



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ball drop rebounds in Berlin

After covid-canceled NYE, kids, adult parties return

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Dec. 23, 2021) In a return to form after canceling festivities last year because of coronavirus, the Town of Berlin will host a pair of New Year's Eve celebrations next Friday.

The end-of-year activities will begin at 5:20 p.m. with a laser-light show followed by the ball drop at 6 p.m.

Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells said the laser show will take place at the corner of Pitts and Commerce by Main Street.

"The screen will be as tall as the building because the bucket truck will be there to hold it," she said.

The 40-minute laser show will wind up at 6 p.m., at which point the lighted ball is dropped.

"It's midnight in Berlin, Germany at 6 p.m. our time, that's why the ... timeframe was chosen," she said.

The children's New Year's Eve event will also ring in 2022 in a literal sense.

"Like we've done in past years, we will be giving out free child-size cowbells for everyone to ring in the new year," she said. "This year we'll also have some bubbles to give away to kids so we can have bubbles in the air."

Ocean 98 Radio DJ Big Al Reno will be on hand to spin tunes throughout the evening, with the exception of the laser show.

"It's a laser show set to music," she said. "The majority of the music is going to come from the laser show itself."

Wells credited former Berlin Councilmember Thom Guylas with

See NEW YEAR'S Page 5

LISTING PRIORITIES

Bishopville resident Brody Downs, 6, confers on gift ideas while visiting with Santa at the "Kringle Kottage" in Berlin on Sunday.

Sports betting begins at Downs

Casino wagers \$1 million sportsbook will have them lining up at kiosk clusters

By Mallory Panuska
Staff Writer

(Dec. 23, 2021) Just in time for the NFL playoffs, the lion's share of college bowl games, NBA Christmas games, and other winter contests, sports betting is officially live at

Ocean Downs Casino.

After the clip of a blue silk ribbon last Friday evening, Del. Wayne Hartman (R-38C) made the first wager — for the University of Maryland to beat Virginia Tech in the Dec. 29 Pinstripe Bowl — at one of the Berlin facility's shiny new sports betting kiosks.

Hartman was one of a handful of state and local dignitaries, Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce members, and casino staff members

who ceremoniously celebrated the new venture, which officials have been waiting on for some time.

"This has been a long time coming," Ocean Downs General Manager Bobbi Sample said during the Dec. 17 ribbon cutting in front of a cluster of six machines near Poseidon's Pub inside the casino. "It was a lot of legislative sessions, several of them, to get here. It was a long process, from ap-

See LICENSE Page 4

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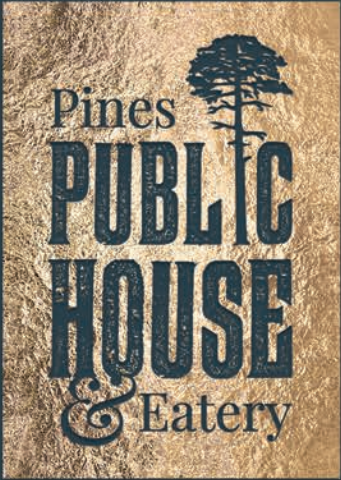
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the menu

Lobster Bisque 11 chef's family recipe	Hopping John 8 a New Year's classic in soup form
Maple Bourbon Pecan Salad 9 mixed greens • dried cranberries • red onion • goat cheese • house candied pecans • sliced apples • maple bourbon bacon shallot vinaigrette	
Beet & Blue 9 sliced roasted beets • shaved fennel • agave vinaigrette • lemon zest • crumbled buttermilk blue cheese • smoked almond dust	
Pines Caesar Salad 8 chopped romaine • sliced brussels sprouts • julienned kale • caesar dressing • grated & sliced parmesan • crostini	

starters

Cheese Board 16 chef's cheeses of the day • accoutrements • crostini
Crab Cake Trio 16 house recipe • fried • sriracha aioli • tartar sauce • cocktail sauce
Lobster Newburgh 18 mushroom duxelles • butter poached cold water lobster • newburgh sauce • caramelized gruyere
Smoked Fish & Oyster Dip 15 house smoked • white fish • red chili smoked oysters • gruyere • toasted baguette
Beef Carpaccio 16 sliced dry aged filet mignon • shaved horseradish • whole grain mustard aioli • caper berries • cornichons • egg yolk • pickled red onion

entrees

Wild Caught Grouper 35 apricot chutney • beurre blanc • wild rice • crispy shallots • baby rainbow carrots
Crab Cakes 39 sweet potato & scrapple hash • sautéed baby spinach • moutarde champagne sauce
Surf & Turf 37 pan seared diver scallops • coffee braised beef short rib • pesto risotto • sliced roasted beets
Prime New York Strip 39 smashed baked potato • fried onions • grilled asparagus • garlic rosemary butter • new york king steak
Chateaubriand 55 12oz dry aged filet mignon • black pepper & cocoa rubbed • bourbon creamed spinach • grilled sweet potato
Rack of Lamb 38 whole grain & panko crusted • black cherry rosemary demi • jus • whipped potatoes • haricot verts
Veal Strip Steak 37 whipped russet potatoes • grilled asparagus • red zinfandel reduction
Chipotle Duck à L'orange 36 chili smoked à l'orange sauce • breast • confit of leg & thigh • whipped sweet potatoes • sautéed baby spinach
Roasted Airline Chicken 31 twin breasts • heirloom winter vegetables • moroccan cous cous • garlic rosemary pan sauce
Vegan Foraged Mushroom Pasta 24 black truffle & brown butter roasted • locally sourced morel • chanterelles • lobster cremini & shiitake mushrooms • pearl onions • peas • carrots • herbed white wine sauce • shaved

dessert

Strawberry Nutella Cheesecake 9 classic cheesecake layered with nutella & strawberries
Chocolate Molten Lava Cake 9 flourless • belgian chocolate • eggs • classic preparation
Berry Pound Cake Trifle 8 layers of vanilla cream & macerated berries
Bananas Foster 8 french vanilla ice cream • puff pastry • hot banana rum sauce

OP Bylaws considers Search Cmte. changes

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

-(Dec. 23, 2021) Following a request from the Ocean Pines Board of Directors, the Bylaws and Resolution Committee began discussions last week about reconfiguring the candidate Search Committee.

Director Colette Horn initiated the discussion of possible changes to the Search Committee, which is tasked with soliciting election candidates, during the board meeting on Dec. 11.

After the future of the Search Committee was raised by the recently formed Bylaws work group, the matter was sent to the full Bylaws Committee for recommendations.

Committee Chair Jim Trummel provided background on the issue during the recent board meeting.

“The real topic is the future of Search Committee and direction it goes,” he said.

Trummel said the Search Committee was established in the Bylaws in 2008 by member approval.

“Our committee didn’t think it was our place to do any major changes or abolish the Search Committee without board direction,” he said.

Trummel said Search Committee operations are outlined in Resolution M09.

“There could be revisions to the bylaws that could improve operations and functions of the Search Committee,” he said.

Horn said the board has requested input on the matter.

“We’re asking your committee to offer us language to change that resolution,” she said.

Trummel revisited the topic during the Bylaws Committee meeting last Friday.

“We’re going to continue on with a Search Committee,” he said

Based on the board discussion, an earlier proposal to abandon the Search Committee for an alternative means to recruit candidates was dropped, Trummel said.

Instead, changes to the committee structure were considered.

“The primary consideration for us is to go to a standing committee,” he said.

Under current bylaws provisions, the Search Committee is appointed annually on Feb. 1.

Trummel said the Elections Committee guidelines for term lengths could be mirrored to apply to the Search Committee.

Other changes under review include the timeline for the Search Committee to process and forward candidate applications to the association secretary.

“The gathering of information by the Search Committee should be considered,” he said.

Resolution M09 requires the Search Committee to submit an annual report by June 30.



SCREENSHOT BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ocean Pines Bylaws and Resolutions Committee members, clockwise from left, Jim Trummel, Steve Jacobs, Lora Pangratz, Director Colette Horn and Bob Hillegass, convened virtually last Friday.

