



MARCH 26, 2020

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FREE



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

RUNNING ON EMPTY

Although currently exempted in coronavirus-related statewide closures, the Ocean Pines Farmers and Artisans Market attracted a smattering of patrons under overcast skies in White Horse Park on Saturday.

Pines police call response tactics altered

Need to protect officers and residents recognized

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 26, 2020)

Looking to employ common sense safety precautions in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ocean Pines Police Department has temporarily expanded its telephone reporting system to limit non-vital responses.

Police Chief Dave Massey said the virus-related directive asks residents to call in reports, but an officer response would be still be provided if requested by a victim.

"Certainly, any in-progress crime, or any serious crime we'll immediately respond to," he said. "They'll be no change whatsoever there."

The telephone reporting would in-
See POLICE Page 2



Dave Massey

Board holds 'virtual' session

OP directors consider options as pandemic changes everything

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 26, 2020) With gatherings to be avoided during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors held a special "virtual" meeting on Friday to evaluate assessment fee collections, while also approving several capital purchases.

OPA President Doug Parks, speaking to a room restricted to board members and staff, said further work

remains to permit real time public comments.

"This is our first foray into a virtual meeting environment," he said. "It's still in its testing stages right now."

While the board did read and address two emailed questions from community members, Parks said refinements to that approach would be sought for the next scheduled meeting on April 1.

"We're looking at ways of being creative with regard to making sure that, going forward, whatever virtual meeting that we hold that we will be able to have public comments and have the audience interact," he said.

Parks also noted meetings would be live-streamed on the OPA Facebook page, with comments monitored and addressed during the public portion.

Shifting gears, Parks said the OPA Yacht Club, and a number of local eateries, have shifted to delivery or carryout service due to virus-related business restrictions.

"Whatever we can do to patronize our local restaurants, if you have the opportunity to do so, I ask that you do that," he said.

During the public comment portion, Parks re-
See BOARD Page 4

Mayor's weekly report says no tax increase

(March 26, 2020) *Berlin Mayor Gee Williams issued a statement on Monday with updates regarding COVID-19 (coronavirus) and the town.*

To the citizens and guests of Berlin:

This is the second public statement issued by the Town of Berlin regarding the evolving situation as a result of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) epidemic.

I anticipate that there will be at a minimum, weekly public statements from the Town of Berlin in the immediately foreseeable future.

Effective, Monday, March 23, the Town of Berlin is closing our public parks (Henry Park, Heron Park and Stephen Decatur Park). Berlin Police will continue to patrol our town parks and public places to reinforce this ban during the current health emergency.

We continue to be in regular contact with the Worcester County Health Department and the Maryland Department of Health to seek their advice and guidance.

I feel fortunate that we are in the State of Maryland
See BERLIN Page 4



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Ocean Pines closes parks and facilities

(March 26, 2020) Due to COVID-19 concerns, all Ocean Pines Association (OPA) outdoor amenities are closed until further notice, including parks, playgrounds and tot lots. These will not be cleaned or disinfected for COVID-19.

OPA recommends that everyone strictly follow the guidance from the CDC, the surgeon general and the Maryland Department of Health for social distancing, avoiding gathering in groups greater than 10, proper hand washing, and avoiding touching surfaces in public areas, including playground equipment and benches. Association officials apologized for the inconvenience and thanked the public for understanding.

Drive-thru food pantries in Worcester County available

(March 26, 2020) Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services in Berlin has partnered with Stevenson United Methodist Church's Spirit Kitchen in Berlin and the Samaritan Shelter in Pocomoke.

Through this partnership, two food drops have been coordinated through the Maryland Food Bank in the northern and southern end of Worcester County. The Town of Berlin, Pocomoke Middle School, Worcester Goes Purple, and Hope4Recovery are additional volunteers with this initiative.

There are no eligibility criteria to be able to collect food. The people who will benefit the most from this community effort are families that face food insecurity and the elderly.

The first food drop, scheduled for Thursday, March 26, will be located at 103 Flower St in Berlin at the Head

Start parking lot from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The second food drop has a scheduled date of Friday, March 27 from 3-5 p.m. and will take place at the Pocomoke Middle School.

To be consistent with the social distancing recommendation of maintaining a six-foot distance from one another, these food drops will be drive-thru. For those without a car, there will still be a requirement of maintaining at least a six-foot distance from volunteers or anyone collecting food.

Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services, Inc. is a nonprofit organization located in Berlin, that has been serving the community since 1975. For more information about the organization's youth programs, CASA, community resources, or counseling services, call the office at 410-641-4598, or visit www.gowoyo.org.

Food deliveries provide comfort for residents of Ocean Pines during virus

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 26, 2020) Numerous dining establishments in Ocean Pines have shifted to delivery only in an attempt to maintain a degree of normalcy for community members.

The Pine Public House on Nicholas Lane is offering home deliveries but with slightly tweaked hours.

General Manager Erin Meyers said those could be adjusted further depending on the circumstances.

"We're looking at staying open to 8," she said.

Matt Ortt Companies Managing Partner Ralph DeAngelus said the Ocean Pines Yacht Club shipped out hot meals last week from Wednesday through Sunday.

The undertaking has been handled by nearly a dozen management team members, who took orders, prepared food and brought nourishment to local doorsteps.

"I myself delivered about 30 meals to homes," he said.

See HOMESTYLE Page 3

Police will respond quickly to serious crimes

Continued from Page 1

volve minor property crimes or incidents lacking a suspect.

"Normally, in those cases you do a cursory investigation, but if there's no suspect and no witnesses, it's very difficult to clear that kind of crime," he said.

Minimizing officers' in-person visits for minor offenses typically handled by the OP Police is part of a larger safety protocol.

"It just means we will expose our first-line responders to less danger of possible infection from coronavirus," he said. "Keeping our first responders healthy should be our number one priority and that's what we're doing."

Massey said the shift in fielding crime reports is standard operating procedure in many jurisdictions.

"We're more of a full-service police department normally, but these are abnormal times," he said. "During abnormal times you have to make adjustments."

