



FOR THE KIDS

Children and their families involved in programs with Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services celebrate during an end-of-year bash at the Berlin offices, last Thursday. (Clockwise from top, left) Robbie Hurley; Claire Sutka-Leggour and Daniya Smith; D'ajah Smith, Amanda Chaffee and Tamia Dennis; and Andre Andrew and Dalontae Henry

PHOTOS COURTESY DANA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY

WYFCS has something to celebrate

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 22, 2016) Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services in Berlin put a bow on 2016 last week by holding an end-of-year celebration for members of two of its youth programs.

Program coordinator Amanda Chaffee said about 80-90 children and their families attended, including members of the Berlin Youth Club and SAGES ("Strengthening Adolescent Girls with Education and Support").

The youth club is designed to offer cultural, educational and wellness experiences to area children during gaps in the school year, while SAGES supports girls who are having difficulty or conflict in their homes or schools.

Both programs include entertaining and educational trips and events throughout the year, as well as opportunities to take part in community-im-

provement activities in and around Berlin.

During the event last Thursday at the offices in Berlin, Dana Marie Photography provided a photo booth, which Chaffee said was a huge hit, and children painted ornaments and picture frames and undertook craft projects. Emming's BBQ in Whaleyville catered.

Chaffee said the event was largely designed to get to know the families at little better.

"Many of them of know exactly who I am, but with SAGES starting in September and me going on maternity leave [around then] I didn't get to meet many of the new parents, so this was our opportunity to get together just for a fun event," she said.

Worcester Youth Executive Director Steven Taylor, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) Director Brigitte Southworth, CASA Volunteer Coordi-

nator Angela Manos and Communications Coordinator Lauren Davis helped organize and carry out the happening with Chaffee. Robin Tomaselli from Baked Dessert Café also pitched in.

"[Tomaselli] actually worked with the SAGES this week to make the desserts and she donated everything," Chaffee said.

Members of the SAGES programs also decorated the space at Worcester Youth and helped make appetizers.

As a whole, Chaffee said the event "went really well."

"We had a good turnout, which was really nice, and everybody seemed to have a good time," she said. "The kids loved the photo booth and the parents seemed really excited that the kids were enjoying themselves. Overall, it was really good."

"At BYC we see [the children] all

See CHILDREN Page 6

Pines greenlights spending strategy for country club

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 22, 2016) In separate votes last Friday, the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors approved about \$840,000 in spending to overhaul its country club, which many have said has suffered from a lack of upkeep for years.

The approved amount included \$417,000 in "conceptual" funding to be budgeted for the next fiscal year for renovations of the second floor of the club. Two proposals are in play that would each expand the Tern Grill area upstairs and include an exposed deck, as well as create several new meeting spaces.

One of the meeting spaces would establish a board of directors room with permanent audio and visual systems

See OPA BOARD Page 5

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BRIAN GILLILAND/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

ALL DRESSED UP

The Corner Shoppe won first place in the annual Holiday Lighting Contest in the downtown business division in Snow Hill, the chamber of commerce announced on Tuesday. The first-place winner for non-downtown business is the Court House, and both traditional plus creative home displays were awarded titles.

Excursion train: stalled at station

By Brian Gilliland
Associate Editor

(Dec. 22, 2016) After a groundswell of support from local and, eventually, state agencies in support of an excursion train connecting, at minimum, Berlin and Snow Hill, mayors Gee Williams of Berlin and Charlie Dorman of Snow Hill said they've decided to take the idea back to the drawing board.

"Basically the three key players in getting started are Berlin, Snow Hill and the railroad. We're going to go back to the original premise of building the train, and if it grows from there — great," Williams said. "The state had added many layers beyond our capacity and financial wherewithal. I'm glad the state is excited but we want to build a solid foundation."

One aspect added to the train proposal, which had not been confirmed before, was a hot air balloon festival in Worcester County. Another aspect of the burgeoning train proposal, Williams said, was an agreement to run freight for

Tyson Foods using the rail to Frankford, Delaware.

"We're getting the cart before the horse. It's not what we're about. We know we have an excellent market for a train. Ocean City would be a benefactor but our towns have to be at the forefront of the benefits, like jobs and revenue. There's plenty to accomplish without the other expectations," he said.

Williams said he was committed to working with Dorman every step of the way.

"There's not much happening," Dorman said. "We're ready to go, Berlin is ready to go, but the railroad isn't, and the railroad is the key."

Calls to the Maryland Delaware Railroad seeking comment were not returned.

"I had conversations with them last week, and we have very much the same thinking but from different perspectives," Williams said. "Investment is needed, and we may need to start in our own back-

yards. The track south of Berlin to Snow Hill needs help. It's a wonderful opportunity for a public/private partnership."

But not every offer that comes down the pike will be accepted, Williams said.

"There's an opportunity to benefit both communities and the county but need other parties to get on board and benefit our communities first. The towns have been taken for granted in the whole thing — we're not so desperate as to agree to anything," he said.

Williams said the train project wasn't a drag race that needed to go from zero to 120 mph. in seconds.

"We don't have to start at the very beginning because we've done good research. Partners in other governments will join when they see we have a good solid plan," he said. "Eventually, the bell will ring — it just hasn't rung yet."

Dorman said he will further the conversation with the state in January, when the next session of the General Assembly begins.

Pocomoke woman killed in Princess Anne last Saturday

By Brian Gilliland
Associate Editor

(Dec. 22, 2016) Police were called to the American Legion parking lot on Perryhawkin Road in Princess Anne Saturday after receiving a 911 call at approximately 1:30 a.m. and found Tawanda Blake, 26, of Pocomoke City, lying on the ground.

She was taken to Peninsula Regional Medical Center, and was pronounced dead at 2 a.m.

According to a Maryland State Police press release, the preliminary investigation indicated the victim was one of a number of people in the parking lot when several shots were fired into the crowd. Police believe Blake was the only one struck by the gunfire, but police weren't ready to conclude she was the intended target.

Later on Saturday, police arrested Jesse L. Copes, 26, of Princess Anne and charged him with first-degree murder, second-degree murder, manslaughter, first- and second-degree assault, reckless endangerment, use of a firearm in commission of a felony and being a prohibited person in possession of a firearm.

He is being held in the Somerset County detention center without bond.

Police said Copes reportedly engaged in an altercation with several people that eventually led to a scuffle. Witnesses indicated Copes pulled out a handgun and began firing.

Police said an autopsy at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Baltimore confirmed the cause of death was a gunshot wound and her manner of death was homicide.

State police investigators reportedly saw Copes leaving his apartment and stopped him as he drove away. He was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Princess Anne Barrack for questioning. A search warrant executed on his apartment led to the recovery of undisclosed evidence, but a handgun was not among the recovered items.

Anyone with information about this shooting is asked to contact Maryland State Police at 443-260-3700. Callers may remain confidential.



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OPA Board approves more renovations for country club

■ COUNTRY CLUB continued
used to broadcast meetings.

Interim General Manager Brett Hill guessed the board meeting space would be about 25 percent smaller than the Assateague Room in the community center generally used by the board now.

That won't be a problem, he said, because the only time that space fills up is during the annual meeting in August, when golf bookings would likely consume all of the country club. Portable audio and video equipment would be retained to serve that and other large meetings.

"We didn't feel that we would actually be able to have the annual meeting [at the club]," Hill said. "That's where the size was kept smaller, because the assumption was either the Assateague Room as we've been doing it or the yacht club, both have space that would hold the capacity that we want ... and we could use one of those facilities for that once a year."

The remaining portion of funding approved, some of which was voted on during several previous meetings, included allocations for a new roof, new HVAC systems and renovations to the first floor that would total about \$425,000, to be spent this fiscal year.

The improvements include expanding the Tern Grill and kitchen on the first floor, upgrading the men's and women's bathrooms and reducing the men's and women's locker room.

Because most of the renovations would be done in-house by public works staff, Hill said the final overall cost could be closer to about \$750,000.

Two concepts for a second-floor renovation were discussed at length during the meeting, each estimated to cost the same. Option one had three meeting spaces, a board room, lounge, reception and multipurpose area, and a smaller dining area and kitchen. Option three included two meeting spaces, a larger board room and larger dining area and kitchen.

Option two, discussed during previous meetings and unique because it moved the golf pro shop upstairs, was ruled out. No formal decision was made on the other two concepts, although Hill said staff recommended option three.

Vice President Dave Stevens argued in favor of more meeting space, and won-

dered why the deck area – currently enclosed – was apparently being jettisoned in favor of a "restored outside deck."

"We have continuing complaints that we don't have enough inside meeting space," he said. "The fact is you're eliminating space that can be usable ... and the reason you're doing it is because when we do have a golf banquet, which are not that frequent, you'll have a better view."

Hill argued that additional partitions could be set up and more meeting spaces could be made of the larger rooms in option three, if necessary. He said the open decks would allow the club to make use of its most valuable asset – the scenery.

"At the end of the day we're going to make the building inside nice, but it's still not going to be new," Hill said. "The greatest asset, much like the yacht club, are the vistas from outside of the building. And we want to make them accessible and as open to the clientele ... to put out the best image. And the best image is not what the building looks like, but what's outside of the building on the golf course."