Trummel said the most recent Search Committee report recommended deleting the bylaws provision requiring two more candidates than open positions.

“Maybe it should be deleted as an objective of the Search Committee, but I don’t know that it should be deleted from the bylaws as a board action item,” he said.

Committee member Stephen Jacobs questioned the wisdom of retaining the group.

“The Search Committee itself recom-
See PINES Page 6



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License application fee alone cost \$1 million

Continued from Page 1
plication to control demonstrations.”

The “process” included two days of tests on the facility’s 20 Twinspires Sportsbook kiosks, which led to last Friday’s official launch. Sample said the tests went well and proceeds from the bets were donated to local emergency homeless shelter Diakonia.

Ocean Downs was the fourth casino in the state to add sports betting to its gambling offerings. The other three — Horseshoe Casino Baltimore, Live! Casino in Hanover and MGM National Harbor in Oxon Hill — launched sportsbooks the week before. Hollywood Casino in Perryville, the fifth casino with an approved sports betting license from the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Commission, was set to launch its sports betting operations Dec. 23.

The casinos are the first spots bettors can place wagers on games and lines within the state following approval of sports betting through a referendum in November 2020. Members of the General Assembly hashed out the details during the 2021 session, with much of the work completed in the Ways and Means Committee of which Hartman is a member.

“We spent a lot of time on it and to see it actually come to fruition is exciting,” Hartman said before the ribbon cutting.



Del. Wayne Hartman (R-38C) makes the first bet at the Ocean Downs Casino sportsbook after a ribbon cutting on Dec. 17. Hartman’s bet was for the University of Maryland to defeat Virginia Tech in the Dec. 29 Pinstripe Bowl.

bon cutting.

The legislation that passed allows for 60 online operators and 30 retail sportsbooks — including casinos, professional sports stadiums, small businesses and others — to obtain sports betting licenses. Sample said

that mobile betting is still a ways away, with the launch expected sometime in mid-2022.

Officials initially hoped to launch sports betting operations, both online and in brick and mortar locations, in time for the start of the NFL season, but the timeline was pushed back as members of the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Commission and sports wagering and licensing re-

view commission ironed out the licensing details.

Ocean Downs has an A-2 license, which carried a \$1 million application fee as well as costs for background investigations.

After Hartman’s first bet last Friday, Sen. Mary Beth Carozza (R-38), placed the second sports wager for the Baltimore Ravens to beat the Green Bay Packers on Sunday. Unfortunately for her — and all Ravens fans — that ticket was not a winner.

Before the ribbon cutting, Carozza also commented on the teamwork and partnerships that brought the sportsbook to fruition.

“Whenever we have a momentous occasions like this, it really does take a team effort,” she said. “And we have that team effort right here in Worcester County at every level — municipality, county, state, feds — working together, and just your team here at Ocean Downs.”

The sports betting kiosks are divided into two sections within the casino, with 10 in each one. As the officials celebrated the opening last Friday night, several people milled around in the background awaiting removal of the tape around the machines. As soon as officials tore it down, every kiosk in the area was occupied with bettors.

Ocean Downs is open from 7 to 2 a.m. daily off of Route 589 near Ocean Pines. The sports betting kiosks are available for use whenever the casino is open.

Lawrence directs assistance to Kentucky tornado victims

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Dec. 23, 2021) In addition to sending utility crews south next month to help parts of west Kentucky recover after a series of tornadoes leveled parts of the state on Dec. 10, Berlin Electric Utility Director Tim Lawrence is organizing donations for displaced residents there.

“I’m looking as far as both the Town of Berlin proving help to restore power, but also in my private life I’m looking to provide some kind of relief to people down there to help them,” he said. “They’re in bad need right now and they’ve got nothing.”

The devastating string of powerful storms that pummeled Kentucky earlier this month wreaked havoc in a number of towns, including Mayfield, Benton, Bremen and Dawson Springs.

To this point 58 fatalities have been confirmed as clean-up work pro-

gresses.

In his free time, Lawrence volunteers with the Bishopville-based Bikers Without Borders Foundation.

“We do a lot of charity work in the area,” he said. “I was just elected president on Sunday.”

In hopes of providing emergency relief items for Kentucky disaster victims, Lawrence contacted American Municipal Power officials to locate a regional contact.

In short order, Lawrence was directed to the Kentucky Chamber Foundation website.

“There’s a place where you can donate materials to tornado victims down there,” he said. “They sent me information on where things could be sent to a shelter.”

Lawrence said Mayfield, Kentucky was the hardest hit area.

“Their entire electrical system is on the ground,” he said. “It pretty much wiped out 85 percent of the buildings, doctors’ offices and everything.”

With roughly 10,000 electric customers, Mayfield more than triples

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tenders, soups & salads

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FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Downtown Berlin pulsates with New Year's Eve revelers cheering in the opening seconds of 2020.

New Year's Eve celebrations return to Berlin's downtown

Continued from Page 1
envisioning the kids' New Year's Eve celebration several years ago.

"We didn't realize how much the families would enjoy it," she said.

Next week marks the third time Berlin has opened the event in the evening for families.

"It is actually more popular than the midnight celebration," she said. "It's a night where everyone can get together and celebrate the beginning of a new year."

Following the kids' shindig, attendees interested in marking the midnight hour will have ample time to bop around town.

"There's a lot of downtime, so that allows families, if they want, to go to dinner," she said. "Main Street still remains closed but that also allows staff time to set up the stage for the event that starts at 10 p.m."

Beer and wine sales will kick off at 10 p.m.

Nonprofit We Heart Berlin will be selling adult beverages in front of the Globe Theatre at 12 Broad Street.

"They'll have Burley Oak beer and also a selection of wine," she said. "The Atlantic Hotel has its own bar, but that's separate."

Wells said the adult New Year's Eve laser show, which starts at 11:20 p.m., will run 40 minutes and culminate with the midnight ball drop.

Wells said while the entire night provides a platform to form lifetime memories, the children's celebration is especially poignant.

"During the earlier event, to see the kids out and families having fun, that's really special," she said. "We're really happy to be able to offer that for families who want to share New Year's Eve with their kids."

Towns awaiting rebuild find obtaining materials difficult

Continued from Page 4
the approximately 3,000 utility users in Berlin.

"They basically have to re-engineer the entire system and then rebuild," he said.

Turnaround time to complete the task remains difficult to ascertain.

"You throw enough resources at it, you may get it knocked out in a couple of months," he said.

Supply chain issues are adding an additional layer of difficulty.

"The problem right now is materials," he said. "Lead time on materials right now has increased 30 to 40 percent."

To make matters worse, Lawrence said material costs have also charted upwards.

"There's a big issue with where are

they getting these materials from," he said. "They're already sending out emails to other municipalities and resources to see who can provide what materials because they can't get them."

For now, manpower is the one resource in abundance.

"Right now they definitely have enough help down there," he said.

After the New Year, Kentucky officials are anticipating requesting additional crews.

"That's when they're going to start looking at lining up different crews to rotate out for the ones that are already there," he said.

To learn more about lending aid for disaster victims in Kentucky visit www.kychamber.com/tornado-recovery-resources.

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OP Bylaws talks candidate criteria details

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Dec. 23, 2021) Potential tweaks to qualification criteria for Ocean Pines Board of Directors candidates were examined by the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee last Friday.

Committee Chair Jim Trummel said member Keith Kaiser recently conducted research on comparable HOAs' rules.

"A couple of committee meetings ago ... the issue of determining owner of record first came to us to consider," he said.

After hearing Trummel suggest that



Keith Kaiser

revising candidate qualifications could involve further issues, Kaiser delved deeper into the subject.

"I was curious what other HOAs have for candidates," he said.

Kaiser subsequently compiled a list of qualification criteria found consistently in a number of organizations.

"The first issue related to owner of record," he said.

While the requirement was common-

place in many instances, it took a back seat to residency rules.

"More emphasis was put on living in the community," he said. "All of these documents I reviewed that brought it up preferred to prioritize residency over ownership."