The revised approach will provide supervisors greater flexibility on what does or doesn't warrant an officer response.

In some instances residents are required to file a police report due to insurance company requirements for claims processing.

"In those kind of cases, it really behooves us to channel our response to a

more telephonic level," he said.

Massey said none of the operation alterations are occurring in a vacuum.

"We certainly monitor our state and local government," he said.

The changes are in accord with guidelines issued by the Maryland State Police.

"We were already thinking about doing that anyway, so we're basically mirroring some of the other response from police agencies and kind of putting an Ocean Pines bend on it," he said.

In contrast to larger metropolitan police forces, the Ocean Pines Police operate a community department, Massey said.

"We handle all types of calls from the highest level to the lowest level," he said. "We always respond, so this is a change for us, and it's only a temporary change."

After community response to the pandemic began in earnest last week, Massey said road traffic congestion lightened appreciably.

"The first impact is there's much less traffic on the road," he said. "I think most people are staying home and only going out when they need to."

Other initial indicators were more troubling, specifically an apparent push by some to stock up supplies beyond the point of reasonable need.

"It kind of worries me that people are buying more than they really need because that makes it less for everybody else," he said.

Massey said grocery store chains are open, with food manufacturers likely to ramp up production in response to market demand.

"This is a trying time for people and there's a lot of worry," he said. "It's an unknown territory but we're going to sail through it."

Massey said many citizens were unaware the novel coronavirus would become a pandemic and as that reality becomes clearer, reactionary behaviors will decline.

"What we'll see is people will adjust to it," he said. "The initial fright, after a while when we come to grips with it, rationality will prevail."

The one thing that won't change, Massey said, is the department's mission.

"We're going to be there for them ... that's an absolute," he said. "Whenever you need the police, we will be there regardless of all the circumstances."

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Board weighs assessment payment flexibility

Continued from Page 1
sponded to one resident who asked about pending assessment dues for those suddenly unemployed due to mandated business closures.

“That’s the whole reason we are meeting today to look at potential options with regards to the assessment and the impact it has on folks in our community,” he said.

Board Secretary Dr. Colette Horn said the decision was made during the group’s previous meeting to record public comments, including a name, address and topic of interest.

“That’s a change in protocol which, I think, increases our transparency,” she said.

Parks said the approach is a return to past practice.

“We had done that in past and got away from it for various reasons,” he said.

The board unanimously approved two capital purchase requests, including a pair of replacement drainage pipes for 173 Teal Circle and 80 Teal Circle.

General Manager John Viola said finding a contractor to address both locations has been challenging.

“It was not an easy task to get a contractor who was available to do the work,” he said. “Everybody is busy [and] they don’t have the free time.”

Fixing a broken pipe at the first location was remedied after Berlin-based Goody Hill Sand and Gravel began work in the Borderlinks region.

“Now that they are on Ocean Pines soil, they have given us a bid at 173 [Teal Circle] for \$16,650,” he said.

In the same light, Goody Hill also submitted a bid of \$18,975 to replace a failed drainage pipe at 80 Teal Circle.

“I can’t get bids from the other ones or they’re going to be consistent with this,” he said. “We did do the work on this and that would be the lowest bid.”

The third capital purchase request for a generator for the expanded police and administration building, at a

cost of \$42,500, was approved by a 6-1 vote with Director Tom Janasek opposed.

Parks said the additional expense would be to replace the generator currently in use at the police station in conjunction with the new construction underway.

“Why wasn’t the generator included in the price for the police building in the first place?” Janasek said.

Viola said the current generator was previously believed to be worthwhile retaining.

Janasek questioned an apparent \$11,000 pricing discrepancy, with initial bid requests for generator prices later increased to include installation.

“I have no idea what their charge is for installation,” he said.

Janasek said the generator is sold online for roughly \$30,000.

While acknowledging Janasek’s pricing was correct, Viola said the seemingly higher cost from Tri-County Electric includes other assurances.

“The main thing is this, you have an electrician in there who’s doing

the work,” he said. “It’s warrantied [and] it’s guaranteed.”

Horn asked what relative value could be associated with the work being warrantied.

Viola said the project general contractor, Whayland, has to guarantee any aspects of the its work and any performed by subcontractors.

“In order for Whayland to warranty and guarantee that work in their piece, I can’t just bring in somebody. I can, but then they’re not going to guarantee it,” he said.

Director Larry Perrone said product liability issues could arise if the association bought the generator directly.

“It gives us the opportunity should something go wrong to go back to Whayland, who we know has insurance,” he said. “We assume Tri County has it, and if they don’t, Whayland is responsible.”

The board then voted to enter closed session to discuss potential adjustments to assessment collections in reaction to the current pandemic.

Parks issued a statement following the closed session to evaluate payment options for members concerned

regarding lost incomes.

“Options regarding pushing back the due date, establishing payment plans and other possibilities are currently being evaluated,” Parks said. “While these approaches seem simple in concept, we do need to consider the effect any option has on our ability to meet existing financial obligations both in the short and long term.”

Parks said in addition to meeting membership needs, OPA employees, services and amenities also must be considered.

Since the association still needs to maintain operations, although not at full steam, members who have the ability to pay assessments on time are requested to do so.

“This approach will lessen the burden on determining an alternate funding source during these times,” he said. “Paying on time also allows additional options to be considered to help our neighbors who are more severely impacted by the pandemic.”

The board plans to unveil more concrete plans regarding assessment collections during its next regularly scheduled meeting on April 1.

Berlin will go to live video, audio

Continued from Page 1
where state government is proactively responding to this health care crisis. They have and continue to provide thoughtful, credible actions and communications to Maryland communities and citizens.

Berlin supports Gov. Larry Hogan’s request for all Marylanders to, “stay in your home, unless you have an essential reason to leave your house.”

This is especially important if you are in one of the higher-risk groups for COVID-19: are over age 60, have diabetes, heart disease or lung disease.

The Town of Berlin has cancelled all public events in April 2020. We

will be announcing a decision in a couple of weeks as to whether the town will cancel any or all public events in Berlin planned for May.

