershop format are welcome. Info: 410-208-4171.

HAND DANCING

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

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Info: 410-289-3453.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 10301 Coastal Highway, Ocean City. Family Worship Celebration begins at 7 p.m. Adults and children of all ages. Music, carols and holy communion. Traditional Candlelight Service at 10:30 p.m. Music, carols and holy communion. Refreshments and fellowship between services. Info: 410-524-7474.

TUESDAY, DEC. 25

15TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

St. Paul's by-the-Sea, 302 North Baltimore Ave., Ocean City, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers will serve a free turkey and ham dinner with all the trimmings. All are welcome. Noel Community provides gifts and toys to many who attend. Meals are delivered to those who cannot leave their homes and police, fire departments, and others who serve our community on Christmas Day. Info: 410-289-3453.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 26

STORY TIME

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. For children ages 3-5 years. Stories, rhymes, finger plays, music and crafts. Info: 410-524-1818.

YOUNG AND RESTLESS

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. For children ages 3-5 years. Creative science, art and music activities. Dress for a mess. Pre-registration required by calling 410-208-4014.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Hospital, Chapel, 9733 Healthway Drive in Berlin, 7-8 p.m. The group gathers the fourth Wednesday of each month. Pre-registration is not necessary. Info: Pastoral Care Services, 410-641-9725 or gmanzell@atlanticgeneral.org.

DELMARVA HAND DANCING CLUB

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



SANTA VISITS

Santa stopped by the "Grandy's Christmas Stories" book signing at Brandywine Senior Living at Fenwick Island and visited with children's author, Peggy Bennett.

SUBMITTED PHOTO / BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Dec 22 Josh Pryor
Dec 28 Danny Shivers
Dec 29 Ginger Duo
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Shock Top "End of the World"

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Saturday - Cajun Pasta \$10.99
Louis Wright 6-10pm
Sunday - \$5 Pork BBQ Sandwich - All Day
Monday - 12oz Prime Rib \$10.99
Tuesday - \$5 Burgers All Day
Wednesday - Catfish \$10.99
Thursday - "Date Night"
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Corner RT 611 & Sunset Ave., West Ocean City 410-213-9204

■ 19th Hole

9636 Stephen Decatur Hwy.
410-213-9204

FRIDAY - Johnny Mojo
SATURDAY - Louis Wright
SUNDAY - Louis Wright

■ BJ's on the Water

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

FRIDAY - Tranzfusion
SATURDAY - Lenny G & TheSoulsenders

■ Burley Oak Brewery

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

FRIDAY - Lower Case Blues
SATURDAY - 2 Much Stuff

■ Clarion Resort

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

FRIDAY - On The Edge
SATURDAY - On The Edge

■ DeNovo's

South Gate - Ocean Pines
410-208-2782

THURSDAY - Al Prescott
SATURDAY - Al Prescott

■ Fager's Island

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

FRIDAY - DJ RobCee
SATURDAY - DJ Groove

■ The Globe

12 Broad St. Berlin
410-213-1846

FRIDAY - Bill Kirchen's Christmas Show
SATURDAY - Opposite Directions

■ Harborside

12841 S. Harbor Rd.,
West Ocean City
410-213-1846

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

■ Harpoon Hannas

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

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

■ OP Yacht Club

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

FRIDAY - Tommy Edward
SATURDAY - Josh Pryor

■ Seacrets

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

FRIDAY - High Five
SATURDAY - Lifespeed

PUZZLES

HEARING DOUBLE By Matt Ginsberg / Edited by Will Shortz

- Across

1 Food that jiggles

6 “Along ___ spider ...”