In other instances, property owners who primarily lived elsewhere were looked upon as investors.

"An investor is going to have a different context within which to make decisions than a resident who lives in Ocean Pines," he said. "The motivations could be different."

The percentage of ownership was typically not deemed crucial.

"As long as you can prove you're an owner of record, either whole or in part, that box gets checked," he said.

Other commonly cited candidate rules included prohibiting spouses or property co-owners from simultaneous board service.

Convicted felons were also frowned upon.

"It seems reasonable to consider if the board candidate themselves has a felony record," he said.

See OP Page 8

Pines Search Committee changes on horizon

Continued from Page 3

mended it should cease to exist," he said.

Horn, who serves as Bylaws Committee board liaison, said the board concluded the main problem is the annual appointment of members.

"Our thought is if it's a standing committee, we could give them broader authority," she said.

Horn said the range of duties could be expanded beyond the receipt of candidate applications.

"Give them functions which they've done in the past," she said.

Horn highlighted outreach to

prospective candidates and educational functions as prime examples.

"The idea is to expand the actions that the Search Committee engages in in service of soliciting volunteers for service on the board," she said.

Horn noted over 500 people expressed an interest in greater options for volunteering in the recent property owners' survey.

"Clearly there are people that maybe are not informed of the various volunteer opportunities that are available," she said.

Jacobs suggested another approach.

"The Communications Committee is willing to take on almost everything you just described," he said.

Horn said Communications Committee members have indicated a willingness to assist with election processes, but only to a point.

"They don't feel they can replace the Search Committee," she said. "They would work with them but they don't want to take that on."

Trummel said since being established in 2008, the committee has lacked consistency.


"There's been too much of a helter

skelter, almost afterthought, approach to putting the committee in place," he said.

Trummel said there have been years when the committee functioned in an orderly manner and issued reports detailing actions to find candidates.

"There were instances where the committee really put forth the effort," he said. "A major impediment has been the random approach to getting the committee in place."

Bylaws members agreed to review related provisions to establish a standing Search Committee and revisit the topic during its next meeting on Jan. 7.




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Town of Berlin Public Notice



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to The Town of Berlin, MD Code Sections 108-214 and 108-215, the Berlin Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing to hear the request for a Text Amendment to the Town Code at their next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, at 5:30 PM in the second floor Council Chambers of Berlin Town Hall, 10 William Street, Berlin, MD.

The proposed Text Amendment reads as follows:

Proposed Text Amendments for Authorization of Crematorium as Conditional Use on M-1 Light Industrial Property

“Sec. 108-5. – Definitions
Crematorium defined: a building containing furnace(s) for cremating dead human bodies”
“Sec 108-163. – Conditional uses, variances and special exceptions.
(c) Within any M-1 Light Industrial District, a crematorium as defined in Section 108-5.”
(d) the old (c) will then become the new (d)
“Sec. 108-518. – Conditional uses.
(4) In any M-1 Light Industrial District, a crematorium as defined in Section 108-5.”

OCD-12/23/2t



NOTICE of an Appeal to the Berlin Board of Appeals

Pursuant to the Town of Berlin, MD Code Sections 108-163, 108-165, 108-188, 108-189, 108-191 the Berlin Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on an application for a variance received from Mr. Michael O'Neill for a variance to the side yard setback at 605 William Street for the construction of a new single family home. The requested variance represents an encroachment of six feet into the setback, where twelve feet is required by Town Code.

The hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 6:30 PM in the Mayor and Council Chambers of Berlin Town Hall, 10 William Street, Berlin, MD.

OCD-12/23/1t

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Talkie talking more grant requests

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Dec. 23, 2021) Right after securing \$96,000 in matching funds from Worcester County so they could apply for \$2 million in grants that will connect the rest of the lower county, officials from Talkie Communications on Tuesday briefed the county commissioners on more grants they want to pursue.

One grant, described as an “infrastructure grant,” is based on a “points system” and could be worth up to \$10 million with a 10 percent match from the company and/or the county, Talkie co-CEO Andrew DeMattia said.

“If you have the county participating, you get more points, and it’s highly likely you’re going to win if you have the most amount of points (of the applying counties),” DeMattia told the commissioners. “With the infrastructure grant, it doesn’t say the county has to match, we just have to have the support from the county.”

Other counties that Talkie is working



A. DeMattia

with are matching the funds, up to 50 percent, DeMattia said, for this grant.

“There’s only \$100 million in the pot (for rural broadband grant money statewide),” he said. “In Worcester County, we want to apply for four applications. The reason being is the (National Telecommunications and Information Administration) grant (now being applied for) is not guaranteed ... We would like to have a contingency plan and apply for four \$10 million applications with the state.”

“This way we have the NTIA areas covered and if we win the NTIA, we’ll withdraw those applications.”

Commissioner Chip Bertino said this might sound like a good plan but the commissioners need to see some sort of paperwork before making a decision.

“With all due respect, it sounds like

(this could be a good thing) but I don’t like this coming up to the podium and then asking us for a commitment without our staff having an opportunity to review this,” Bertino said. “Is there a timeline on this?”

DeMattia said that Talkie thought the commissioners had already received the necessary information and that the deadline for these applications is Jan. 14.

Bertino pointed out there’s a meeting before that deadline and suggested they come back before the commissioners then.

DeMattia added that an advantage to all of these grants is the varying timetables.

“The NTIA has a one-year limit, meaning if we win it, construction has to be completed in one year,” DeMattia said. “With the state of Maryland infrastructure program, the (grant) that’s up to \$10 million, there’s a three-year commitment on that and has to be done in three years. The neighborhood grant has to be done in 17 months.”

OP board candidate rules reviewed

Continued from Page 6

Other criteria commonly excluding candidates included residents engaged in litigation with the homeowners’ association.

Kaiser said indoctrination training or signed documentation pledging to abide by governance rules was also cited by a number of organizations.

Trummel noted current bylaws provisions require candidates to be an owner of record by Jan. 1 of the election year.

“Someone who only owned, but maybe not lived here, from Jan. 1 to May 15 could qualify,” he said.

Trummel said requiring residency for board candidates would involve amending governing documents.

“Living in the community versus ownership as a practical matter, that’s going to be hard to revise,” he said.

Board liaison Colette Horn, who was a part-time resident when initially elected, said the rule change would have prevented her candidacy.

“On a personal note, changing that would have disqualified me as a candidate,” she said.

In terms of governance document processes, Trummel said declaration of restrictions outline criteria for being an association member.

“In bylaws, being a candidate for the board is expressed as being a member,” he said. “Quite frankly, ‘owner of record’ should be replaced by the word ‘mem-

ber’ but that’s a separate subject.”

Kaiser said amending candidate rules could likely be accomplished without changes to the declaration of restrictions.

“The DORs specify what a member is but ... does not specify what the requirements to be a board candidate are,” he said.

Kaiser said altering bylaws provisions for board candidates would likely enhance the membership concept.

Committee member Lora Pangratz suggested including a requirement for board candidates to serve on an advisory committee prior to running.

Trummel recommended members revisit the topic during a future meeting to assure consensus prior to offering proposals to the board.



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OP Rec Parks Cmte looks to 2022

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Dec. 23, 2021) After bringing two new members aboard, the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Committee reviewed top priorities for 2022 during its meeting last Monday.

Committee Chair Patti Stevens said new members William Barnard and Roy Foreman were welcomed on Dec. 13.

“Roy was introduced and Bill Barnard was on the phone,” she said. “He wasn’t able to join us because they just got approved on Saturday, so he didn’t know ahead of time to plan for it.”

Stevens said Foreman, who is also a member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City, had served on the committee in past years.

“He brings a little bit of history,” she said.

In addition to reviewing their annual report for 2021 before turning it over to the board of directors, committee members also discussed goals for 2022.

Among the areas of focus next year is the redevelopment of playgrounds. “We want to focus on making them accessible and inclusive for kids of all ages, as well as for adults,” she said.

Stevens said the hope is to install exercise equipment for people of varying abilities to stay fit and build strength.