Also, one week from now the Town of Berlin will announce the rescheduling of previously cancelled municipal public meetings.

They will be held in electronic video/audio live format so citizens can follow from home. But citizens will not be able to attend these public meetings in person in accordance with the state’s order to not gather in groups of 10 persons or more.

As mayor, I have decided that when the town’s Fiscal Year 2021 budget process resumes in April, I will not be recommending any prop-

erty tax increase in our new municipal budget. I will propose holding the tax rate to 80 cents per \$100 of assessed value, which is the current rate.

As this crisis unfolds it gives us time for reflection, and once again we should be grateful to live in a rural community with a significantly less dense population than suburban and urban areas.

This does not mean any of us are immune to the coronavirus, but with reasoned, informed actions and consideration for our family and others, we all can minimize the spread and impact of this disease in our area.

The Town of Berlin will distribute this public notice and other such notifications to all local media, and post with other helpful information to the following: berlinmd.gov/news/; Berlin Facebook page; Berlin’s Public Access Channel and will continue to display notices outside of Town Hall.

This unprecedented health emergency will certainly test not only our patience, but the very character of our community both as individuals and as the extended family of Berlin.

Mayor Wm. Gee Williams, III
Town of Berlin

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Stay in touch with elderly relatives

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(March 26, 2020) With the country practicing social distancing and trying to block the spread of the novel coronavirus by staying indoors and away from people, it can be easy to forget one of the most vulnerable populations: the elderly.

As COVID-19 is considered the most threatening for people ages 65 and older, family and friends may have been staying away from their elderly relatives and acquaintances, especially those in nursing homes and other special care facilities.

“I would say I think some of the other settings have it a little harder than we do,” CEO of Coastal Hospice Alane Capen said. “Nursing homes, for example, because all of the guidance that’s been coming out, talking about restricting visitors, they pretty much all say [the same thing] except in end-of-life situations.

“It is impacting our patients to an extent at our Coastal Hospice at the Lake inpatient unit and our hospice patients who are in the nursing facilities, but they are allowed one visitor at a time,” she continued.

Capen and her team have designed a rack card that tells both patients and family members to check if they have left the country within 14 days, show



Alane Capen

any signs or symptoms of the coronavirus (fever, cough, sore throat) or come in contact with someone who potentially has the virus.

“We are giving these [cards] to our family members so that they can ask their own visitors,” Capen said. “We are asking them to talk with the patients and think about who is most important to visit right now.”

End of life care does make some exceptions to the rule, Capen said, but there are still some restrictions being put into place. In Coastal Hospice’s case, for instance, all family members must be thoroughly screened before they can enter the facilities. Even then, the number is limited.

Visitors to the Stansell House in Ocean Pines have been limited to three people per visit for any one patient. Others may have to wait in their cars for their turns while another family visits with their loved ones. For Coastal Hospice by the Lake in Salisbury, that number is limited to one visitor per patient.

“We’ve had some of our patients at the Stansell House, for example, who’ve written a list, saying, ‘These are the five people that I really want to be able to see in the next couple of weeks,’” she

said. “If it’s not one of them, we’re turning them away.”

“This is just to help limit the flow of people coming into the Stansell House or somebody’s own home,” Capen continued. “We don’t want to stop visitors ... it’s very important at the end of life that people have the people around them that they love.”

Coastal Hospice is treating 230 people between their two facilities and the surrounding nursing homes at this time.

“We are still providing care,” she said. “We have some volunteers who are still working. Some volunteers have chosen not to because some of them are elderly themselves and are concerned. But our volunteers are following the guidelines on hand-washing and cleaning surfaces and they’ll make sure they’re keeping themselves safe.”

Capen has seen several creative methods for family members to stay in contact with their loved ones in hospice care, such as window visits, where the patient and family members are separated by a window but can still see and hear one another.

“One of our own staff did that for her mother actually, and brought the kids, grandkids and the daughter sat outside and arranged with the nursing home to have the patient get ice cream,” Capen

See SEND Page 6

Donations sought as Md. Food Bank maintains mission

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 26, 2020) The Maryland Food Bank of the Eastern Shore is seeking financial support and volunteers to maintain distribution services from Kent County to Worcester County in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

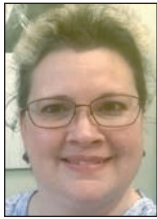
Eastern Shore Food Bank Director of Regional Services Jennifer Small said

providing food for people on the Eastern Shore has become challenging due to a recent decline in donations.


“We’re raising money because we’re having to purchase more and more food with food donations dwindling,” she said. “We are also bringing down emergency products so we can work with other entities.”

Small said the Maryland Food Bank is coordinating with local emergency service departments, management boards and county government offices to address needs stemming from the public health crisis.

The Eastern Shore region includes
See MD Page 6



Jennifer Small



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Berlin businesses come together during virus

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer
(March 26, 2020) With all but businesses and services classified as essential closed, residents and groups in small towns like Berlin are doing what

Scavenger hunt clarification

To clarify a recent article written about a Berlin Scavenger Hunt as a result of concerns about the activity violating the recent rules announced by Gov. Larry Hogan last Thursday stating there should not be any groups gathering larger than 10 people: This local scavenger hunt was never meant to be done in large groups and was supposed to be a small family activity, according to Berlin Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells.

The scavenger hunt was meant to help alleviate boredom or cabin fever and give families an opportunity to explore Berlin individually and get some fresh air.

As the article hit the newsstands at the same time as Hogan's announcement, the timing was unfortunate, which led to several comments regarding the actions of Wells and the town.

When Wells came up with the idea after hearing about it from another resident of the town, it had been immediately after schools were closed for two weeks.

Once again, the activity was never meant to be done in large groups and could be conducted as each family pleased; there were no time restraints and could be done at the parents' discretion.

We apologize for any confusion caused by this article.

they can to help. Kathryn Gordon, director for Worcester County Economic Development, praised the Berlin Chamber of Commerce for its connection with the local businesses.

"The town of Berlin has an incredible support system with the Berlin Chamber of Commerce as well as Berlin Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells," Gordon said.