He said the "most important factor to get out of today" was whether an upstairs banquet kitchen would be retained and making a decision on any other "significant change to the proposed usage" of the building that would affect the budget.

Despite declines in play at the golf course, Hill said if the upstairs kitchen were taken out it might be difficult to get county approval to put it back in later, should the board change its mind.

"Partitions and rooms are really going to come down to final plans [that] are going to come into approval out of the budget funding in May," Hill said. "We've got five months to get through that."

A vote to approve "the concept" was unanimous.

In a separate motion, the directors also unanimously approved moving \$135,000 from replacement reserves into the fiscal 2017 budget, for "repairs and upgrades to the first floor of the Ocean Pines golf club."

"In previous meetings ... the board has authorized the replacement of the roof, HVAC systems and upgrades to the Tern Grill of the golf club. With this motion, we'll complete the updates to the first floor," Hill said, adding that funds would specifically be used to renovate the bathrooms.

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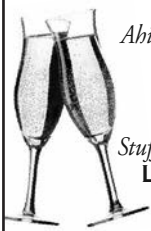
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Children in youth programs impact Berlin community

■ WYFCS continued
summer long, but we really haven't seen them consistently since the end of August," Chaffee added. "This is a nice event to get everybody together again, and it was as if they picked back up where they left off. They were running around taking pictures together, they were making crafts together. You have some kids during the summer kind of chuckle at making crafts, but then they were the first ones painting ornaments."

SAGES girls also helped during the recent "Meals for the Hungry" on Flower Street in Berlin.

"All 10 SAGES girls came to that event," Chaffee said. "Each one was told prior to the event that if they didn't want to do it they didn't have to – it was not mandatory. We only wanted them to come if they were actively participating."

"Every single one of them was awesome," she added. "They handed out the food, they made to-go containers, they helped clean up, they refilled coffee – they were very respectful and that was definitely my favorite community service event that we've had so far. I couldn't have asked for it to go any better."

The girls apparently did so well that

Globe owner Jennifer Dawicki offered them all jobs when they turn 14.

"That was really nice for them to see, that they have different opportunities to work locally in Berlin," Chaffee said. "It's nice for them to come together with the different owners of local businesses in the community. They get so many different opportunities to do really fun activities, but also to give back. They learn that it is important to give back to the community, no matter who you are."

Chaffee said the next Berlin Youth Club trip is tentatively planned for February. SAGES will break during the holidays and then resume for regular Thursday meetings.

The SABERS (Strengthening Adolescent Boys with Education and Resources) group, currently on hiatus, will restart in January.

All Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services activities are supported by grants and donations.

"We're always looking for donations for both groups or if someone is interested in having the kids do something, whether it's community service or to expose them to a new opportunity," Chaffee said.

For more information, call 410 641-4598 or visit www.gowoyo.org.

Fiscal year 2016 audit gives Berlin 'unmodified opinion'

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 22, 2016) Discussed briefly during a public meeting last Monday, the Town of Berlin posted its audited financial statement for fiscal year 2016 online on Tuesday.

The report, prepared by PKS & Company, gave an "unmodified opinion" of town finances, which is the highest level of assurance provided by the Salisbury firm.

According to that document, Berlin's combined net position as of June 30 was \$29,277,000, including \$22.8 million invested in capital assets and \$5.2 million in restricted funds, leaving an unrestricted balance of about \$5.2 million – a decrease of \$677,000 from the previous fiscal year.

The town's net position for "business-type activities" dropped \$951,000 over the previous year. That was driven in part by an operating loss of \$836,000 in the sewer fund and a total decrease in net position of \$1 million. A year ago, that fund had a net position drop of \$127,000.

Called "substantial" in the report was the decrease in special connection fees, \$127,000 during FY16 as opposed to \$895,000 during FY15.

A decrease in special connection fees related to the water fund was also labeled "substantial," just \$48,000 compared to \$336,000 a year ago.

The town's government funds reported a combined balance of about \$8.4 million, an \$874,000 increase. Last year, the town reported a \$62,000 loss. PKS wrote the primary reason for that change was an increase in property and state-shared taxes of \$276,000, as well as \$434,000 in proceeds from the sale of a property.

Overall, revenues increased 7 percent or \$358,000.

Expenditures jumped about \$3 million, including \$2.5 million for the purchase of the former Tyson's Chicken plant on Old Ocean City Boulevard, funded by a general obligation bond.

The town amended the general, electric, water, sewer and stormwater fund portion of its budget, and called "significant" were budget variances of -\$241,000 in impact fees (\$57,000) and general government, public safety and capital outlay expenses, which were less than the \$1.9 million budgeted.

It was noted that the town established a stormwater program and received \$1.9 million in grants from three state and federal agencies, and that the town expects to break ground on a new police station in spring 2017.

"The Town is taking all reasonable measures to monitor and control expenditures," the report stated.

To view the full report, visit www.berlinmd.gov/departments/finance.

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Ocean Pines survey being tweaked

Several questions go back to drawing board, but Daly believes work still on track

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 22, 2016) Despite some hiccups during a meeting last Thursday, plans are still moving forward to release a comprehensive planning survey to Ocean Pines homeowners when assessments are mailed in March.

Before that meeting with the comprehensive planning committee, Board Vice President Dave Stevens, also the committee liaison, said he and the other directors had trimmed a list of survey questions from about 40 to just 10.

He sent the committee members an email saying as much with a note that read, "The following questions were judged to be irrelevant, of little value, too complex for the average member to answer, or a duplicate of things that the board currently invested in."

"Twenty-eight questions fall into that category out of 38," he said, adding that the board "mostly agreed" on which questions to eliminate. "If we get down to, say the 10 questions that's left, do we have a meaningful survey? Is it really

worth mailing out those 10 questions?"

During the meeting, one long-time member of the committee walked out, apparently in frustration, but Committee Chair Frank Daly said he still viewed the session mostly as a positive.

"It went OK," he said on Monday. "The board came back to us and they gave us exactly what we asked for – that was the very good thing."

"There were a list of questions that they felt could be eliminated for one reason or another, or modified," Daly added. "I broke that down into two lists that I sent out to the committee – we couldn't do it at the meeting – one of which was questions that they wanted eliminated, there were modifications and there were some that were accepted without any kind of question."

Daly said that left potentially 23 questions in the survey, which he resubmitted to the board for approval.

"I will tell you one of the committee members really had a problem with [the board's] response," he said. "The bottom line is [the board] did what we asked for [and] we had a really good meeting with Stevens in talking about it."

"Some of the questions that were eliminated were eliminated because

there were issues that trailed back for as much as two years and two boards, and they've been addressed," Daly added. "If the issue has been addressed, there's no reason to ask the question."

The committee has tentatively scheduled three meetings in January, when Daly said work would be done to refine the comprehensive plan outline based on the remaining questions.

"The board has done exactly what we asked in regards to the questions and they did it in a timely manner," Daly said. "[Committee member Steve] Cohen said we have never had this kind of response, this detailed and this fast from the board since he's been on the committee. They've actually moved us closer to being able to conduct that survey and to do the comprehensive plan."

Daly said he believed the timeline to release the survey to the public in March was still "very reasonable."

He added that he hopes the departed committee member returns to the advisory group soon.

"Everything that came out of this meeting was positive and should have been taken as a positive thing, and the committee as a whole took it as a positive thing," Daly said.

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FTS Fiber thin on details as questions remain about co.

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 22, 2016) After FTS Fiber and ThinkBig Networks made a brief pitch on Dec. 5 to bring gigabyte Internet in Ocean Pines, promising to connect the association police department to county police in exchange for an easement to lay “dark fiber,” many residents were left with more questions than answers.

For one, the meeting, in front of the board of directors and a small in the audience and a handful more watching online, was touted as being nothing more than an introduction – a preliminary step. However, promotional materials distributed during the meeting seemed to say otherwise and that week ThinkBig’s website, www.thinkbignets.com, included a blurb on its homepage that read “Coming Soon to Sudlersville, MD, Church Hill, MD, Centreville, MD, Ocean Pines, MD, Ocean City, MD, and more!”

During the meeting, representatives from FTS said they had already “engaged” in discussions with nearby Berlin. Asked about that discussion, Berlin Town Administrator Laura Allen said, on Dec. 7, “This is the first I’m hearing about FTS.”

FTS reps claimed to be “building route miles from Virginia Beach to Delmarva, up to Baltimore,” during the Ocean Pines meeting. “We’re going to be coming through here anyway with a backbone. We get some value by putting a few additional customers onto that backbone.”

Later, they backtracked from that and said FTS was a member of the Maryland Broadband Cooperative (MBC) and “that’s how we can get connectivity to the backbone.”

After that, the rep again seemed to take credit for the “backbone,” saying, “putting in a backbone” was “part of our investment strategy.”

FTS Marketing Manager Blake Hargest clarified some points of the meeting in an email interview on Dec. 7.