“The first priority is redevelopment and replacement of the playground equipment at Bainbridge Park,” she said.

Stevens said the committee is working with Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue to develop a work plan for next year that would include “what the site preparation would need to be and budget estimates from the playground equipment manufacturers, as well as exercise equipment manufacturers.”

Committee members are planning to ask the board for a budget allocation for the preliminary planning and design of the playground.

Stevens said the next priority for



PHOTO COURTESY PATTI STEVENS
The Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Committee discussed the possibility of adding a floating kayak launch system, like this example from Belle Isle State Park in Virginia, during its meeting last week.

2022 is installing an easy-access kayak launch.

“We’ve been working on reviewing and researching this for six to eight months,” she said. “It would allow people with limited strength or ability to easily launch a kayak.”

The committee studied comparable facilities in Belle Isle, Virginia and St. Michaels.

“Both of which have floating recreational piers and a kayak launch that has rollers and handrails,” she said.

Stevens said the committee considered a number of sites before looking intently at Pintail Park.

“There’s already a parking lot there and Porta-Johns,” she said. “It has a bulkhead, which would have less environmental impacts than if you put it near a wetlands area.”

The committee also favored Pintail Park for its central location.

“It’s almost dead in the middle of the community,” she said.

Committee members concluded the park was underutilized and that its proximity to calm waters could prove advantageous.

“It’s a calm body of water and that makes it good for launching if you’re a less-experienced kayaker,” she said.

“It gives you access out to the bigger water.”

The third area of focus for committee work in 2022 is improving walking and biking trails to enhance safety and improve accessibility.

“To continue working with Ocean Pines, the county and state to improve crosswalks and consider where sidewalks and walking trails can be added or improved to make it safer to walk and bike for people of all ages and abilities in the community,” she said.

Stevens highlighted ongoing work to improve crosswalks on Cathell and Manklin Creek roads.

“If we can make our communities safer for people to walk for fun and recreation, but also to do their chores and errands, then we’re all healthier and safer in our community,” she said.

Stevens also noted Foreman was enthused to learn of plans to improve Bainbridge Park.

“He was really pleased to hear us talking about the plans for redevelopment of the playground at Bainbridge Park, which he said was a priority five or six years ago, but it never really moved forward,” she said.



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Obituaries

BRUCE JAMES COULBOURNE
Berlin

Bruce James Coulbourn, age 73, died Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021, at Atlantic General Hospital in Berlin.



B. Coulbourn

Born in Milford Delaware, he was the son of the late James and Catherine (Truitt) Coulbourn.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Nancy (Hearne) Coulbourn; and daughters, April Coulbourn of Whaleyville, Maryland, Catherine Walling (husband, Ryan) of Florida, and Shauna Thomas (husband, Seth) of Seaford, Delaware.

He has two grandchildren, T.J. and Savannah Frampton, and one great-grandchild, Ariana Brown.

Mr. Coulbourn, affectionately known as B.J. by family and friends, was a talented musician, blessed with a God-given talent for piano, keyboard and the B3 jazz organ.

He served as lead singer in many musical groups, but his heart was for the music ministry of the church.

B.J. was also a successful businessman. Together with his wife, they owned and operated God's Gold By The Inch, of Ocean City, Maryland, from 1990 to present.

In his later years, B.J. worked in flooring sales.

It is no secret that B.J.'s best friend is Jesus Christ, and his family could not be happier that he finally made it home.

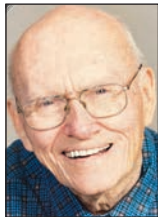
A memorial service was held on Friday, Dec. 17, 2021, at Burbage Funeral Home in Berlin.

In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to: John 21 Ministries, 32852 Sussex Highway, Laurel, Delaware 19956.

Letters of condolence may be sent via: www.burbagefuneralhome.com.

JOSEPH WILLIAM LATCHFORD, JR.
Berlin

Joseph "Joe" William Latchford, Jr., 85, passed away on Dec. 8, 2021, after a short time with multiple health issues.



J. Latchford, Jr.

He was born on March 5, 1936 in Baltimore, Maryland, son of the late Joseph W. Latchford, Sr. and Eleanor Moan.

After graduating from Mount St. Joseph High School, Joe was a rate analyst for Koppers Company for approximately 10 years. He went on to work with Environmental Elements for traffic and transportation of boats, trains, trucks and airplanes.

Joe's activities and interests were many.

He was a blue and gold information officer at the U.S. Naval Academy and founded the U.S. Naval Academy Par-

ents Club. He was a member of the Alpha Transportation Fraternity and the Traffic Club of Baltimore.

He served on the Council of Logistic Management and also served on the Transportation Department Advisory Board for Catonsville Community College.

He was a U.S. Naval Academy nomination staff member for Representative Thomas McMillen for four years and remained a member of the Propeller Club until he passed.

A person of faith, he was a member of the Catholic Church of the Good Shepherd, and is presently a parishioner at St. Ann Catholic Church where he served as a Eucharistic Minister.

Joe is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 61 years, Dolores "Lorrie" Latchford (Hemelt); his son, Joseph "Joey" W. Latchford, III of Madison, Tennessee; and his brother, Paul Latchford of Sparks Glencoe, Maryland.

The family would like to thank the staff, doctors and nurses at Harrison House in Snow Hill for their excellent care and dedication.

A memorial mass to celebrate his life was held on Thursday, Dec. 16, 2021, at St. Ann Catholic Church in Bethany Beach, Delaware, followed by a repast in Delaney Hall.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the charity of your choice. Online condolences can be made by visiting www.melsonfuneralservices.com.

Historical Society dinner at Dunes Manor, Jan. 16

(Dec. 23, 2021) The Worcester County Historical Society will hold its winter dinner meeting at the Dunes Manor, 2800 Baltimore Ave., Ocean City, Sunday, Jan. 16.

Dinner guests will learn about Worcester County's past from Dr. Ray Thompson, retired history professor at Salisbury University.

Dr. Thompson will speak to the members and guests about the early history of Worcester County. Dr. Thompson said that the Eastern Shore has been fortunate to have the oldest continuous records in British-speaking America starting in 1632 to help people understand who the earliest settlers were.

He called them hearty men and women who lived in the frontier environment away from civilization. His talk will look into who they were and their lifestyles and how they transformed the Eastern Shore.

He will trace the movements of the settlers up the peninsula of Virginia into Maryland's Eastern Shore and into Delaware. Their economic, political, cultural and religious societies led to the fundamentals of America today. He also plans a power point to supplement his discussion.

Dr. Thompson, along with Sylvia Bradley, was the co-founder of the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury University in 1983. His 45-year career at the university included teaching history and serving as chair of the history department. Today, he continues speaking and doing research in local history.

Doors will open for the event at 2:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$29 per person and can be purchased by sending a check to: Robert Fisher, WCHS Treasurer, 230 South Washington St., Snow Hill, Maryland 21863. The deadline for reservations for the dinner, which is open to the public, is Jan. 9.

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OP mulls audio purchases for live streaming abilities

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(Dec. 23, 2021) In hopes of live-streaming future meetings, the Ocean Pines Board of Directors debated investing in audio upgrades for either the Golf Clubhouse or the Community Center’s Assateague Room during its meeting on Dec. 11.



Amy Peck

Director Amy Peck introduced the discussion point during the recent board meeting held in the Golf Clubhouse.

“An important goal for me as I serve on the board is to increase community involvement,” she said.

Peck said the intent is to better accommodate both part-time homeowners and full-time working residents.

“The hybrid approach would allow people to call in and have remote input,” she said.

Peck said although board meetings alternate between Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings to provide access for residents, turnouts are typically low.

Based on the results of the just completed property owners’ survey, it appears evident association members want greater input.

“In the community, one of the challenges they wanted us to address is transparency,” she said. “Streaming live meetings would help with that.”

Peck initially conferred with General Manager John Viola and Marketing and Public Relations Director Josh Davis on the matter.

“One of the reasons we didn’t do this in the past ... we did not have a dedicated meeting space that allows a lot of people to attend and call in,” she said.