This could be said for the entire county, she added.

"I have seen an incredible response from not only the county and towns, but the community as a whole," Gordon said. "Residents of Worcester County have stepped up to the plate in promoting our small businesses through social media platforms.

For many businesses such as On What Grounds? coffee shop has had to survive on carryout and delivery services. However, some residents have offered to do more to help the local



Kathryn Gordon

coffee shop. "We've had a few people come in and get gift cards," owner Dana Gottloebe said. "We had a local insurance fellow who came in and bought \$100 worth of gift cards to pass out, which we've been handing out to folks to use the next time they come in.

"I feel like 90-95 percent of the people who come in have been locals just wanting to try to help and support, plus take care of their normal habits," Gottloebe said.

Main Street Deli on South Main Street, meanwhile, has been offering supplies for others.

"We're going to start carrying milk and eggs here ... the food stores don't have it so that will help [the residents,]" owner David Koontz said. "We've also been providing carryout to Atlantic General Hospital and doctors'

offices to keep them from coming into the town."

For others like Victorian Charm, there has been a greater reliance on the Berlin Chamber of Commerce and customers.

"It's a little harder since retail is not technically considered a central store," store manager Melissa Stover said. "I would just say thank you to my customers that have still come in and tried to help out by buying birthday presents and things for their kids to do while they're stuck at home."

Just a little outside of Berlin, on 11206 Worcester Hwy, Windmill Creek Winery has decided to offer parcels of land for the public to use to grow fruits and vegetables for free.

"My grandparents, Ed and Gertrude Mariner, they definitely knew what to do during the Great Depression because they had the farm area," Barry Mariner said.

In the beginning, Mariner did not
See COMMUNITY Page 8

Md. Food Bank seeks volunteers

Continued from Page 5
every county east of the Chesapeake Bay bridge except Cecil County on the peninsula's northern end, because it's part of another Food Bank program.

"Our central hub for the Eastern Shore region is in Salisbury," she said. "We are taking donations of products to sort and get back into our inventory system so that our partners can actually order online.

"For the Maryland Food Bank, every dollar that is donated helps us to provide three meals," she said. "We're able to leverage that financial contribution to do a lot more."

Besides money, the Food Bank is also seeking volunteers.

"A lot of our volunteer base is seniors [and] a lot of them are special needs," she said. "With all of the closings and restrictions for the state, we have lost that."

Small's goal is to get enough help at

the Food Banks central distribution hub in Salisbury to continue the mission, albeit with proper safety precautions.

"My biggest focus has been how do we get volunteers in here, because the work still has to be done ... and then exercising safety," she said.

Precautionary steps include wearing gloves, breaking groups into less than 10 people and following social distancing guidelines.

"Making sure we have a lull in between to sanitize the work stations," she said. "All of those safety measures that we're also urging our partners to do."

Small said anyone interested in aiding the cause should call 410-742-0050.

"We just want them to call so we can make sure we set everybody up in a safe way," she said. "Our biggest ask is, if they're over 60 they need to stay home, if they're health compromised they need to stay home, and if they live somewhere someone in their family is health compromised they need to stay home."

The Food Bank is also launching a "Back Up Box" campaign for area

households in need.

"We're trying to build these emergency backup boxes, kind of as a last resort so that if we do run into any issues, we do have these backup boxes," she said. "It's a 30-pound box that will actually provide about a week's worth of food for a family of four."

The boxes are filled with staples such as pasta, peanut butter and canned goods, and the Food Bank hopes to assemble and distribute 36,000 of them across the state.

Small also said the Food Bank would continue providing food for school pantries.

"It is amazing the community spirit, that unfortunately it takes something like this to really see that everybody's really coming together and trying to do whatever they can to make sure our families don't have a lack of access when it comes to food," she said.

To support the "Back Up Box" campaign visit www.mdfoodbank.org/back-upbox and to learn more about volunteering call 410-742-0050.

Send cards and other messages

Continued from Page 5
said. "And they had ice cream, they sat on the grass outside of the window and had an ice cream party with grandma, who was not getting visitors."

Even if visiting is not an option, a phone call, or even better, a postcard, would mean the world to these isolated patients, Capen said.

"[Write them] a card because it lasts and you can put it on your table and look at it and remember that that per-

son's been thinking about you," Capen said. "Phone calls are great, but sometimes something in writing has a lasting effect.

"Hospice is a really hard time and there is a lot of impulse to try to go visit," she continued. "But this is not the time for somebody that hasn't been around for the last month or so to fly into town or to drive a long distance to come into town unless you are immediate family."

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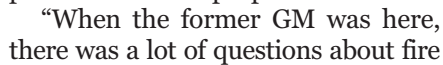


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Construction will continue for new elementary school

"There was no requirement for the height of a shed," he said.



"We're taking out some of the ambiguity where it showed up," he said.

The school is expected to accept over 130 new students once it is open for the 2020-2021 school year in September.

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Snapshots



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HOLIDAY LUNCH

The Pine'er Craft Club held its annual Holiday Luncheon at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club on Dec. 13. The 2020 officers, in front, are Jane Wolnik, treasure; Kim Perrone, vice president; Linda Brindley, recording secretary; Sharon Puser, president; Barb O'Connor, corresponding secretary; and Janet Rembach, shop manager, and in back, Carol Quinto, shop treasurer; Barb Stilwell, assistant shop treasurer; and Ginger McGovern, assistant shop manager.