“ThinkBig Networks has come to FTS Fiber looking to install fiber in Ocean Pines because they see great opportunity for expanding their gigabit internet service in the community,” he said. “Once the fiber is installed, FTS will lease the fiber to ThinkBig Networks to bring gigabit internet service to the residents.”

The installation itself, he said, would be “contracted out.”

Hargest estimated work to connect the roughly 8,400 homes in Ocean Pines to fiber would take 12 months.

“As part of FTS Fiber’s long-haul backbone, we are building past the Ocean Pines area,” he said. “Ocean Pines has no direct effect on where we build in and around the area, the idea to install fiber in the Ocean Pines community is simply just for

Ocean Pines to leverage the high-speed backbone that we are already installing throughout the Delmarva.”

FTS is already under contract to lay fiber in Kent County, which is the smallest county in Maryland by population, and is apparently in the process of laying a network of dark fiber there.

On Dec. 14 Hargest added, “Queen Anne’s County issued an RFP for a fiber optic build a couple of months ago and we have an interview with the county next week to discuss our proposal.”

“The backbone that was referred to during the [Ocean Pines] meeting is a new fiber backbone that FTS Fiber is installing along the Delmarva Peninsula,” he said during the second interview. “Maryland Broadband Cooperative is our partner in providing access into government institutions and providing diversity to our customers for our network connectivity.”

Former Worcester County Commissioner Virgil Shockley made affordable and available broadband his major platform while in office. He also sits on the board of MBC.

Shockley said MBC used federal funding to run a “backbone” of fiber from Wallops Island, Virginia that runs down Route 113 and through Hardwire in Pocomoke, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore in Princess Anne and Salisbury University in Salisbury.

That backbone also runs through Berlin and extends north from Cambridge to Elkton, also running to Annapolis and Baltimore as well as to Oakland and Keyzers Ridge in the Northwest corner of the state.

“This is the backbone, but because of how the cooperative is setup we cannot do what is called ‘the last mile,’” Shockley said. “The fiber is actually sitting there on Route 113 ... it’s already there.”

“A company like [FTS] would look at buying what they call ‘dark fiber,’” Shockley continued. “Of what’s already in place running up Route 113, they would connect into ... what they call a point of presence.”

Atlantic General Hospital, for instance, connects into the MBC backbone in a similar fashion.

“We, as Maryland Broadband, have what we call members,” he said. “We basically will work with anybody. If you are a hospital [like] AGH and you want broadband, we’ll sit down and we’ll draw up and we’ll tell you what it’s going to cost and so on and so forth.”

He said the three questions MBC generally asks its co-op members are “what do you need now, what do you need later and how much can you afford?”

“I would be ecstatic – ecstatic – if a company came along and wanted to hook up Worcester County and
See INSIDE FTS Page 9

Inside FTS: why company could be targeting OPA

Continued from Page 8

have the ability to go wireless, have the ability where everybody can flip open a laptop, just like they have the ability to open their phones and use it.”

Shockley added that “it’s great” that all ninth graders in the county receive laptops, but that there are many places – including Newark – where there are no Internet connections.

Asked exactly why FTS would invest a reported \$10-\$15 million to connect thousands of homes in Ocean Pines – a market larger companies like Verizon have long eschewed – Shockley said “because they’re going to make money on installing the stuff afterward.”

“If you do that, this is not wireless – this is actually wire-to-wire, old-school in-the-ground wiring like your telephone. You get great coverage. You don’t get knocked off, you don’t have to worry about a satellite

in a hurricane or anything else like that, but it’s expensive and people cut it,” Shockley said. “It’s not that you put it in the ground once ... it’s not just the cost putting it in the ground – it’s the cost of maintaining it and keeping it up. That’s where the money has to come in.”

He added that there could be other factors involved, including attracting neighboring communities, namely Ocean City.

“This is a show and tell – see what we can do,” Shockley said.

He also said there could be tax credits available for running to neighboring communities dubbed “underserved rural areas.”

Maryland Broadband Vice President and Public Affairs Director Tyler C. Patton confirmed his group has met with FTS, but said he did not know “what FTS has built or exactly what they are planning to build” in terms of a backbone.

He said he was aware of the FTS

operations in Kent County and talks with Queen Anne’s County.

“They have reached out to us about our assets in Kent County and trying to utilize them to cut down on their building necessities,” Patton said. “I know we’re in discussions with them about how we can be helpful in Kent County, and to be fair, in Queen Anne’s County or Worcester County or in any county they have an interest in doing business in.”

As for his guess as to what the long-term financial gain of the project in Ocean Pines would be, Patton said that “depends on what their business model is.”

“Internet service provider companies usually build fiber and then sell ... to link off of that fiber and then sell a ‘lit’ service off of that fiber,” he said. “I can’t say that anybody would build

into Ocean Pines and not build out into Ocean City or into Berlin or in Snow Hill because it just makes business sense to do that.

“Laying from Salisbury to Cambridge is the expensive part,” Patton added. “Laying from Salisbury into a neighborhood is the easier part. Once they build their main trunk line, wherever that’s going to be, it’s easier to build what we call a lateral off of that trunk line and then go into serve somebody.

“I think FTS sees a value of expanding their network across the Eastern Shore,” Patton said. “Whether it’s Ocean Pines or Ocean City or Kent County – I think FTS sees inherent value that if they start building some place they’ll be able to expand their reach, wherever they happen to want to go.”

Campground influx concerns residents, sparks meeting

By Brian Gilliland
Associate Editor

(Dec. 22, 2016) A group of citizens have become concerned with a recent uptick in the amount of campgrounds intended to serve the beach areas, particularly those along Route 611, and have decided to host a meeting on the issue, and have created a Facebook page to foster more discussion.

That meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 28 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Library.

The meeting and page are called “Save Our Ayres Creek” and are primarily concerned with the proposed

Ayres Creek Campground just off Route 611. It is an open, public group on Facebook, but requires approval to join.

The meeting is open to the public. Of concern are possible impacts to natural habitats both from the construction of the campground and increased traffic along the road.

Other campgrounds in the area are considering or are moving through the process to expand as well. Earlier this week, the Fort Whaley campground’s expansion proposal was heard by the county, and Frontier Town has developed plans to add campsites.



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Old Bay Chicken Wings	11
Calamari "G.B.D." Light & Crispy, Sweet Chili, Cajun Remoulade, Lemon	13
Soups & Salads	
Bowl of Cream of Crab Old Bay, Parsley, Sherry	9
Wedge Salad Bacon, Bleu Cheese, Tomato, Crispy Leeks, Bleu Cheese Dressing	6
Caesar Salad Romaine, Garlic Croutons, Parmesan Creamy Caesar Dressing	6
Entrees	
Atlantic Striped Bass.. Topped with Jumbo Lump Crab Imperial Asparagus, Baked Potato, Chives, Sour Cream, White Cheddar	30
Jumbo Lump Crabcakes.. Roasted Asparagus, Smoked Gouda Mac & Cheese	30
Grilled Salmon.. Sauteéd Portabella Mushrooms, Asparagus, Roasted Fingerling Potatoes	28
Lobster & Shrimp Alfredo.. Linguini, Parmesan, Garlic Toast	30
Specials	
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Fiber expected to have econ impact

Suspects nabbed in OPA unlocked car-theft cases

Continued from Page 10

sioners, it was probably January 2015, and I gave a presentation and said, 'I think we can build this,' which was pretty similar to what FTS ultimately proposed."

The Kent County Commissioners gave the go-ahead to write a request for proposals and Boone underscored the important of a "public-private partnership," where both parties became investors and ultimately stakeholders.

He said two of the three commissioners in the county have been on that board for at least 10 years – the same amount of time Boone had been the IT director. During that period, county leadership has been supportive of the notion that having broadband available is good for business.

"We've had a united political front," Boone said. "And they have a very healthy fund balance – we have a lot of money in the bank, unlike a lot of other counties."

With funding available and a shared vision, Boone released the RFP and received what he described as several strong responses. One of those, from FTS, "blew us all away."

"They had references [like Verizon Wireless, Loyola University and Johns Hopkins] and everyone vouched for these guys," Boone said. "They came in and I had everything

from proposals of two-to-three pages and then there was that FTS one sitting on the edge of the desk in a three-ring binder with so much detail – I couldn't believe it. I said, 'how in the hell did they do this?' The RFP only had a month-and-a-half opening."

Kent County leadership wanted part of the build to include 54 "anchor institutions" in the area – the FTS proposal would serve all of them.

"I said, let's not build a bridge to nowhere. If we build this thing, even if we end up building our own using contractors, then we'll hook up as many sites in Kent County as possible – every library branch, school, police station, firehouse – everything we can give away our services to let's do it," Boone said. "FTS came in and they were the only one who were able to build to all 54 anchor institutions that we requested, and they added some as well."

In terms of economic development, Boone pointed to county a webpage advertising "Our Gigabit County is Open for Business" that has received close to 50,000 hits since July.

"For a county like Kent that's very small – we've only got about 20,000 people – we're putting this right in the laps of ... next-level development projects and they're eating it up," he

said. "Our main page only has about 12,000 [hits]."