The board recently approved purchasing and installing glass doors to improve acoustics in the Golf Clubhouse.

Peck said Viola had already proposed acoustical improvements for the clubhouse.

“The Assateague Room was the other option,” she said. “In doing my research, I feel this room is the best to test out because the cost is not as much since we already have the projector here.”

In addition to roughly \$8,000 to improve acoustics in the clubhouse, the audio system would cost approximately \$15,000.

“I think we can come up with a friendly system for the community and a cost-efficient way to do this if we just concentrate on this room,” she said.

Taking a different bent was Association President Larry Perrone. “We’ve talked about this several times,” he said.

Perrone expressed concerns the Golf Clubhouse would not be large enough to accommodate well-attended meetings.

“We’ve had annual meetings that filled up the Assateague Room,” he said. “This is a great place to have meetings but it’s a smaller space.”

Citing acoustic challenges with the clubhouse, Perrone endorsed installing live-streaming equipment elsewhere.

“If we’re going to invest the money to do live meetings, I think we should be looking at the Assateague Room,” he said.

Peck said the Assateague Room would include additional costs of roughly \$15,000 to install a projector.

Director Doug Parks voiced support for live streaming.

“A hybrid solution using Microsoft Teams is probably the answer,” he said.

Parks noted the associations’ recent contract with Comcast includes a community channel, in a similar fashion to the earlier agreement with Mediacom.

“There’s probably some technical challenges associated with it, but we used to broadcast the meetings over the community channel a few years ago,” he said. “At the very least we should look and just see if it’s something that’s feasible.”

Speaking on Monday, Peck said she contacted Comcast after the board meeting.

“I looked into it but didn’t see any advantage with that route,” she said.

Peck said a larger percentage of people are familiar with the currently used Microsoft Teams platform.

“There was not a cost savings. It was just going to be another layer that I didn’t feel we needed,” she said.

Perrone’s preferences notwithstanding, Peck said audio upgrades for the Assateague Room would cost nearly twice as much as outfitting the Golf Clubhouse.

“In the clubhouse, we’re already doing things to improve the acoustics,” she said. “The money has already been spent to get those glass doors.”

Peck, while acknowledging there are currently noise issues with using the clubhouse for meetings, said the pending acoustical upgrades would also make the space more accommodating for other purposes.

“That has the dual benefit if anyone wants to rent that space for a banquet,” she said.

Peck plans on returning with further price estimates during the board meeting in January.

“If we wanted to do it piecemeal, my feeling is let’s get the acoustics taken care of,” she said. “It’s already been on the table and it’s better even if we don’t have the live streaming just for the audio quality.”

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New map limits GOP swing in 1st Congressional District

By Mallory Panuska
Staff Writer

(Dec. 23, 2021) A party line fight last week over Maryland’s new congressional district map has ended — for now — in a blue victory that seriously diminishes Republicans’ reign over the Eastern Shore, and further solidifies the state’s reputation as one of the most gerrymandered in the country.

Members of the General Assembly met recently in a special session to address several pressing matters, which included redrawing the lines on the map that determines the regions that each of the state’s six House of Representatives members represent.

Members of the majority Democratic General Assembly passed a new map that reduces the grip that conservatives have over the 1st Congressional District, which encompasses the entire eastern part of the state. Gov. Larry Hogan balked at the map and promptly vetoed the vote, volleying it back to members of the House and Senate, who overrode it along party lines.

“The congressional map drawn in back rooms by party bosses in Annapolis makes a mockery of our democracy, and it is an embarrassment to all that our state stands for,” Hogan said in a news conference Dec. 16. “On behalf of all the people of Maryland who value fairness and integrity in our elections and in our political system, I am vetoing these disgracefully gerrymandered, illegal maps, which are a shameful violation of state and federal law.”

Hogan also called on the Biden administration to add Maryland to its lawsuit against Texas for violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Sen. Mary Beth Carozza (R-38), who represents Worcester and Wicomico counties, called the approved map “highly partisan” and against the wishes of the majority of Marylanders during the session hearing.

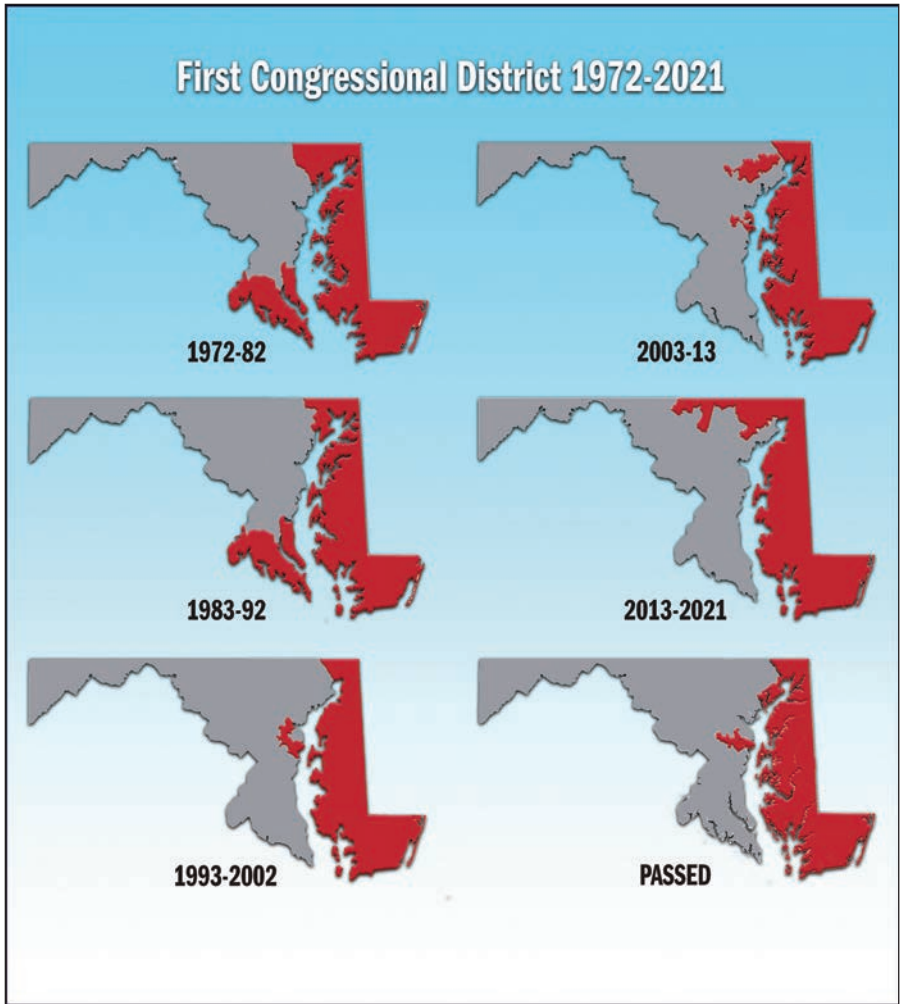
“We can now expect intense legal battles over the redistricting maps with the courts having the final say,” she said in a news release. “I will continue to fight for and support fair redistricting maps, and free and fair elections for Maryland.”

The 1st District, which under the most recent map includes all Eastern Shore counties from Worcester to Cecil, along with portions of Hartford, Baltimore and Carroll counties, is the only district with a Republican representative. Currently, the seat is held by Del. Andy Harris, who is up for re-election next year.

In the new map, which was drawn by politicians and strays from a bipartisan citizen group’s recommendation, still includes all Eastern Shore counties from Worcester to Cecil but only a small southern portion of Hartford in exchange for a chunk of Anne Arundel County.

The move reduces Republicans’ representation in the newly drawn

See GOVERNOR Page 14



Assateague Trust seeks executive

(Dec. 23, 2021) Assateague Coastal Trust, a 501(c)3, is seeking an executive director, who identifies as a passionate advocate for the mission and vision of the organization.