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

INDUCTED

Francine Heaton, left, was recently inducted into the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City by Membership Chair Lynne McAllorum. Heaton was sponsored by Kiwanian Diane Sparzak.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

CENSUS TALK

The Worcester County NAACP hosted Census spokesperson, James Jones, third from right, during its January meeting. The NAACP meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the North Worcester County Senior Center in Berlin.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

GUEST SPEAKER

Catherine Winkler from Roots Landscaping, left, was the guest speaker at the February meeting of the Ocean Pines Garden Club. She is pictured with Patti Lookner, OPGC president.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

NEW MEMBERS

The Coastal Association of Realtors welcomed 13 new members during an orientation ceremony on Feb. 20. Pictured, in back, from left, are Jennifer Whittington of Long & Foster Real Estate in Salisbury, Jake Spence of Coldwell Banker Residential in Ocean City, Eileen Carl of Shamrock Realty Group in Ocean Pines, George Patterson of Keller Williams Realty of Delmarva in Ocean City, Josh Rose of Pro-Spect Inspection Services, Frederick Doster of Atlantic Shores Realty in Ocean City, and Nathan Leber of Sellers Choice Real Estate in Ocean City, and in front, Katie Landon of Coldwell Banker Residential in Ocean City, Patricia Bounds of ERA Martin Associates in Salisbury, Tina Busko of Long & Foster Real Estate in Ocean City, Lindsay Patten of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices PenFed Realty in Ocean City, Julie Hall of Sellers Choice Real Estate in Ocean City, and Wendy Leber of Sellers Choice Real Estate in Ocean City.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SERVICE PROJECT

Stephen Decatur High School sophomore Jake Gillespie visited the Maryland State House in Annapolis Feb. 7. He was welcomed at both the House of Delegates and Senate Chambers and was escorted on a personal tour of the state's many historical displays and documents. He was the guest of Sen. Mary Beth Carozza and Del. Charles Otto. The visit was part of Gillespie's government service project requirements at Decatur. Pictured, from left, are Sen. Carozza, Gillespie, Berlin Mayor Gee Williams and Del. Otto.

Horn announces OPA Board candidacy for 2020 election

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(March 26, 2020) Counting improved business operations and courteous meeting deliberations among her first-term accomplishments, OPA Director Dr. Colette Horn announced her intentions this week to seek reelection in 2020.

Since winning a board seat in 2017, Horn said the directors have functioned productively to achieve a wealth of goals for association membership and anticipates more progress ahead.

“I’d like to be part of the continuation of this work,” she said.

The motivations for her initial candidacy were slightly different.

“When I ran, the concern at that time was bringing Ocean Pines to the next level of best business practices,” she said. “We had some financial issues [and] we had leadership issues.”

Horn said the shift in board membership over the last three elections, which included Doug Parks in 2017, followed by Frank Daly and Steve Tuttle in 2018, with Tom Janasek, Larry Perrone and Camilla Rogers joining



Dr. Colette Horn

the fold last year, has helped changed the culture and public narrative.

“It’s a really good group of people who don’t necessarily agree on everything, but agree on the mis-

sion,” she said.

The goal when Horn joined the board was improving director interactions and conduct to move the association toward a better approach to handling the association’s business.

“There was a lot of infighting on the board, insults [and] questionable ethical practices,” she said.

Horn, a mental health professional, believed she also would be a stabilizing influence on the board.

“One of the things I wanted to achieve right off the bat was the [Director and Officer] Ethics and Conduct Resolution B-08,” she said.

Although not called into account since being adopted in July 2018, the resolution requires proper meeting decorum and responsible manage-

See HORN Page 12

Jack Orris runs for council, campaign on transparency

By Morgan Pilz
Staff Writer

(March 26, 2020) Berlin election District 2 resident Jack Orris, 38, officially filed to run for a town council seat in February on a platform of government transparency, a slower and more visible approach to annexations, and greater community involvement.

Orris, who works for the Worcester County Health Department, moved to Berlin in 2006 and first ran for council in 2016, only losing by a few votes. His community involvement includes his continuing service as the vice chairman of the Heron Park committee.

“I’m running on pretty much the same ideas as back then (his first candidacy),” Orris said. “We need more transparency with the council and the mayor. When I say more transparency, I mean more [specific] information needs to come out in regards to the [town’s] budget.”

“We establish a tax rate before the budget,” he continued. “I would like to reverse that and work with the mayor and council in looking at areas or opportunities to save first ... establish and/or fund our reserve and capital budget and then present the budget with the corresponding tax rate.”



Jack Orris

“see where you can save first, then set your rate as opposed to setting your rate and trying to achieve it.”

Orris said he believes Berlin is coming into its own in the 21st century, but needs some “tweaks” here and there, as opposed to wholesale changes.

He is also interested in collaborating with the mayor and Town Council to design a budget newsletter to keep the community up to date regarding on budget-development progress.

“It would give a snapshot at the time of where we are in the budget, where the expenditures are going and [show] where are our tax dollars being spent,” Orris said.

He also wants to continue promoting the town’s social media outreach to provide as much information as possible, citing the importance of keeping the residents be informed, especially during an election.

When it comes to slowing down the use of annexation, Orris said he wants the process to be more transparent as well, as many residents may not be fully aware of what’s occurring.

“It’s not that [Berlin’s] going and

See ORRIS Page 13

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Horn seeks OPA Board second term in 2020

Continued from Page 11

ment of association finances.

“It’s a nice guidepost that ... maybe has contributed to settling down the drama, if you will, and the conflict on the board,” she said.

Horn said the more business-like climate now maintained during board meetings has resulted in positive community feedback.

“We are engaging in respectful, civil discourse and airing our differences in a way that respects the diversity of perspective and opinions,” she said.

Horn noted the smoother board operations has led to some association-changing achievements, including inking the Matt Ortt Company to operate food and beverage services at the OPA Yacht Club and Beach Club.

“It was a bit of a risk, I think, on both sides,” she said.

Since finalizing negotiations during her first year on the board, Horn said the partnership with the Ortt Companies has proven profitable and turned around a previously failing financial picture at both amenities.

“We were able to write a contract that supported success going forward,” she said.

Horn said another achievement of note, although still in progress, is the new OPA Golf Course Clubhouse.

“The golf clubhouse was a big issue in my first term,” she said.

With plans wavering between renovating the existing structure and erecting a new building, Horn credited a site analysis for guiding the decision process.

“In my first year, it became apparent, at least to me, that renovating was not going to be the way to go,” she said. “The basic structure of the building was not going to support what was required.”

In addition to recognizing that renovating wouldn’t work for a second floor, Horn said she also saw the clubhouse’s lack of community appeal outside the golfing group.