Overall, Boone said FTS has been "very easy to work with."

"We have not spent one dollar so far," Boone said, adding that the eventual cost for Kent County would be \$4.5 million. "We're guessing it's probably about \$15-\$20 [million] overall."

"From our perspective it's been spectacular. We've loved our relationship with these guys," he added. "We keep weekly updates [online] for the citizens and those updates come from FTS. It's been an unbelievable experience."

"Sometimes I wake up and think, was this a dream?" Boone said. "They put their money where their mouth is and that's what one of our commissioners said – when you're fronting the cost and you're doing this entire build and we're not paying until the testing is turned over, how do you turn it down?"

Boone said the anchor institutions – weather and other factors permitting – could be online by April. Residential and other customers will follow with the next phase, planned for fall 2017.

Updates on that project can be found at www.fiber.kentcounty.com.

According to Boone, Queen Anne's County will interview FTS about a similar deal this week.

By Katie Tabeling
Staff Writer

(Dec. 22, 2016) Two people who were arrested last week in an illegal gun sale in Ocean City now face charges for allegedly stealing from unlocked cars in Ocean Pines.

Following a joint investigation with the Maryland State Police, the Ocean City Police, the Worcester County Sheriff's Criminal Enforcement Team and the Ocean Pines Police Department, Bennett T. McNeil III, 26, of Ocean City, and Jenna L. Vermillion, 24, of Ocean City, were charged with running a theft scheme under \$10,000, and conspiracy to commit a theft scheme, according to press releases.

McNeil and Vermillion also face two counts of theft of under \$10,000, two counts of theft less than \$1,000 and eight counts of theft less than \$100.

Ocean Pines police also charged the pair with 12 counts of rogue and vagabond.

Both were arrested on Dec. 13 after Ocean City Police and the sheriff's office launched an investigation of McNeil in connection with an illegal gun sale. Detectives concluded

See UNDERCOVER Page 12

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Undercover sting of gun sale leads to arrests

Continued from Page 8
that he had stolen a .22 caliber Smith & Wesson revolver from a car in West Ocean City and was attempting to sell it.



Bennett McNeil

Undercover Ocean City detectives contacted McNeil and arranged a meeting to buy the gun that evening. When McNeil arrived for the sale at Sunset Drive and Philadelphia Avenue, he was arrested. Vermillion, who was in McNeil's car during the sale, was also arrested along with Arno R. Arndt, 57 of Snow Hill and Patricia L. Miller, 52, of Bishopville.

Detectives interviewed the suspects, which led to a search warrant

being executed at a West Ocean City residence. As a result, the suspects were linked to several thefts from cars in Ocean City, West Ocean City, Ocean Pines and Glen Riddle. Police believe the suspects broke into 200 vehicles, according to press releases.

The Worcester County Bureau of Investigation (WCBI) detectives recovered dozens of purses and wallets at the West Ocean City residence. The wallets and purses had no identification in them.

Ocean Pines Police linked McNeil and Vermillion to 13 of the 15 thefts from unlocked vehicles in the area. The thefts occurred in south Ocean



Jenna Vermillion

Pines in the King Richard, Camelot, Robin Hood areas, as well as in north Ocean Pines in the Sandyhook and Birdsnest areas.

Ocean City Police Public Affairs Specialist Lindsay Richard said eight vehicle thefts occurred in the resort, but the people who were arrested in the gun sale are not suspects.



Arno R. Arndt

"We have not found any reason to connect these four individuals with any thefts from vehicles that we have had here within city limits, only cases just outside of town in the Route 50 West Ocean City corridor outside of our jurisdiction," she said.

OCPD charged McNeil and Arndt

with illegal possession of a firearm, illegal possession of ammunition, possession of a stolen regulated firearm, possessing a handgun in a vehicle, and possessing a handgun on person.

Miller has been charged with possession of heroin and possession of paraphernalia. Vermillion faces the same charges, in addition to the theft charges.



Patricia L. Miller

Each suspect was seen by a Maryland District Court Commissioner and transferred to the Worcester County Jail. Arndt and Miller were given a bond of \$25,000 and \$7,500 respectively.

McNeil was given a \$50,000 bond. Vermillion was given a \$40,000 bond.

Police recommend that people make sure to lock their vehicles doors, even if they plan to be gone for a moment, and to never leave windows down. Residents are also encouraged to not put packages or shopping bags in plain view, as visible packages increase the chance of a vehicle break-in.

Anyone who has been a victim of a theft from his or her vehicle should contact local law enforcement as soon as possible. Residents will be asked to provide a complete description of the items that were stolen and should know the vehicle's license plate number, a detailed description of the vehicle, the VIN number and insurance information.

To report a theft, contact the Ocean City Police Department at 410-723-6610, Ocean Pines Police Department, Worcester County Sheriff's Office at 410-632-1111 and or the Maryland State Police 410-641-3101.



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Lynell Green receives PBJ sentence

Former police chief Sewell convicted of misconduct stemming from same case

By Brian Gilliland
Associate Editor

(Dec. 22, 2016) In the second trial stemming from the same November 2014 incident that saw former Pocomoke City Police Chief Kelvin Sewell convicted of misconduct in office and sentenced to three years probation, his subordinate, former Lt. Lynell Green, was granted probation before judgment on conspiracy to conduct misconduct in office for a term of one year.

Green was found not guilty of the other charge he was indicted on: misconduct in office.

The defense chose to have the case heard by Judge W. Newton Jackson, rather than a jury. Sewell's case was heard by a jury.

Jackson said in rendering his verdict he didn't believe that when a supervisor, in this case Sewell, had decided to engage in misconduct that every other subordinate officer was required to formally protest that action in order to avoid official sanc-

tions. Jackson said that decision rested on Sewell's shoulders, not Green's.

However, Jackson said the conspiracy charge was a different game, where a meeting of the minds — not any sort of acknowledgement, formal conversation or agreement needed to take place for the charges to stick. Jackson said such a meeting of minds occurred between Sewell and Green during the course of their conversations on that evening.

Maryland State Prosecutor Emmet Davitt recommended Green be sentenced the same way Sewell was, a reduction of his original recommendation of three years in jail with all but six months worth suspended, but Green's attorney successfully argued that his client's cooperation with the investigation plus other factors warranted probation before judgment.

Jackson added that Green must consent to the ruling, and waive the right to appeal in order for the decision to take effect. Green agreed.

Probation before judgment is not a conviction. It places the charges on hold for a finite amount of time, in this case one year, of probation either

supervised or unsupervised. If the defendant is able to meet the terms of the probation for the specified amount of time, the defendant will then be very likely to get the records of the matter expunged.

The facts of the incident were never disputed. Close to midnight on Nov. 21, 2014 Doug Matthews, a guard at Eastern Correctional Institute at the time, was returning home from the Masonic Lodge in Pocomoke City. As he was making the drive, which was only a matter of blocks, his car struck two others but he continued to his residence, about another three blocks, before the car stopped functioning.

The owners of the damaged cars discovered what Matthews testified he did as he exited the car — the right front wheel among other parts had been torn from the vehicle by the impact, and was laying in the street where the collision occurred.

Matthews was never charged in connection to the incident. The behavior of both Sewell and Green during the course of the investigation led the grand jury to indict the pair in July.

Number of parallel projects in Pines show progression

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 22, 2016) Since the new board came together in August and newly elected Director Brett Hill took over as interim general manager shortly thereafter, the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors has moved quickly on a number of projects.

The OPA website was amended to reflect that, keeping homeowners abreast of several ongoing efforts.

According to the site, that includes the Manklin Meadows playground, where the entire structure is being replaced. Six proposals were submitted by four companies, and those bids are being evaluated by the parks and recreations committee, which will make a recommendation to the board of directors. No timeline for that was provided.

With a budget of \$377,417, bridges on Clubhouse Drive and Ocean Parkway are being repaired. Salisbury-based Murtech Inc. has finished maintenance on the Clubhouse Drive bridge and has begun replacing the sidewalk and railing. Work on the under-structure of the Ocean Parkway bridge has also begun.

Both bridges are scheduled to be finished by Feb. 1. Traffic is currently restricted to one lane along Clubhouse See REPAIRS Page 14

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One lane is partially closed on Clubhouse Drive in Ocean Pines as crews work to repair a bridge there, one of many ongoing projects currently underway in the community.

JOSH DAVIS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Repairs to bridges, bathrooms, parks and playgrounds

Continued from Page 13
Drive, near the country club.

At the country club, Peninsula Roofing Company is working to repair the roof and has a target completion date of Jan. 1. The board also recently approved funding to replace the heating and air conditioning system with several small split-level units, and additional money was allocated to renovate the Tern Grill and kitchen on the first floor, as well as the first-floor bathrooms and locker rooms, to be completed this fiscal year.

Another \$417,000 was approved as a budget concept to renovate the second floor during the next fiscal year, adding meeting spaces and expanding the Tern Grill and kitchen there.

A new playground was installed at Huntington Park, and contractors have begun converting the softball field there to a multipurpose area to be used for soccer and lacrosse. An irrigation system will be installed and final seeding of the field is due in spring.