It is seeking an experienced, energetic and visionary leader who is passionate about clean water advocacy, and eager to build on the successes of one of the oldest and most effective environmental organizations on Delmarva (the coastal communities of Delaware, Maryland and eastern Virginia). Offices are located in Worcester County.

The organization envisions a future where coastal waters and natural areas are clean, valued and protected by the people who live, work and play in the coastal watershed. Working arm in arm with diverse community partners,

it protects and defends the health of Delmarva’s coastal waters through advocacy, education, science and the enforcement of just and equitable clean water laws.

ACT works in collaboration with community partners as a way to engage communities in protecting these rights, thereby reducing environmental harms for all who live or visit the watershed.

The executive director is responsible for general oversight of programs, fundraising and development, fiscal operations, human resources, administrative functions, and organizational planning.


The director facilitates turning the organization’s vision, strategies and values into specific actions to support ACT’s mission while helping continue

to build a strong, resilient organization.


The director oversees development efforts to ensure the financial stability of the organization, as well as works with the board and staff to establish strategic goals, develop annual operating plans that will move the organization toward those goals.

The director works in service to the mission and reports to the board through its president. All staff report to the executive director.

ACT’s team of employees is the heart of its mission. It aims to create and sustain a workforce that reflects the communities it strives to protect in its fight for clean water and welcomes applicants from diverse backgrounds to apply. Learn more about this opportunity at www.ActForBays.org/employment.




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ACT celebrates return of New Year's Day Walk

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Dec. 23, 2021) After a year hiatus because of covid, the Assateague Coastal Trust will be back on its namesake barrier island for its 41st annual Ilia Fehrer/Judy Johnson New Year's Day Beach Walk at the state park.

"It's something that the founders of our organization started back in the early 80s, just sort of a tradition thing going on over the past couple of decades," said Assateague Coastal Trust Communications Manager Billy Weiland.

Weiland added that this year ACT is working in conjunction with the state park. ACT and state park officials will be tending to a free-to-attend campfire by the day-use boardwalk from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Jan. 1. State park officials will also be present

during the same timeframe for another campfire on Jan. 2.

Though park officials have always been a part of the event, Weiland said they will be more closely involved this year.

Attendees are invited to walk both days, anytime between 7 a.m. and sunset. At the campfire, ACT officials will regale attendees with the history of the island and their nonprofit organization, which, in its early days, was instrumental in ensuring the island remained protected and not developed similarly to Ocean City.

In 2019, for instance, Weiland said they focused much of their storytelling on the geology of the island and how Assateague has been "rolling over on itself, so to speak."

ACT and state park officials will discuss the event.



PHOTO COURTESY ASSATEAGUE COASTAL TRUST
After a year hiatus because of covid, the Assateague Coastal Trust will host the 41st annual Ilia Fehrer/Judy Johnson beach walk at the state park on New Year's Day.

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Governor chastises process Dems used to develop map

Continued from Page 12

district by roughly a third, but does not completely eliminate the party's majority.

Proponents of the new map said it protects minority voting powers, preserves communities of interest and allows as many people as possible to stay in their districts.

Members of the bipartisan Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission developed a map that cleanly drew District 1 from Worcester to northern Baltimore County, encompassing all of Harford and none of Anne Arundel, nor any counties across the bay.

Hogan said the map was the result of a process that included 36 public meetings throughout the state with more than 4,000 attendees.

The group also developed an online mapping application portal for members of the public to create their own maps and submit draft plans for consideration and deliberation.

Members of the group also stayed engaged with residents during the map development process by publicizing draft versions and collecting feedback.

Adversely, members of the Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission, led by Democratic House Speaker Adrienne Jones and Senate President Bill Ferguson, created maps "in secret," according to Hogan's veto letter, and provided little to no opportunities for public comment on the process.

"The fight for free and fair elections in our state is not just a fight between the right and left; this is a fight between right and wrong," Hogan said in his veto letter. "We must rebuild a democracy where voters pick their elected representatives — not the other way around. I will not stay idly by and allow this unfair practice to continue to dilute and disadvantage the voices and rights of millions of Marylanders."

Wor. library hosting Art for Wellness program in Jan.

(Dec. 23, 2021) The Worcester County Library is offering an Art for Wellness program with Art Therapist Sivan Perdue in January.

This program is made possible by a grant from the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore through the Katherine Ellen Brown Community Fund.

While this is not a therapy session it does provide the chance to explore the mind through creation. Join Perdue as she introduces and guides participants on ways to use art in order to increase wellness.

This is a three-part series at the Snow Hill branch on Wednesdays, Jan. 5, 12 and 19 at 10:30 am.

"The library is pleased to offer an event that helps people express themselves through guided art

classes," said Adult Program Manager Elena Coelho. "It has been a challenging time and art is a form of expression that allows for reflection."

Space is limited to eight individuals and all supplies are included. Register at WorcesterLibrary.org under "Events," or call for assistance.

For more information on this event, contact Coelho at 443-783-6164 or ecoelho@worcesterlibrary.org, or call the Snow Hill branch at 410-632-3495.

On Facebook, search Worcester County Maryland Library, and on Instagram, [worcesterlibrarymd](https://www.instagram.com/worcesterlibrarymd).

The mission of the Worcester County Library is to promote reading, thinking, learning and the enjoyment of the arts.

ACT Beach Walk New Year's Day

Continued from Page 13

rect walkers to the best routes to take.

Even with covid concerns the last couple of years, Weiland said he's confident that, with good weather, they'll have a good turnout — around 200 people, he expects.

Last year, ACT officials encouraged people to do a walk on their own time and post segments and pictures of their strolls on social media.

"After almost two years, it seems a lot of people around here are getting out and going for a walk," Weiland said. "At least for how long I've been with (ACT) ... it seems the number of people that come out has grown each time."

The state park is "sandwiched" between what the National Park Service

owns, Weiland said, and he expects some walkers to have the opportunity to walk between each property.

Attendees can also expect free coffee and hot chocolate, and Weiland urged attendees to bring their own mugs.

"I mean, anytime that people can get outside and be outside is always a good thing," Weiland said of the walk. "Especially around here with our organization trying to get people to care about the environment and the waterways. There's no better way than to get people out there and experience it. If you don't, they don't see what they're supposed to 'care' about."

For more information on ACT and the New Year's Day Beach Walk, visit <https://actforbays.org>.

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Annual Penguin Swim set for New Year's Day

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Dec. 23, 2021) The 28th annual Penguin Swim will be back in 2022 and looking more like the indoor/outdoor event it was before covid-19 forced a myriad changes last year.

On Saturday, Jan. 1, attendees and participants are invited to come to the Princess Royale on 91st Street and enjoy the event, presented by the Atlantic General Hospital Foundation, that will include live music, face-painting, games, a costume contest and of course the signature “Penguin Swim” — a voluntary dip in the frigid Atlantic Ocean.

Ocean City Beach Patrol staff will be on hand for the swim, said Caroline Phillips, development officer for the Foundation.

Not all attendees need to give their vitals the ultimate test with the ocean swim, but those who do take a dip, as with every year, are encouraged to bring supporters, team up and do whatever they can to raise money, which the AGH Foundation puts toward the hospital.

“Set up goals for events to hit so at the end of the year we have a lump sum amount to put forth to the hos-

pital,” Phillips said. “It helps purchase smart (hospital) beds, money to purchase bone density machines, MRI machines — anything the hospital might need, the foundation will help support.”

One of the event’s main sponsors, Bull on the Beach, has its own gathering at the restaurant on 94th Street before parading down the beach to the Princess Royale, with many people in various costumes.

Last year, Phillips said the event had to adopt some new protocols to account for the pandemic. The event is traditionally held on 91st Street, but last year it took place over four blocks to spread the crowd out. There was also a virtual swimming option where participants could send in videos of themselves doing the swim elsewhere.

Despite the pandemic, New Year’s Day 2021 saw 500 penguin swimmers and \$72,000 raised. There were 700 swimmers in 2020, who helped raise over \$89,000, and Phillips said she expects the attendance number will be around that figure again for 2022.