“Now that it is a clubhouse, that it’s not going to be just for golf but for the community, we get the best of both worlds there,” she said.

Horn also mentioned her support of purchasing Northstar software to handle the association’s finances.

“I was opposed to outsourcing our business operations and in favor of using our internal talent, but giving them the tools that they need to bring our business practices to the next level,” she said.

Horn said the improved fiscal controls were launched when General Manager John Viola took over the position and established solid leadership

after a period of managerial volatility.

“I’m also pretty proud that when we had a change of leadership in the GM’s office that we were able to have such a highly qualified individual ... sign on for a 30-month contract,” she said.

Horn said Viola has managed to tighten the financial reins while simultaneously solving inherited problems.

“I’m really pleased with the leadership he has provided to get the results that the membership has been crying for,” she said.

As one example, Horn pointed to longstanding concerns about inadequate storm water drainage that are now being addressed.

“Obviously, we’re not going to solve the drainage but we’re working diligently on doing improvements that we can do,” she said.

With a solid working relationship between and the board and OPA administration, Horn is seeking a second term in hopes of furthering the successful reorganization launched in conjunction with Viola.

“He has the qualifications, knowledge and experience to deliver what we need in the way of leadership for the organization,” she said.

“He’s a subject matter expert in his role and the board listens to him and considers his perspective.”

The 2020 OPA Board candidates are scheduled to appear at a public forum on June 17 with a second forum on June 27 if required. The cutoff date for voter eligibility is July 3 with ballots mailed out no later than July 10. The deadline for ballot submission is Aug. 5 with results unveiled two days later.

Free online service to preview

(March 26, 2020) To help reduce traffic at community mailboxes, Ocean Pines is recommending residents use a free, online tool available through the U.S. Postal Service.

“Informed Delivery” allows users to digitally preview mail and manage packages scheduled to arrive soon.

According to the Postal Service, the platform “allows you to view greyscale images of the exterior, address side of letter-sized mail pieces and track packages in one convenient location.”

For more information, visit <https://informedelivery.usps.com>.

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Opinion

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

Again, we depend on the little guy to help

To get the coronavirus emergency relief package through Congress last week, compromises had to be made, notably exempting some of the nation’s largest employers from the paid sick leave requirement.

This leaves mid-size and small companies holding the bag for no other reason than they don’t have the financial clout to gain the average politician’s ear.

Not to be confused with the \$2 trillion stimulus package, which includes a bailout for an airlines industry that apparently was too busy gouging its passengers to save up for a rainy day, the emergency relief package requires most employers to provide two weeks sick leave.

This includes businesses with fewer than 50 employees, unless they can prove that doing so could put them out of business.

Theoretically, employers can get that money back through tax credits, but that’s not the point. It is that once again many members of Congress have demonstrated their conflict of self-interest.

In their rush to claim some kind of accomplishment at a time when state governments like Maryland’s are leading the way through this calamity, elected officials further up the ladder seem to be serving two masters, themselves and the public, in that order.

Normally, the public acknowledges that this is just routine politics, and that politicians generally look after themselves when they take a position.

Yet, people become angry when they see shoppers looking after themselves by grabbing up all the toilet paper, buying up grocery store meat counters, and hoarding medicines. It’s infuriating, they say, yet the other situation is deemed acceptable for some reason.

One would hope that highly placed individuals would set the standard. But no, once again, it’s the little guy — the local nonprofits, small businesses, restaurant kitchens and volunteers — who try to look out for everyone. Even more notable is that no one had to lean on them to do it.



“Did you find everything you came in for today?”

Worcester Co. offices closed to public

(March 26, 2020) In response to the current health emergency due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the Worcester County Commissioners have closed the Worcester County Government offices to the public.

This enhanced measure has been implemented to protect the health of the public and Worcester County Government employees.

All Worcester County Government offices will continue standard operating hours to provide all public services at this time.

The following options are available to those seeking Worcester County Government services:

Call Worcester County Government staff. A list of phone numbers is available on the Worcester County Government website and in the Worcester County Gov-

See WORCESTER Page 14

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EDITOR Stewart Dobson

MANAGING EDITOR Lisa Capitelli

STAFF WRITERS Greg Ellison, Morgan Pilz,

..... Joshua Kim, Elizabeth Bonin

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER Elaine Brady

ACCOUNT MANAGERS Mary Cooper, Shelby Shea

CLASSIFIEDS/LEGALS MANAGER Nancy MacCubbin

SENIOR DESIGNER Susan Parks

GRAPHIC ARTISTS Kelly Brown, Kyle Phillips

PUBLISHER Christine Brown

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Gini Tufts

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Orris files to run for Berlin council

Continued from Page 11

gobbling up property — you have to ask,” he said. “It goes through a process, planning and then it goes to the council. It’s not that annexation is bad ... sometimes people don’t know that it’s happening.”

Orris is interested in helping to find a solution to the town’s limited parking situation, and in assessing the public’s viewpoints on town-wide concerns.

For instance, regarding the recent issue of short-term rentals, Orris said he would want to visit residents in R-1 and R-2 districts, where the proposed ordinance would have the most impact, and gain their insight on the matter.

Orris liked Councilman Zach Tyndall’s suggestion at the March 9 council session that residents should be able to speak in a less formal setting than an official public hearing when communitywide matters are involved.

“A town hall might be the best way to go on that,” Orris said. “Where it’s just residents and council members and Planning Director Dave Engelhart to just talk officially, but not as intimidating as a public hearing.

“Everything’s [still] public and everybody needs to be informed,” he continued. “But I think it’s just a little bit more relaxed than a formal public hearing.”

Orris also said he wants to be a council member who is not afraid of asking the difficult or uncomfortable questions.

“I’m not afraid to ask uncomfortable questions, like why do we do things this way, where can this be changed and would it benefit the town to change anything,” he said. “Residents should vote for me because I also I would scrutinize the budget line by line. Last fiscal year 2020, I emailed the mayor and council almost \$100,000 worth of savings that could have potentially been included ... unfortunately, they did not go with any of them except for one.”