Construction on a standalone bathroom at White Horse Park started in September and Beach Construction Inc. is putting the final touches on the building. The 19-by-25-foot structure has an estimated cost of \$103,961, about \$40,000 less than what was budgeted. Completion date is listed as Jan. 1.

At the Manklin Meadows Racquet Sports Complex, two tennis courts are being converted for use as eight permanent pickleball courts. A preconstruction meeting was held on Dec. 15. Bids are due in January, with a contract to be awarded on Feb. 1 and an estimated completion date of April 1.

The site also mentioned plans are underway to renovate the bathrooms at the Beach Club, although specific information was sparse. The project is listed for completion "before next season."

There are no other current projects listed and no entries for additional requests for proposal.

Ocean Pines Marketing Director Denise Sawyer said the entire list was updated this week. For more information, visit www.oceanpines.org/projects.

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Worcester Prep students receive AP honors awards

(Dec. 22, 2016) Worcester Preparatory School students in the Class of 2017 and alumni from the Class of 2016 captured 32 Advanced Placement honors from the College Board.

Students commended as AP Scholars with Distinction, who achieved scores of at least 3.5 on all AP tests taken and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams were: Sambina Anthony '17, Isabel Carulli '16, Alex Choy '16, Victoria Middleton '16, Nick Moondra '17, Zach Oltman '16, Jordan Osias '16, Rayne Parker '17, Cassie Stevens '16 and Grace Tunis '16.

AP Scholars with Honor, who received an average of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams were: Hannah Arrington '16, Jason Cook '16, Laura Issel '16, Jordan Kilgore '16, Wyatt Richins '16, Ava Schwartz '17, Erika Smith '16 and Staton Whaley '16.

AP Scholars with scores of 3 or higher on three or more exams were: Nate Abercrombie '16, Rachel Berry '16, Isabel Dashiell '17, Devin Hammond '16, Sarah Koon '16, Melissa Laws '17, Ryan Murphy '16, Owen Nally '17, Patrick Petrera '17, Charlie Pritchard '16, Regan Shanahan '16, Julie Talbert '17, Zach Wilson '17 and Lily Zechiel '17.

Snow Hill adopts rezoning proposal

Developer, NAACP worried over residential change, but vote unanimous, 3-0

By Brian Gilliland
Associate Editor

(Dec. 22, 2016) After several months of work sessions and meetings, the Snow Hill town government unanimously adopted the comprehensive rezoning proposal without alteration at last Tuesday's council meeting.

Though the vote was 3-0 in favor, it was not without dissent. From the time the council began focusing on the issue months ago, Western District representative Michael Pruitt has asked the council to reconsider rezoning a particular property, owned by Jay Bergey, from R2 residential to R3 residential.

Bergey intends to develop the land into housing, drawing funding and tenants from a federal program that had lost funding previously, but has since been reinstated.

Bergey has called the reclassification "spot zoning," which is illegal in Maryland, and has gone so far as to threaten the town with a lawsuit, ac-

cording to the minutes of an October work session.

The type of housing Bergey planned to construct on the property is also at issue. Though he had strongly opposed the use of the terms "affordable housing" to describe his project in the past, he had no objection during the town meeting when NAACP member Judy Davis described it as such and argued for the necessity of the development

'I think they made their bed and will end up having to lie in it for a while. My project is nothing like Section 8 housing.'

Jay Bergey

based on that description.

Davis said with new businesses and opportunities available in Snow Hill, the people who were working these jobs would need places they could afford to live in town, and the town needed more places like Bergey's proposed development.

Properties zoned R3 are the only areas in town where multi-family dwellings are allowed. As part of the comprehensive rezoning ordinance,

the density of that zoning was also lowered from 12 units per acre to eight. No reason was given for the change, and councilman Pruitt said in his dissenting statements, but affirmative vote, that he didn't know where the decrease came from, or who had asked for it.

Pruitt said that he saw more good than bad in the document the town had developed, and that's why he chose to support it.

Mayor Dorman said, according to the minutes of an October work session, that he was not in favor of the project and the town already had enough of this type of housing.

Emails to town staff asking to quantify Dorman's claims went unanswered.

Bergey has since backed off on the lawsuit threat.

"I think there's going to be a lot more going on when other groups start applying pressure," Bergey said. "I think they made their bed and will end up having to lie in it for a while. My project is nothing like Section 8 housing."

Ivory Smith, Worcester County NAACP president, did not return a call seeking comment.

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Berlin HDC examines role following reversal

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 22, 2016) Members of the Berlin Historic District Commission met last week to discuss its role, following a ruling by the Berlin Board of Appeals that overturned a recent commission decision.

“I’ve never sat on the other side and listened to the zoning appeals board,” commission member Mary Moore said. “I was like, is that how we seem sometimes? A little out there? I would love to think that we could all get that knowledge and be right where we should be.”

The board of appeals had expressed confusion over why the historic commission denied a pylon sign insert for the Berlin Butcher Shop, citing a lack of clear-cut reasoning in the minutes of a meeting in October.

Moore said if the commission was simply going by the zoning code book, “there’s no reason to be here.”

“That’s correct,” Engelhart said. “If it’s just by an ordinance or just by strict guidelines, then there is no reason to have [the commission]. The reason to have it is for your judgment.”

“It’s not supposed to be cut and dried – you’re supposed to have a discussion. That’s why you’re panel of five – you’re not a panel of one,” he added.

Engelhart said that since he started working for the town, rulings by the commission had been established as being “based on the aesthetic and what’s complimentary to each neighborhood.”

“The historic district is not huge by any means – it’s pretty much cen-

tered on the downtown and Main Street,” he said.

The commission discussed at length section 104-27 of the town code, on “commission considerations.”

According to code, when the commission reviews plans for new construction or changes to an existing structure it “shall give consideration” to four specific areas.

They are: “The historic or architectural value and significance of the structure, site and all other appurtenances and their relationship to the historic value of the surrounding area.

“The relationship of the exterior architectural features of the structure, site and to the remainder of the structure and other appurtenances to the surrounding area.

“The general compatibility of the exterior design, arrangement, texture and materials proposed to be used for any structure or appurtenance.

“Any other factors, including aesthetic factors, which the commission deems to be pertinent.”

A general consensus was given that, before voting on any motion during future commission meetings, the group would specifically cite at least one of those four areas.

Commission member Betty Tustin called the work session “very helpful” and asked if regular sessions of a similar nature could be held.

“At any meeting, after you’ve had cases, we can certainly say new business is let’s talk about this some more – or have another work session,” Engelhart said. “If you’re at a meeting anyway, we could always talk.”



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Purnell museum extends hours through winter

Hopes to increase service to schools and community; says to be budget neutral

By Brian Gilliland
Associate Editor

(Dec. 22, 2016) Until this year, the Julia Purnell Museum has closed from the end of October until the beginning of April, but it will now remain open year round so it can offer services to schools and the town of Snow Hill.

Dr. Cindy Byrd, the museum’s executive director, said the move was budget neutral.

“In the past we’ve used this time to apply for grants, change exhibits and perform maintenance. We won’t be able to tear the museum apart all at once any more, but we want the facil-

ity to be more dynamic, and we want people to come and see it all the time,” she said.

Because staff is already on site, and the utilities are left on even when the museum is closed to preserve the artifacts contained within, Byrd said it wouldn’t cost the town any additional money to make the move.

“It’s budget neutral so guests are nothing but good for us,” Byrd said.

“During the summer, we’re serving tourists, and in the winter we want to focus on locals. If we’re closed October through April, we miss most of the school year.”

Local students are a built-in audience for the museum. Snow Hill Elementary, Middle and High Schools, as well as Cedar Chapel and Worcester Technical High School are all within minutes of the Purnell museum.

“We’re making better use of the funds we have,” Byrd said. “By not being open, I feel like we’re leaving money on the table.”

“We’re working just as many hours even if no guests were coming in. We’re paid to be here, the climate control is on — we just need to be open,” Byrd added.

With the move comes the possibil-

ity of another benefit. With the switch to year-round availability comes the possibility of a road sign directing traffic to the museum. The State Highway Administration has a program to identify and highlight sites like the Purnell museum, but the facility must be open for the entire year to qualify.

“We’re the town’s only cultural heritage tourism location. People who see the sign will know there’s something to see here,” Byrd said. “Bringing more people can only be good for Snow Hill.”

The sign isn’t a done deal, as the museum’s application has to be reviewed and evaluated by the SHA before a determination is made.

The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday from 1-4 p.m.

‘We’re the town’s only cultural heritage tourism location. People who see the sign will know there’s something to see here.’
Dr. Cindy Byrd

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Opinion

Please send all letters and other editorial submissions to editor@baysidegazette.com by 5 p.m. Monday.

‘Tis the (angry) season

Peace on earth and good will toward ... Oh, right, that’s out the window these days. How about this then: peace on my patch of the earth and good will toward people who agree with me.

For reasons sociologists will spend lifetimes trying to sort out, political and religious differences are no longer just sensitive subjects that could provoke arguments at inopportune times — the dinner table, social gatherings, the grocery store or the gas station — they are the matches for our very short fuses.