The goal this year is to raise \$80,000 and as of Monday, the foundation had already generated nearly



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
About 500 penguins take a dip in the 47-degree ocean on New Year's Day 2021 during the 27th annual Atlantic General Hospital Penguin Swim, held between 91st and 94th streets.

\$50,000.
Overall, about \$1.6 million has been raised through the swim since its inception.

There will also be a variety of prizes for different categories of “winners,” Phillips said. In the past, organizers have given out prizes in such categories as youngest swimmer, oldest swimmer, swimmer who traveled the furthest, and costume contest winner.

Trophies for first, second and third place will be awarded to those who raise the most money in divisions for Individuals – Adults (19 & Over); Youth (18 & Under); Celebrity Challenge, and Teams – Businesses; Community Groups/Organizations; Youth/Family.

“I think it’s a really quick way to support the hospital and get together with friends and family in town,” Phillips said of the event. “The sheer number of people who come out, it does a lot of good for the community to see these people come out and support the hospital.”

Though pre-registration is available and recommended, Phillips said that the event typically gets the bulk of its registrations from people sign-

ing up the day of the swim or the day before.

Registration is \$25 and gets attendees a T-shirt and access to the swim area set up in front of the Princess Royale.

Registration is available in-person at the Princess Royale on Dec. 31 from 2-4 p.m. and on Jan. 1 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The swim will start at 1 p.m.

All participants are required to register either online or in-person and check-in on New Year’s Eve or New Year’s Day to receive a wristband to gain access to the swim area.

An awards ceremony will take place inside the Princess Royal atrium after the swim.

Those unable to attend can participate in the Cyber Swim. Register online, then take an ice-cold dip wherever you are and post a photo or video on social media using #OCPenguinSwim. Make sure the post is public so organizers can see it. Find the Penguin Swim on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Call the Atlantic General Hospital Foundation office at 410-641-9671 or go to www.aghpenguinswim.org for more information.

Atlantic General Hospital and Health System’s job fair, Jan. 6

(Dec. 23, 2021) Atlantic General Hospital and Health System will be kicking off 2022 by hosting a job fair in search of motivated candidates to join the team.

The job fair is for all open positions throughout the Hospital and Health System, which includes a diverse range of clinical and non-clinical roles. Some of these roles include: nurses, nursing assistants, medical receptionists, medical office assistants, housekeeping, and collections/billing.

The job fair will take place Thurs-

day, Jan. 6 from 3-6 p.m. at the hospital. All interested candidates should call 410-641-9612 or contact jobs@atlanticgeneral.org to register.

On Jan. 6, participants should arrive at the hospital’s main lobby to sign-in. Candidates will have the opportunity to engage in on-site interviews with Atlantic General hiring managers, and same-day offers of employment may be given to those who qualify.

To view a list of open positions, visit the Atlantic General Career Portal at www.agh.care/careers.

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Snapshots



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HOSPITAL SUPPORT

The Junior Auxiliary Group presented a check on Oct. 19, to Atlantic General Hospital at its Membership Social hosted by Dry Dock 28. The Junior Auxiliary Group's contribution completed its \$25,000 pledge to the Atlantic General Hospital Foundation's Campaign for the Future. The JAG, a group of local volunteers, raises money for the hospital through community events, fundraisers and the Atlantic General Thrift Shop. JAG President Jill Ferrante, right, along with members of the JAG Executive Committee, are joined by AGH Co-Interim President/CEOs Sally Dowling and Kim Justice, Chair of the Atlantic General Hospital Foundation Steve Green; and AGH Vice President of Public Relations Toni Keiser.



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

GUEST SPEAKER

Maureen Kennedy of My Backyard was the guest speaker during the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City's Oct. 6 meeting. Kennedy explained that when she retired, she wanted to do something about her passion, which is birds, so she opened her store at the Ocean Pines South Gate. She is pictured with Kiwanis Club President Tim Lund.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

MIX & MATCH

Students at Worcester Preparatory School celebrated spirit week Oct. 4-9, by dressing accordingly to each day of the week's theme. Pictured, from left, during Mix & Match Day, are freshmen Landon Schul, Will Wells, Allen Zhang, James Haley, Travis Netting, Frankie Miller, Briar Parsons and Jack Fernley.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Also participating in Worcester Preparatory School's Mix & Match Day, from left, are freshmen Isabella Metz, Sydney Tingle, Abby Ament and Alicia Walker.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DONATION

The Lions Club International Foundation supports the efforts of Lions clubs in serving communities locally and globally, giving hope and impacting lives through humanitarian service projects and grants. Pictured are Ocean City Lions Director Ken Robertson, President Scott Stark and Director Doug Parks.



SPIRIT WEEK AT WPS

Students at Worcester Preparatory School celebrated spirit week Oct. 4-9, by dressing accordingly to each day of the week's theme. Pictured during homecoming on Oct. 9, is teacher Kira Gauger and her daughters, Ayla and Evelyn Eade.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



GREG WEHNER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Maryland State Highway crews pave a portion of U.S. Route 50 east between Maryland 346 and Herring Creek. The roadwork has been a source of frustration for motorists on both sides of the Ocean City gateway since it began in November and is expected to last until Dec. 31.

Route 50 roadwork invokes frustrations from motorists

By Mallory Panuska
Staff Writer

(Dec. 23, 2021) Flashing lights, rows of orange cones, lanes closed, traffic backed up for miles, and entrances and exits to neighborhoods and businesses completely blocked for select amounts of time are familiar scenes on U.S. Route 50 headed into Ocean City these days.

Maryland Department of Transportation and State Highway Administration crews in November began what has turned out to be a disruptive paving project along the Ocean City corridor, westbound from Herring Creek to Route 818 and eastbound from Route 346 east to Herring Creek. The work is set to continue until Dec. 31.

And while state officials have communicated the details of the project and advised motorists to plan for delays during the times crews are permitted to work — 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday — the disruptions and inconveniences have been hard felt.

Mary Ann Jordan, who is building a house in the Glenn Riddle neighborhood, right in the middle of where much of the work has been underway, experienced the effects of the roadwork firsthand several weeks ago. She recalled an instance in which she was forced to turn around on Man O' War Lane while trying to access her neighborhood. The entrance to the development was closed from where she was coming from, an inconvenience that she said could have been avoided with signage along her route.

"In my opinion there weren't enough signs that indicate that that entrance to Glen Riddle was closed, there were no signs," she said. "There were a lot of cones ... and I thought I was within the cone parameters. And

so I pulled over and got ready to turn [and] the worker ran over to my car and started yelling at me and said, 'you can't go there.'"

Jordan added that she understands the stress and frustration that comes with directing traffic, which is why signage — both letting motorists know of road closures and directing them to detours — is a necessity.

"There was no sign that said it was closed and there was a lane there. So that was my frustration," she said.

Bob Faszczewski, who lives off of Seahawk Road, has had similar issues.

"On several occasions the main intersection near us — adjacent to [Stephen] Decatur High School — has been blocked during the morning weekday rush hours, making it impossible to get to Route 50 East without driving into the highly congested area around downtown Berlin," Faszczewski said in an email that he also forwarded to state department of transportation officials.

"Additionally, on the morning of Wednesday, December 1, my wife and I had a 9:30 am meeting in Ocean City," Faszczewski continued. "The roads were so backed up with traffic due to the repairs to Route 50 East near Walmart that it took us nearly an hour to get to Ocean City, where we almost missed our meeting. I can't imagine the problems this caused for those trying to get to Ocean City for work."

He called the planning on the work "pretty poor" and questioned why it cannot be completed during non-peak travel times.

In response, Maryland State Highway Administration Engineer David Redman said in an email that the work is part of a \$2.5 million increase in funding received recently and that

See WORK Page 19

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Best Holiday Wishes

from OCToday/Bayside Gazette

Christine Brown, Kelly Brown, Lisa Capitelli,
Jack Chavez, Mary Cooper, Stewart Dobson,
Greg Ellison, Nancy MacCubbin, Mallory Panuska,
Susan Parks, Amanda Shick, Vicki Shrier,
Gini Tufts, Greg Wehner



“Out of my way Grinch. Christmas is over. I have lives to steal.”