11 Gone, but not forgotten

15 Horizontal: Abbr.

18 Ticked by

20 First U.S. screen portrayal of Dr. Fu Manchu

21 Dangerous outpouring

22 Overly

23 Souvenir from the Petrified Forest?

25 Priests, at times

27 Two-fifths of ‘N Sync?

28 Actor Edward James ___

29 What randy bucks do?

31 Agreement from the Gipper’s coach?

34 Luth. or Presb.

35 Force

36 Crowning touch?

37 What mayo is part of

38 Tolkien trilogy, to fans

39 Measure of purity

40 Knobby

42 Plucky housekeeper?

For any three answers, call from a touch-tone phone: 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 each minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.
- 45 Drama set at the Sterling Cooper Draper Pryce ad agency

47 Nautical direction

48 Pasta suffix

49 Inquirers

50 Words before coming or made

52 Inclined

55 Some salmon

56 “Well done, Sir Lancelot,” in Franglais?

59 Python in “The Jungle Book”

60 Handel bars?

61 Wings: Lat.

62 Lightning ___

64 Soothsayer’s shoelace problem?

70 Link up with

72 Pleasure boats

73 Affair of the heart

74 Chucklehead

75 ___ Jima

76 Stage assistant

77 Outpourings

78 Shorten a bar mitzvah by 50%?

83 Decorative pin

85 Qatari bigwig: Var.

86 Ones with a lot of pull?

87 London can

88 Alpine wind

91 Literally, “itself”

92 Memo opener

93 Polar explorer, after getting religion?
- 95 Tagline for the biopic “Dudley” starring bandleader Brown?

98 Out at the dentist’s?

99 Freddy Krueger’s street

100 Ten Commandments no-no

101 Where Macy’s keeps the wedding dresses?

105 Wimple wearer

106 Home to the 90-Down, once

107 Nasty look

108 “___ it!”

109 Popular smartphone app

110 Dog command

111 Guitarist Duane and others

112 Makes, as one’s way

Down

1 What one may break during exercise

2 André and Mia’s adoptive daughter

3 Book about the writing style of the Mongols?

4 Iraq war hazard, briefly

5 Small, low island

6 Be at one (with)

7 Former San Francisco mayor

8 Stately home
- 9 K.C.-to-Chicago direction

10 Postscript: Abbr.

11 Former attorney general Gonzales

12 Kind of salad

13 Steve ___, 1980 Olympic track champion

14 Stinging rebuke

15 Was humbled

16 Like the ring in an eclipse

17 Leopard spot

19 Scammed

24 Bones next to humeri

26 Tranquilizing

30 Horatian piece

32 Balcony cry

33 Soundboard controls

38 Deliberately delude

39 Alaska’s ___ Peninsula

41 Walk-___ (non-recruited athletes)

42 It may be rigged

43 Sacha Baron Cohen persona

44 Who wrote “A bear, however hard he tries, / Grows tubby without exercise”

45 Big truck maker

46 Have ___ (bathe)

50 Willing recipients?

51 Urgently

52 Psychology pioneer

Alfred

53 Trick-taking card game

54 Abdicated?

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

- 56 Photoshop command

57 Locale of a 12/7/1941 attack

58 Funny Fields

60 Just begun

63 Freckles, e.g.

65 Salad bar supply

66 Castle component

67 ___ to go

68 Drop

69 One of five Nicholases
- 70 Start of a basketball game

71 Words from Sgt. Friday

74 U.K. mil. decoration

76 Feminist Germaine

78 Raining hard?

79 Totally jazzed

80 Some scriptural passages

81 74-Down recipient, e.g.
- 82 Fergie, for one

83 Bygone bookstore chain

84 Bull session?

87 Inspector in Elizabeth George mysteries

89 Obeyed a sentry, say

90 See 106-Across

92 “___ Only One” (Melissa Etheridge hit)
- 93 Cleared the dishes

94“ Antigonaë” composer Carl

96 Miss America identifier

97 Allay

102 Neither Dem. nor Rep.

103 Knock over

104 Charlemagne’s realm: Abbr.



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MEDIUM - 99

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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

CUISINE

BAYSIDE

Food to match merry event: caramel popcorn

When it comes to gambling, I have all the providence of Porthos, tending to go above and beyond my means. I have learned to be wary of feelings of the infamous “lucky streak” and to back off should I be stupid enough to find myself in a gambling position.