We have reached the point where a disagreement is no longer a matter of two parties refusing to see things each other’s way, while still remaining on speaking terms, it has become the source of intense personal dislike and worse.

Case in point: not long after the national election, a driver pulled into a local gas station and engaged in casual discussion with an attendant about the election results. As is the case throughout the country, they disagreed on the outcome.

Rather than each having their say and leaving at that, as would have been the case at one time, the conversation erupted into a screaming match, complete with unflattering characterizations of each other, as if volume and personal insults would win the day.

These people didn’t know each other, and yet became embroiled in an intensely personal conflict because ... well, there is no good reason except that maybe we all are inexplicably angry about something, or maybe everything, and are looking for a fight.

Yet, here we are, repeating what has become a naive and meaningless platitude this time of year: peace on earth, etc.

It’s a shame that we don’t really mean it, because life would be so much better if we believed in that as easily and with as much passion as we seem to with everything else that feeds whatever our anger happens to be.



CFES announces philanthropy prog.

Education coming to high schools in three lower shore counties

(Dec. 22, 2016) The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore and the Richard A. Henson Foundation have partnered to support the efforts of Junior Achievement to bring philanthropy education to all high school students in Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester County public schools.

This innovative new program is served by JA Finance Park Virtual computer software, which provides students hands-on lessons in personal finance management.

This in-school classroom-based program will provide about 1,800 high school students in the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland with a first-hand understanding of the economic issues students will face upon high school graduation.

During the virtual component of the program, students will interact with a computer-simulated town in which they will be assigned a life situation, career and salary.

Throughout the simula-

tion, the students will be asked to make choices about basic necessities such as housing and healthcare, decide on entertainment spending, and will also be given the opportunity to consider the personal and social rewards of charitable giving.

“The nonprofit sector is an important component of the local economy, providing jobs for local people, bringing much-needed programs and services to our community and engaging many through volunteer efforts each year,” Erica Joseph, president of the Community Foundation, said.

The goal of this partnership is to enhance the current curriculum by specifically focusing on the role of nonprofits in the community, the importance of monetary donations supporting these vital organizations and the impact of charitable giving on personal finance.

“Junior Achievement reaches thousands of local students each year and brings individuals in to the classroom as volunteers. That connection between the businesses and our local school system is an invaluable partnership to help

prepare students for life after high school,” Donna Altwater, executive director of the Richard A. Henson Foundation, said.

The pilot phase for implementing this new curriculum begins in the 2017 spring semester with the expectation that more classes will be added next school year.

As leaders, grant makers and stewards of philanthropy, the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore serves the common good of the Lower Eastern Shore.

CFES is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with an inspiring history of fostering charitable endeavors, and has provided more than \$60 million in grants and scholarships to the local community since 1984.

CFES collaborates with individuals, families and businesses to match their charitable interests with community needs and strengthen local nonprofits through grants and resources. CFES is devoted to improving the regional community and believes in people helping one another to provide positive impact.

For more information, visit www.CFES.org or call 410-742-9911.

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Town to lure locals during annual New Year's celebration

By Josh Davis
Associate Editor

(Dec. 22, 2016) While most of the roughly two-dozen annual events in Berlin are designed to bring new faces – and shoppers – into the community, the town's yearly New Year's Eve bash is geared toward area residents.

Tyler Horton, aka DJ Bigler, the voice of the Delmarva Shorebirds, will emcee and spin records with Ocean 98 personality Big Al Reno.

Three outdoor bar areas will be available for the first time: at the Blacksmith restaurant on 104 Pitts Street, outside the Atlantic Hotel on 2 North Main Street and at Fins Ale House and Raw Bar on 119 Main Street.

At midnight, a large steel ball covered in multicolored lights will descend from the Town Center Antiques building, opposite the hotel. Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells said that was commissioned as art by resident Barb Stack several years ago.

She said DJ Bigler and Big Al Reno would award prizes in exchange for correct answers to trivia questions, and that vendors would include Crush N Crab and Eastern Shore Ket-



Thousands ring in the New Year in downtown Berlin during a celebration last year. This year the annual bash, aimed largely at locals, will include two DJs and three outdoor bars.

tle Korn. Carriage rides will also be offered.

"It's all weather dependent, but I think we'll get a nice crowd," Wells said. "Always during an event the economic impact is to introduce anyone that's new to downtown, but New Year's Eve is really more for the lo-

cals. It gives everyone a chance to get together where they can walk downtown without having to worry about driving anywhere, especially since there's usually alcohol involved.

"The main goal of having the celebration is to celebrate with the community and your friends and

neighbors," she added. "The restaurants will be open serving dinner, and we encourage people to walk or bike down. There'll be plenty to eat, plenty to drink and lots of fun to be had."

New Year's Eve is Saturday, Dec. 31. The event officially runs from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

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Biz development assistance now available weekly

(Dec. 22, 2016) Worcester County Economic Development (WCED) is now offering business owners and would-be entrepreneurs more opportunities to meet with highly experienced professionals who can help them establish or expand Worcester County businesses.

Beginning in November, Tim Sherman of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) of Salisbury University doubled his office hours at WCED in Snow Hill to provide weekly consulting services.

SBDC professionals assist entrepreneurs with developing business plans and financial projections to launch sustainable businesses.

“We strive to work within the entrepreneurial community in Worcester to give personalized service that delivers results,” WCED Director Merry Mears said. “The volume of activity in our office has increased dramatically in the last year, so it’s important to recognize this and make adjustments to ensure we are offering the highest level of service possible.”

Consulting services develop into longstanding business relationships between WCED, SBDC and the entrepreneurs they serve to provide the follow up needed to help meet diverse business goals.

“Tim can assist individuals with business plans, cash flow projections, as well as applications required to seek funding for small business start-ups or expansion,” WCED Deputy Director John Azzolini said. “Whether it’s a \$15,000 loan for a small beauty shop or a half-million dollar loan for an expansion of a major business, the SBDC works with each team in the same manner.”

In January of 2016, WCED opened an SBDC office in its Snow Hill location for eight hours each month, to provide focused attention and one-on-one business consulting services to Worcester County entrepreneurs.

“We’re proud of the impact our partnership with the SBDC is having on our business community,” Mears said.

Entrepreneurs interested in starting or expanding a business are invited to call WCED at 410-632-3112 to schedule an appointment with Sherman.



Tim Sherman, of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Salisbury University, center, doubled his office hours at the Worcester County Economic Development facility in Snow Hill to provide weekly consulting services to business owners and would-be entrepreneurs. Pictured with Sherman are SBDC Director John Hickman and Worcester County Economic Development Director Merry Mears.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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HARD - 25

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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

MIRROR REFLECTION

BY DERRICK NIEDERMAN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS	58 State with part of I-81: Abbr.	100 One of five on a starfish	9 “___ Little Tenderness”
1 One of the blanks in the cereal slogan “___ are for ___”	60 What you might call a dog	102 Big Australian export	10 Bus. card abbr.
5 Tinker, for one, in olden days	62 Instrument for an angel	103 Court concern	11 Boxer's reward
14 Certain blade	63 Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar, e.g.	105 Japanese auto make	12 Old German ruler nicknamed “the Short”
19 Spread dirt, in a way	65 Something you can do with flies	108 Father, familiarly	13 Facefuls in slapstick
21 Legendary Egyptian queen	66 First name of an Oscar-nominated actress of 1957	110 Member of the cat family	14 Publish anew
22 Run off	67 Time in ads	113 One of Frank's wives	15 Suffix with schnozz
23 Stick together	68 Square ___	114 Historical period	16 Slithy ones
24 Liberal-arts college in the Keystone State	69 Animal in an Aesop fable	115 Dud	17 The Marx Brothers spent a night at one
25 Like many a lot	70 White House sight	117 Caterpillar product	18 V-shaped fortification
26 Hood lead-in	72 White House sight	118 Hood lead-in	20 Skin diving locale
28 Caterpillar product	75 Animal in an Aesop fable	120 Like many a lot	27 Fix, as a pool cue
29 Dud	76 Square ___	122 Liberal-arts college in the Keystone State	30 Carbon compound
31 Historical period	77 Time in ads	125 Stick together	34 Something to brush off a jacket
32 One of Frank's wives	78 First name of an Oscar-nominated actress of 1957	126 Run off	35 Ingredient in an old-fashioned
33 Member of the cat family	79 Something you can do with flies	127 Legendary Egyptian queen	37 Exams required for some prep schools
35 Father, familiarly	81 Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar, e.g.	128 Spread dirt, in a way	41 “Stat!”
36 Japanese auto make	82 Instrument for an angel	129 Certain blade	43 Part of a plant embryo that develops into a root
38 Court concern	83 What you might call a dog	130 Tinker, for one, in olden days	45 Together
39 Big Australian export	84 State with part of I-81: Abbr.	131 One of the blanks in the cereal slogan “___ are for ___”	46 Remove a label from
40 One of five on a starfish	85 Anagram of the letters O-N-D	DOWN	47 One runs through the middle of Kansas City
42 Set of clubs in a bag	86 This does not fly	1 Harry or Bess in the White House	49 Like Norton software
44 These could amount to fortunes	87 Vingt-___ (multiple de trois)	2 What many Oscar speeches do	51 Raise again, as a flag
48 Dead follower	89 Where to find groomers	3 Ape	52 Vehicle used for grooming ski trails
50 Where to find groomers	92 Dead follower	4 Home star of Cthulhu, in fantasy tales	55 Small songbird
53 Vingt-___ (multiple de trois)	94 These could amount to fortunes	5 1975 TV debut, briefly	57 Very busy
54 This does not fly	98 Set of clubs in a bag	6 Like a more-than-full spoonful	59 Florida State athlete, for short
56 Anagram of the letters O-N-D		7 Barrels ___	60 Walks in rain boots, say
		8 Grim sort?	61 En ___ (chess maneuver)