The election will take place on Oct. 6.

Area nonprofits COVID-19 grants launched

Community Foundation of Eastern Shore, Delmarva Power provide relief funding

(March 26, 2020) Grant funding is being made available to Lower Shore nonprofits as a relief measure from the COVID-19 pandemic. The newly established COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund at The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore was created as a joint effort by area community partners. The Community Foundation allocated \$35,000 in funding with Delmarva Power adding an additional \$15,000. The Community Foundation anticipates various community partners will quickly follow suit in matching the initial \$50,000, with a goal of exceeding funding to well over \$100,000 in available aid.

“As this situation rapidly develops, it is apparent that the devastation on our community will be widespread, affecting many vital services and needs,” Erica Joseph, Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore president, said. “It is essential for area nonprofits to be able to quickly respond to the urgent needs in our community. Through our expedited grant process, local nonprofits will be able to rapidly obtain critical funding so that they may serve the most pressing needs facing the Lower Shore.” Qualifying nonprofits and organizations which assist those impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 crisis in the Lower Shore community will be eligi-

ble to apply for initial grants of up to \$2,000. As the global pandemic unfolds, the Lower Shore community, including particularly vulnerable populations, continues to be severely impacted. One hundred percent of the contributions to the Community Foundation’s COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund will be directed to nonprofit relief grants for the Lower Eastern Shore. Additional donations from community members are encouraged to aid in the crisis relief efforts and will support the immediate and long-term recovery efforts for the region. The fund is part of a region-wide effort to encourage the public to give back to their communities in what-

ever ways they can, including gifts of time, talent and resources. “Lower Shore residents have shown time and again their willingness to support others in need and this fund will help facilitate a coordinated response,” Joseph said. “During good times and times of uncertainty the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore is always committed to uniting our community and supporting local nonprofits. By creating a response fund specific to these needs, donors can be assured that their gifts are being used prudently and expeditiously.” Information about the grant funding, ways to donate, and nonprofit and community resources are available at The Community Foundation’s response page at CFES.org/covid19.

As leaders, grant makers, and stewards of philanthropy, the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore connects people who care to causes that matter for the common good of the Lower Eastern Shore. It has provided more than \$84 million in grants and scholarships to the local community since 1984. It collaborates with individuals, families and businesses to match their charitable interests with community needs and strengthens local nonprofits through grants and resources. The foundation is devoted to improving the regional community and believe in the power of philanthropy. For information, contact Victoria Kent, marketing officer, at 410-742-9911, or vkent@CFES.org.

Shore Women’s Fund release \$35K

Grant monies available to support nonprofit programs meeting female priorities

(March 26, 2020) Up to \$35,000 in grant funding is available to aid nonprofit programs designated for Lower Shore women and girls. The funding is made possible by the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore’s Women’s Fund, and applications are due by April 1. The Women’s Fund focuses its grant

making efforts to address the unmet needs of women or girls in Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset counties. Each eligible organization may receive up to \$5,000 this spring, and recipients will be presented the awards at a grantee reception. Previous recipients have included a broad range of area nonprofits, some of which are female-specific organizations such as Women Supporting Women and the Girl Scouts, while other awardees offer female-focused programs such as Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Services, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Eastern Shore, Horizons, and the United Way. The Women’s Fund of the Eastern Shore was created through the power of collective philanthropy and is held at The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore. Members work together to help change the lives of local women and girls by pooling financial resources in hopes of developing strong, self-sufficient women, and positive change in the local community. For information and grant applica-

tions, visit CFES.org. Applications are due no later than April 1. Requests should address the unmet needs of women or girls and must articulate a direct and measurable benefit of this targeted population in Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset counties. As leaders, grant makers and stewards of philanthropy, the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore connects people who care to causes that matter for the common good of the Lower Eastern Shore. It is a 501c3 nonprofit with an inspiring history of fostering charitable endeavors, and has provided more than \$84 million in grants and scholarships to the local community since 1984. It collaborates with individuals, families and businesses to match their charitable interests with community needs and strengthens local nonprofits through grants and resources. It is devoted to improving the regional community and believes in the power of philanthropy. For information, contact Victoria Kent, marketing officer, at 410-742-9911 or vkent@CFES.org.

Worcester offices open for staff

Continued from Page 13 ernment Center atrium. Deposit essential documents in drop-off boxes in the Worcester County Government Center first floor atrium and at the Isle of Wight office building. Solid Waste Division operations, including the Central Landfill in Newark, and the Homeowner Con-

venience Centers throughout the county, will remain open during standard hours of operation. Operating schedules are subject to change throughout this health crisis. A schedule of current Worcester County Government closings and the latest updates are available at www.co.worcester.md.us/covid-19-info.

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HOMEMADE FRESHNESS
Janine Dufrene was on hand with Amish Friendship Bread and other fresh baked goods on Saturday at the Ocean Pines Farmers and Artisans Market in White Horse Park. GREG ELLISON/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Puzzles

READY, SET ... GETS LOW!

BY NANCY STARK AND WILL NEDIGER / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Nancy Stark of New York City is a writer, lyricist and former editor for the Literary Guild book club. Will Nediger of London, Ontario, is a professional crossword constructor. They met through a notice that a friend posted for Nancy on Facebook seeking a collaborator. Nancy came up with this puzzle's theme and wrote most of the clues. Will did the grid. This is their third collaboration for The Times but their first Sunday together. — W.S.