By Paul Suplee,
CEC PCIII

This is not a lesson that I learned the easy way, if in fact there is an easy way to learn it.

When I was a young marine in California, I made three treks to Las Vegas, a city as enthralling as it is bright, especially for someone like me with ADHD. Needless to say, I was caught up in the moment and fully convinced that I would be in the penthouse as one of the high-rolling whales.

After my third trip, and there is no need to go into further details, I decided to never gamble anything I could not afford again, and it has been more than 20 years that this self-prescribed advice has held. Back then I had “three hots and a cot” so it was not akin to losing the farm. I had gas money to make it back and didn’t go out for a month or so afterwards, no problem.

If I go to a casino as the old curmudgeon I am becoming, it is typically with spare quarters, which I turn into the cashier for dollar bills that I plan to donate to the state in the pursuing minutes, and that is characteristically the case.

At that point, I know that it is time to go.

In moments of deep introspection, I could say the same about my earlier attempts with food. In an endeavor to make one dish top another, I would throw in the lot, thinking that more is better.

As I have aged physically, personally and professionally, I have found that less is better.

Last night, our dinner table was adorned with baked chicken, new potatoes in garlic butter, country green beans, pan-fried baked potato coins and fresh gravy. Paired with homemade sourdough bread from the Kitchen-aid, it was old-fashioned and simple cooking.

Having given up the idea of intermingling exotic foods in the home (many of which I can admit made no sense, although seeming to at the time), I have come to an age where simpler foods placate the soul and make for a friendlier conversation at the dining room table.

To finish such a jubilant yet simple meal, nothing would be as well matched as were the cookies, fudge and the over-



flowing bowl of caramel popcorn that our daughters made.

This is Christmas for us after all. We tend to celebrate for the preceding weeks and have been known to take it for a week or two past.

On this particular night, the family was hungry. My wife had worked herself silly with the children making pottery for their teachers, a gift that I learned today was well received by their primary instructors as I went in to pick up my daughter.

Another daughter made the coolest candy cup for her science teacher who loves snakes. Now his candy jar will be forever devouring a mouse.

After working our way through myriad mugs, cat and dog candy jars, a Thor hammer and knight’s torch, everyone was hungry. Snacking on the cookies, fudge and popcorn afterwards while we tidied up the mess put everyone in the holiday mood.

In a way, that is what food is supposed to do — match the event and make everyone feel welcome, satiated and pleased.

As you get ready for the holidays, don’t forget to have the baked goodies at the

ready. It’s all a part of it. Interestingly, as I wrote this, my daughter walked by and announced that she’s making fudge for her class for Friday.

On this occasion I will tell you that the recipe below is the best that I have found for caramel popcorn, since it is so simple and delicious, not to mention fool-proof. Cooking it in a 250-degree oven just about guarantees that you won’t burn the sugar (unless you have that rare gift), and the resulting crispy shell is perfect — even better if you add nuts and/or melt chocolate on top.

Add this to your Christmas or Hanukah list, and you had better do it fast. We’re running out of time. Now that I think of it, tomorrow (today being Thursday) is the end of the world so you might as well make a double batch and stay up all night.

And get to the wine store early. I bet business will be booming.

Happy Holidays to you and yours from me and mine. Cheers!

Caramel Popcorn (www.allrecipes.com/caramelpopcorn)

6 quart popped popcorn
1 cup butter

2 cup brown sugar

1/2 cup corn syrup

1 tsp. salt

1/2 tsp. baking soda

1 tsp. vanilla extract

Step 1: Combine butter, sugar, syrup, salt and baking soda in a pan

Step 2: Bring to a boil and cook for 4 minutes

Step 3: Spread mixture on popcorn on greased tray and place in 250-degree oven

Step 4: Cook for 1 hour, turning every 15 minutes

Step 5: Let cool and it is done

Variations - at the third and final turn, sprinkle chocolate chips on top and let them melt in. Also, you can add nuts of your choice with the popcorn in the beginning and allow them to candy.

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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