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

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		14	15	16	17	18
19				20		21									22				
23						24									25				
26					27		28				29			30			31		
32				33		34					35			36		37			
38					39				40	41			42	43					
	44		45	46				47		48		49		50			51	52	
				53				54	55			56	57			58		59	
	60	61				62						63		64		65			
	66					67						68				69			
70					71					72					73	74			
75					76					77					78				
79			80		81					82					83				
84						85				86			87	88					
	89				90	91			92	93			94	95			96	97	
				98				99		100		101		102			103	104	
105	106	107					108	109			110	111			112		113		
114				115		116				117				118		119			
120			121		122			123					124		125				
126					127										128				
129					130											131			

62 Tried	87 Month after Av	97 Like Joan of Arc	109 “___ saw a little bird ...” (Mother Goose rhyme)
64 “What’s this?!”	88 Chemo target	99 Gone bad, in Britain	111 ___ Rica
67 Feared	90 City that, despite its name, is smaller than Little Rock	101 “Liliom” playwright Ferenc ___	112 Plains dwelling: Var.
70 Blacksmith’s tool	91 Sole	104 Bets	116 The year 1601
71 Nav. rank	93 Prattle	105 Something that stuns	117 Sherlock Holmes accessory
72 Ending with syn- or ant-	95 Like hand-me- downs	106 Marketplace of old	119 Like dungeons
73 Longest bone in the human body	96 19,101-foot volcano next to Peru’s second-largest city	107 Common strip-steak weight: Abbr.	121 Tokyo, once
74 Thrown with force			123 ___-Tiki
80 Eats (at)			124 D.C. player
82 Lewd look			

New Year's Celebration at Princess Royale!

Palmetto Ballroom Gourmet Dinner Party

5 Course Dinner including 6 Hour Open Bar

"Perfect Pair" Filet Mignon & Crab Cake

Assortment of Hot & Cold Hors d'oeuvre • Shrimp Cocktail

Savory & Sweet Salad • Princess Potatoes • Chef's Vegetable Medley

Classic R&B/Motown Band "Comfort Zone".

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Excludes taxes, & service charges



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3 Course Dinner Served 5-9pm

Drink Specials All Night

Light Fare Menu After 9pm

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per person
Excludes taxes & service charges

Limited Number
of Suites Available
w/out the Party
Some Restrictions Apply



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princessroyale.com

Calendar

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

THU, DEC. 22

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS
Delmarva Discovery Center and Museum, 2 Market St., Pocomoke City, MD, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Children can spend the day at the Discovery Center while parents are away. Participants will learn all about river otters and many other animals; make crafts such as sea glass ornaments or survival bracelets and many more one of a kind gifts; watch a holiday movie; and make new friends. Fees are as follows: Half-day (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.) \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Full-day (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.), \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. Bring a packed lunch. Event requires pre-payment: 410-957-9933 or stacey@DelmarvaDiscoveryCenter.org.

PLAY TIME
Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., Snow Hill, MD, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Children, infant to 5 years old, will read, sing, talk, write and play with educational toys. 410-632-3495, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

COASTAL HOSPICE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, Ocean Pines, MD, 11 a.m. The group meets every Thursday. Free and open to anyone who has lost a loved one, not just Coastal Hospice families. 410-251-8163

BEACH SINGLES
Harpoon Hanna’s, 39064 Harpoon Road, Fenwick Island, DE, 4 to 7 p.m. Every Thursday, Beach Singles 45-Plus meets for happy hour. Arlene or Kate, 302-436-9577 or 410-524-0649

BINGO
American Legion Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, MD, 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., games start at 6:30 p.m. Food and non-alcoholic drinks available at 5:15 p.m. Open to the public. 410-289-3166, <http://www.alpost166.org>

SAT, DEC. 24

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

HORSE & CARRIAGE RIDES WITH SANTA
Boardwalk Inlet area, 809 S Atlantic Ave, Ocean City, MD, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Take a ride with Santa in his big red sleigh on the Boardwalk! Rides available 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, December 3 & 4, 10 & 11, 17 & 18 and 24. Cost is \$10 per person. Kids 3

years and under ride free. Randy Davis, 443-783-1409

19TH ANNUAL NOEL COMMUNITY MEAL
St. Paul’s by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, 302 North Baltimore Ave., Ocean City,, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For anyone who is homeless, unemployed, underemployed, shut-in or needs a friend. Free, hot breakfast meal including bacon, sausage, eggs, biscuits and gravy, donuts and coffee. The church hall will be decorated and set up for guests to sit down, eat and enjoy live entertainment. Guests will be provided with a cloth bag filled with food to have for Christmas Day including: sliced ham, potatoes, macaroni and cheese, green beans, rolls and corn that can be prepared at home or two sub sandwiches with chips and fruit. Guests will also be able to select desserts. 410-289-3453

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP
Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, West Ocean City, MD, 7 p.m. Includes a children’s nativity pageant, Christmas carols, Holy Communion and candle-lighting. Rev. Connie Paulson, wesconnie55@gmail.com, 410-641-5195

SUN, DEC. 25

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 2, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, MD, 12 to 1 p.m. Group shares experience, strength and hope to help others. Open to the community and to AGH patients. Rob, 443-783-3529

MON, DEC. 26

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

DELMARVA SWEET ADELINE CHORUS
Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD, 7 to 9 p.m. The group meets each Monday. Women interested in learning the craft of a cappella singing welcome. 410-641-6876

TUE, DEC. 27

YOUNG & RESTLESS ‘REINDEER GAMES’
Berlin library, 220 N. Main St., Berlin, MD, 10:30 a.m. Holiday art and games for ages 3 to 7 years. 410-641-0650, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY MEETING
Worcester County Health Center, 9730

Healthway Drive, Berlin, MD, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Berlin group 331. TOPS is a support and educational group promoting weight loss and healthy lifestyle. It meets weekly. jeanduck47@gmail.com

BINGO
Pocomoke Elks Lodge 1624, 1944 Worcester Highway, Pocomoke City, MD, 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m., early bingo at 7 p.m. and regular games start at 7:30 p.m. Food and non-alcoholic drinks available. Open to the public. 410-957-3556

WED, DEC. 28

SAVE AYRES CREEK PUBLIC MEETING
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, Ocean Pines, MD, 6:30 p.m. Show support in preserving Ayres Creek and sparing it from environmental destruction by developers proposing to build a campground upon its shoreline. If unable to attend, show support by emailing Donald Bounds at luv2fish3@verizon.net.

KIWANIS CLUB OF GREATER OCEAN PINES/OCEAN CITY
Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD, 8 a.m. Meets every Wednesday. Doors open at 7 a.m., meeting begins at 8 a.m. 410-641-7330, <http://www.kiwanisofopoc.org>

JUNIOR LIFEGUARD PROGRAM
Sports Core Pool, 11143 Cathell Road, Ocean Pines, MD, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Children, ages 7 and older, will learn lifeguarding skills, play games, visit the local fire department and enjoy a pizza lunch. Cost is \$75 and includes a T-shirt, whistle, first-aid kit, lunch, snacks and drinks. Register: Ocean Pines Aquatics Department, 410-641-5255. <http://www.OceanPines.org>

DELMARVA HAND DANCE CLUB
Elks Lodge, 13708 Sinepuxent Ave., Ocean City, MD, 5:30 to 9 p.m. Jitterbug, swing, cha-cha to the sounds of the ‘50s, ‘60s and Carolina Beach music. Meets every Wednesday. dance@delmarvahanddancing.com, 302-200-3262, <http://delmarvahanddancing.com>

OCEAN CITY/BERLIN ROTARY CLUB MEETING
Captain’s Table Restaurant in the Courtyard by Marriott, 2 15th St, Ocean City, MD, 6 p.m. The group meets every Wednesday. cliff0917@aol.com, 410-641-1700

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP
Atlantic General Hospital, conference room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, MD, 7 to 8 p.m. The group gathers the fourth Wednesday of each month. Pre-registration is not necessary. Pastoral Care Services, gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org, 410-641-9725

THU, DEC. 29

COASTAL HOSPICE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP
Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, Ocean Pines, MD, 11 a.m. The group meets every Thursday. Free and open to anyone who has lost a loved one, not just Coastal Hospice families. 410-251-8163