ACROSS
1 Palindromic band with the palindromic song title "SOS"
5 Place for an oxygen tent, for short
8 A whole bunch
13 High-level H.S. math class
19 Exploit
20 Dandy
21 Like many barrels
22 "Yay!"
23 Cheer for beer on campus?
26 Milan-based fashion brand
27 Skate effortlessly
28 Put down in print
29 Part of a strip
31 West of Chicago
32 Discerning judgment
33 Author Calvino
35 Played the fall guy?
37 Half-____ (rhyming order)
38 Hoot at an out-of-focus nature photograph?
43 Chicago university
46 Small three-legged table
47 Two-time best actor, 1954 and 1972
48 "____ Old Cowhand" (Bing Crosby hit)

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

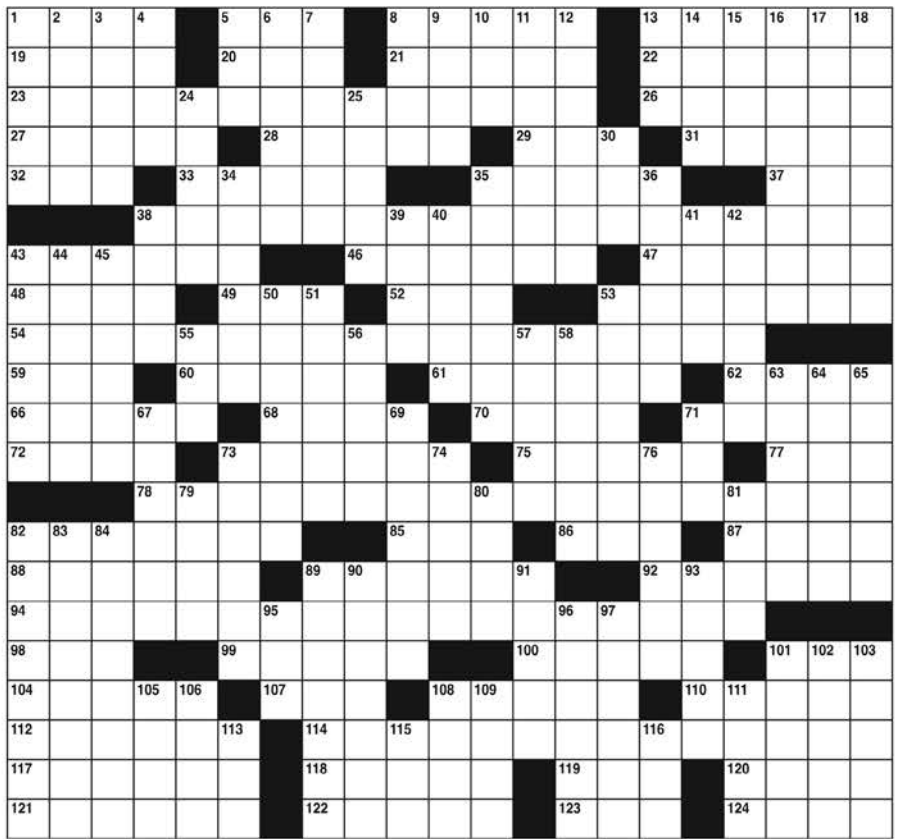
DOWN
49 Put away
52 "If you ask me," briefly
53 Something populists revile
54 Antsy feeling when one is out of cellphone range?
59 Sport ____
60 One of the dames in 2018's "Tea With the Dames"
61 Like the lion slain by Hercules
62 Cans
66 "Tilted Arc" sculptor Richard
68 Jackie on the Hollywood Walk of Fame
70 Places to sleep
71 Spanish-omelet ingredient
72 Isaac's firstborn
73 Fought
75 Bête ____
77 Counterpart of frost
78 Where a demanding dockworker gets supplies?
82 Snack item with a salient anagram?
85 Word that's its own synonym in reverse
86 Symbol of danger or anger
87 Boot
88 Discriminating against elders
89 They've got talent
92 "Ditto!"

DOWN
1 "Waste not, want not," e.g.
2 It has a button in the middle
3 Show to be untrue
4 Reason that some students struggle in school, for short
5 "____ were you ..."
6 Joint effort, slangily

DOWN
94 Landing in Rotterdam?
98 Curry or Rice
99 Snack items with their name on the top and bottom
100 Result of union negotiations, often
101 Lotion-bottle abbr.
104 Native seal hunter
107 Part of a college application, informally
108 Unfeeling
110 Roaster or toaster
112 It's not legal
114 Piano that plays only a certain three notes?
117 Slips
118 "Fingers crossed!"
119 Wrath
120 A long time ago
121 Willie Mays phrase
122 A little tight
123 Pseudoscientific subj.
124 Charon's river

ACROSS
7 Requiring difficult pedaling, say
8 Exclusive
9 Phone
10 Pseudonymously
11 Manny's last name on "Modern Family"
12 Slip through
13 "Of course!"
14 Bill padding
15 Time out?
16 Stuffed and deep-fried rice balls, in Italian cuisine
17 Name-tag holders
18 Political system with a paramount leader
24 Vocal quintet?
25 More or less
30 Work well together
34 Translation of the French "vivre" or German "leben"
35 Rested
36 World capital settled by Vikings circa the ninth century
38 Scourge
39 Apt rhyme for "constrain"
40 Martin Sheen's real first name
41 Name of seven Danish kings
42 "Le ____," Matisse work that hung upside down at the Museum of Modern Art for 47 days
43 Neglect
44 Acts dramatically
45 Bakery/cafe chain

DOWN
50 Like a bowl
51 Cheat, informally
53 Refusing to answer directly
55 Suggested intake level, for short
56 Glass fragment
57 Correct
58 "Two Sisters" or "Two Young Girls at the Piano"
63 Struck
64 Exceedingly
65 Site of a 1976 South African uprising
67 Quaintly countrified
69 Virtual animals in an early 2000s fad
71 "____ Got the Whole World in His Hands"
73 Attended
74 Alternative to a snake
76 They catch waves
79 Nickname on "The Addams Family"
80 Shakespeare's "You, too?"
81 Bugs Bunny, e.g.
82 Sob stories
83 Christina of pop
84 "Here, move over"
89 Not much at all
90 Trattoria dumplings
91 New England fish
93 Dork
95 "Catch-22" pilot
96 Cloth that may get a lot of tears
97 Handy types
101 Meager
102 Walker ____, 1962 National Book Award winner
103 Shipping option
105 Sundance state
106 Place for un b  ret
108 Concessions
109 It beats a deuce
111 Stock sounds
113 Bit of sun
115 Short flight
116 Informal affirmative



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HARD - 54

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

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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



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