BEACH SINGLES
Harpoon Hanna’s, 39064 Harpoon Road, Fenwick Island, DE, 4 to 7 p.m. Every Thursday, Beach Singles 45-Plus meets for happy hour. Arlene or Kate, 302-436-9577 or 410-524-0649

BINGO
American Legion Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, MD, 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., games start at 6:30 p.m. Food and non-alcoholic drinks available at 5:15 p.m. Open to the public. 410-289-3166, <http://www.alpost166.org>

SAT, DEC. 31

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

NEW YEAR’S EVE FIREWORKS AND WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS
Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, MD, 5:30 p.m. The fireworks display, which will begin promptly at midnight, will be accompanied by live entertainment, hot chocolate and the opportunity to ride through the Winterfest of Lights. Hours for the Winterfest of Lights will be extended until midnight. 800-626-2326 or 410-250-0125

SUN, JAN. 1

MAYOR’S NEW YEAR’S DAY CONCERT
OC Performing Arts Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, 1 to 3 p.m. Featuring a meet and greet with the Mayor, City Council and representatives from several community organizations from 1-1:30 p.m. The Delmarva Big Band and Bryan Russo’s Bargain Scotch will perform a free concert beginning at 1:45 p.m. Doors open to the Performing Arts Center at 1:30 p.m. Light refreshments provided. Jessica Waters, 410-289-8967

PENGUIN SWIM
Princess Royale Hotel, 9100 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City, MD, 11:30 a.m. Annual dip into the Atlantic Ocean benefits Atlantic General Hospital. Registration and check-in begins at 11:30 a.m. with a 1 p.m. swim. Pre-registration and advance

Calendar

check-in from 2-4 p.m. on New Year's Eve. There will be carnival games and other fanfare in the hotel's atrium. Special recognition for best costume and oldest and youngest penguins, plus first, second and third place trophies awarded to top fundraising individuals and teams. Same-day registration is available at no extra charge. penguinswim@atlanticgeneral.org, 410-641-9671, <http://www.agh-penguinswim.org>

MON, JAN. 2

DELMARVA SWEET ADELINE CHORUS
Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD, 7 to 9 p.m. The group meets each Monday. Women interested in learning the craft of a cappella singing welcome. 410-641-6876

TUE, JAN. 3

SNOW HILL ROTARY CLUB MEETING
All Hallows Church Parish House, 109 W. Market Street, Snow Hill, MD, 7:30 a.m. Contact agibb1@verizon.net or 410-546-1978 for more information.

STORY TIME
Berlin library, 220 N. Main St. Berlin, MD, 10:30 a.m. For 2 to 5 year old children. 410-641-0650, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

YOUNG AND RESTLESS 'PAINTING FUN'
Pocomoke library, 301 Market St., Pocomoke City, MD, 10:30 a.m. For 3 to 7 year old children. 410-957-0878, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

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

BINGO
Pocomoke Elks Lodge 1624, 1944 Worcester Highway, Pocomoke City, MD, 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m., early bingo at 7 p.m. and regular games start at 7:30 p.m. Food and non-alcoholic drinks available. Open to the public. 410-957-3556

WED, JAN. 4

YOUNG AND RESTLESS 'PAINTING FUN'
Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, 10:30 a.m. For 3 to 7 year old children. 410-524-1818, <http://www.worcesterlibrary.org>

GRACE PARKER ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST
First Presbyterian Church, 1301 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, md, 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. Eggs any style, pancakes, buckwheat pancakes, sausage, country ham, homemade biscuits, hash brown potatoes, grits, coffee and tea. Cost is \$8 to eat in or \$6 to carry out. Milk, soda and orange juice available.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

STOCKING STUFFERS

Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School recently collected personal care and food items for the Seton Center, a multi-purpose neighborhood community center located in Princess Anne. Services available at Seton Center include a Brown Bag food cooperative club and an emergency food pantry; health advocacy, thrift shop, women's support groups, financial assistance for basic living expenses during crisis, information and referral services, case management and behavioral health counseling. Items were delivered by the MBS Student Council on Nov. 17. For Christmas, the Seton Center set up a "Santa's Workshop" where they have presents and stockings for needy children and families. MBS student council assisted with stuffing some of the stockings.

410-289-9340

KIWANIS CLUB OF GREATER OCEAN PINES/OCEAN CITY
Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD, 8 a.m. Meets every Wednesday. Doors open at 7 a.m., meeting begins at 8 a.m. 410-641-7330, <http://www.kiwanisofopoc.org>

DELMARVA HAND DANCE CLUB
Elks Lodge, 13708 Sinepuxent Ave., Ocean City, MD, 5:30 to 9 p.m. Jitterbug, swing, cha-cha to the sounds of the '50s, '60s and Carolina Beach music. Meets every Wednesday. dance@delmarvahanddancing.com, 302-200-3262, <http://delmarvahanddancing.com>

OCEAN CITY/BERLIN ROTARY CLUB MEETING
Captain's Table Restaurant in the Courtyard by Marriott, 2 15th St, Ocean City, MD, 6 p.m. The group meets every Wednesday. cliff0917@aol.com, 410-641-1700

ONGOING EVENTS

THE AVENUE OF TREES
Along Baltimore Avenue from 15th Street to 33rd Street, through Jan. 1, 2017. Info: 410-250-0125.

WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS
Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, through Jan. 1, 2017. Board the Winterfest Express and tour hundreds of animated, lighted displays. The heated, Winterfest Village pavillion features hot chocolate, Yukon Cornelius' gift shop and photos with Santa. Admission is \$5 or adults and free to children 11 and younger. Hours are Sunday through Thursday, 5:30-9:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 5:30-10:30 p.m.



DAN COLLINS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

FLAG RETIREMENT

Boy Scout Troop 261 and Cub Scout Pack 261 conducted their annual Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines on Nov. 18. Scout Master Ken Nichols and Cub Master Nick Busko led the opening ceremony and then proceeded to manage the burning of all flags with the respect that they deserved. The Ocean Pines Public Works Department dug the fire pit and the OP Volunteer Fire Company set the fire and maintained safety vigilance. Hundreds of worn and tattered flags were submitted for proper disposal. The vast majority were the stars and stripes ensigns. Georgia Boyle, left, and Tracy Solano were part of the team that folded the flags.

Info: 800-626-2326 or 410-250-0125.

FALL AND WINTER BUS TRIPS
On Jan. 7, The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. presents "Wicked." The bus will depart Ocean Pines at 8:30 a.m. to arrive in time for the 1:30 p.m. performance. Cost is \$120, which includes show and transportation. Open to the public. Reservations required: Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department, 410-641-7052.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH
RCIA is a process for individuals, adults and children 8 years and older, who are seeking Baptism. Also for those already

baptized in another Christian tradition who want to come into the Catholic Church. Call Rita at 410-289-7038 or come to a session held on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. in the Father Connell Parish Center, 1705 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, MD. All are welcome.

RAVENS ROOST 58 MEETS MONTHLY
28th St. Pit & Pub, 2706 Philadelphia Ave, Ocean City, MD, the first Tuesday of each month and for the Sunday NFL games to raise money for local families in need. Ravens Roost 58 is seeking new members and new officers. Dues are \$20 per year. Stop by the restaurant if interested.

CALL
410-723-6397
BY MONDAY
5 P.M.

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MARKETPLACE

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Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DAR INSTALLS LIBRARIAN

Jennifer McCabe was recently installed as librarian for the General Levin Winder Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) by Chaplain Ann Fowler. Her position assists efforts to maintain the DAR's world-class genealogy library in Washington, D.C. The DAR is a women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history and securing America's future through better education. Pictured, from left, is General Levin Winder Chapter Regent Patricia Ayers, McCabe and Fowler.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

HOLIDAY ARTS NIGHT

Welcoming guests to the Worcester County Arts Council's Gallery during Berlin Holiday Arts Night, Nov. 25, from left, are board members Dorothy Shelton, Nancy Howard and Sharon Sorrentino, and Executive Director Anna Mullis.



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

KIWANIS SHOW SUPPORT

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City has long been a supporter of Worcester G.O.L.D. (Giving Other Lives Dignity), collecting donations from club members during the weekly meetings. As a result, the club is able to earmark two \$600 donations to Worcester G.O.L.D. annually. The donations are used in line with the Kiwanis International Program Priority One which supports children from pre-natal to age 5. Worcester G.O.L.D. has a pantry that serves this purpose. Pictured, from left, are Kiwanis Club President Barbara Peletier, Worcester G.O.L.D. board member Dr. Aaron Dale and the club's Young Children: Priority One Program Chair Jim Spicknall during a recent check presentation.



CHESS CHAMPION

Worcester Prep seventh grader Pranay Sanwal won first place in the K-8th grade category U1000 and took home a second-place team trophy with his WPS Chess Club during the 2016 Delaware National Chess Day Scholastic tournament on Oct. 8. The event, sponsored by the Delaware Chess Association, was held in Wilmington, Delaware. Pranay is the son of Drs. Pankaj and Vibha Sanwal of Lewes, Delaware.

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