OP Farmers Market awards on Jan. 8

(Dec. 23, 2021) Behind the name “Ocean Pines Farmers and Artisans Market” are a group of merchants, volunteers, community partners and market leadership that brings the marketplace to the public each week of the year.

After 10 successful years, the market continues to be an essential part of the local food and handmade product system in Worcester County, offering the community a central place to gather and shop for those local products.

On Jan. 8, the market will recognize individuals, groups and businesses that contributed to the market’s success with the 2022 Ocean Pines Farmers and Artisans Market Achievement Awards.

The Ocean Pines Market will recognize with honors a legacy merchant, an outstanding marketplace leader, and a dedicated marketplace volunteer. Awards will also be bestowed in sev-

eral other categories, including Best Marketplace Storefront and Outstanding Social Media Promotion.

“It’s always incredible to see how much love and labor our merchants put into their market businesses,” Assistant Market Manager John Chandler said. “We want to recognize these efforts that make the market one of the most unique ... in this region.”

Other award categories will include Artisan of the Year, Green Market Merchant of the Year, Peddler Merchant of the Year, and overall Market Merchant of the Year.

“To the average market-goer, it might seem like the market just sort of happens [but] that this is not the case,” Market Manager David Bean said. “We couldn’t function without our entire market team, and we want to give them a big thank you.”

Bean said 120 merchants participated in the Ocean

Pines Farmers and Artisans Market this year. The market will accept new merchant applications, starting in February.

“We will be searching for potential merchants with new and different products to add to our lineup,” Chandler said.

Additionally, The Ocean Pines market will hold a special weekday Christmas Market on Thursday, Dec. 23 from 9 a.m. to noon at its White Horse Park location.

The market will be closed on Saturday, Dec. 25 for Christmas Day and Jan. 1 for New Year’s Day.

Farmers & Artisans Market is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon, through February. In-season hours return in March, with the market open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, visit <https://www.ocean-pines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market>.

BAYSIDE



GAZETTE

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Have an opinion?

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

Government offices closed Christmas, New Year's Day

(Dec. 23, 2021) The following Worcester County Government (WCG) offices will be closed Friday, Dec. 24 and 31, and Jan. 1, in observance of the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays: Worcester County Government Center, Cape Isle of Wight satellite offices, and Worcester County Recreation Center (WCRC).

In addition, the WCRC will also be closed Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

All five branch libraries will be closed on Dec. 24 and 25 and Jan. 1. Branches will be open on Dec. 31

from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Central Landfill in Newark, and the Home Owner Convenience Centers in Berlin, Pocomoke, and Snow Hill will close at noon on Dec. 24 and be closed Dec. 25. While the Central Landfill will be closed Dec. 26, the HOCCs will be open. Both the Central Landfill and HOCCs will also be closed Jan. 1.

For more information on WCG hours of operation, contact Kim Moses, public information officer, at 410-632-1194.

Work set to finish by end of year

Continued from Page 17

the cold temperatures are the reason crews are only working earlier hours. Otherwise, he said the project would have been completed at night.

He also said that he and the crew members have been "keeping an eye on the backups."

"I understand they are in the 10 minute range normally and that seems to be the case every time I have been on the jobsite," he said.

While Faszczewski disagreed with Redman's time estimate, given that it took nearly an hour to drive in to Ocean City during the referenced backup, he appreciated the response.

"Although I am not completely satisfied, I think the state has addressed my complaint," he said.

Atlantic General Hospital officials have also advised their patients at Atlantic General Primary Care, Pediatrics, and Women's Health Center of the work that is "causing major delays."

"If you have an appointment scheduled with us ... please be prepared to leave earlier than usual," a letter to patients said.

Sarah Yonker, the director of marketing at AGH, said in an email that the roadwork has caused delays in patients reaching appointments in West Ocean City offices, resulting in

late arrivals. She said no detour routes exist, which resulted in the notice to patients.

Shantee Felix, the assistant media relations manager for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration, said in an email that officials have received feedback on the project and have been working with the state police to help improve traffic flow.

"Traffic has been building up mainly at signals, and MSP has been on site to manually extend green lights or use flashing yellow lights when appropriate to help keep traffic moving," she said.

Highway officials have been advising motorists from the beginning to allow more time for travel when they know they will be driving within the area of the roadwork.

Felix also said that officials began posting information about the project on message signs in the both east and west lanes two weeks before the work began. She said the notices were only placed on the main corridor but that officials have been connecting with people who work at the businesses and live in the residences nearby to inform them of upcoming blocks. She added that the blockages are never set to last any longer than 30 minutes at a time.

BOE members give OK to replacing of SDHS visitor seats

By Mallory Panuska
Staff Writer

(Dec. 23, 2021) Addressing a pressing safety issue, the visitor bleachers at Stephen Decatur High School's outdoor stadium are officially set for replacement.

"This has been a long time coming," Worcester County Public Schools Superintendent Lou Taylor said of the project during a board of education meeting last week.

According to a project summary from Sam Slacum, the district's maintenance and operations manager, the existing metal bleachers are several decades old and are no longer compliant with the American Disabilities Act or current safety standards.


Board members approved a more than \$98,700 contract with Game Time Inc. to replace the bleachers with larger, safer ones. The new bleachers will have 263 seats, five of which will be ADA-compliant, with installation set for this spring.

"We can breathe a lot easier. Hopefully, we won't have a safety issue come fall," Taylor said.


He added that the visitor bleachers were once the main home seats for

See UPDATE Page 20

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Wor. BOE to offer livestream option for monthly meetings

By Mallory Panuska
Staff Writer
(Dec. 23, 2021) The Worcester County Board of Education is officially entering the post-pandemic virtual world.

After more than a year of offering only a live audio call option for members of the public to listen to the body's Tuesday afternoon monthly meetings, district officials are adding an online virtual option.

Superintendent Lou Taylor announced at the close of a board meeting last week that the next meeting, set Jan. 18, will be accessible online.

The decision comes after several members of the public complained about not only the lack of a viable option to hear and view the happenings of the monthly meetings, but also the inopportune times.

The board typically meets once a month on Tuesdays. The meetings begin with a closed session at 10 a.m., and follow with open session at 12:30 p.m. Members discuss and vote on public matters, from capital projects to educational programs; hear updates from the area schools; and take comments from members of the public.

While the times will remain the same because transportation is often

needed to recognize students during the school day at the meetings, a virtual livestream option will be added. Members of the public will also be able to download and view the video streams of the meetings after they are over.

Annette Wallace, the district's chief operating and academic officer for grades nine through 12, said that the livestream option will be available in the same place as the board agendas at go.boarddocs.com/mabe/worcester/Board.nsf/vpublic?open.

"I think over the course of the pandemic we've had to change the way that we've done business," Wallace said of adding the livestream option. "We have been audio streaming live our board meetings since the pandemic and that's been available to everyone since then."

She added that the success other organizations have had livestreaming meetings, as well as the comments from members of the public, and the desire for parents to see their children recognized during meetings, were catalysts for the addition.

Board meeting agendas are posted the Friday before the Tuesday they are set to take place and the livestream link will be posted in the same place.



MALLORY PANUSKA/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Members of the Worcester County Board of Education listen to a presentation during a recent public meeting. District officials have decided to add a livestream option for upcoming meetings beginning in January.

Update also provided on SDMS

Continued from Page 19
outdoor sports spectators, proving how long they have been in existence.

Members of the board also got an update during last week's meeting on the construction of a 24,800-square-foot addition at Stephen Decatur Middle School.

Crews began preparing the site at the end of October and an official groundbreaking was held the week of Thanksgiving. So far, the work completed includes the creation of a new stabilized construction entrance along Flower Street and footings on

the west and south sides of the site. Joe Price, the facilities manager for Worcester County Public Schools, said crews are ahead of schedule with putting in the foundation.

"We're doing really well," he said. Officials have been waiting on the project, which will add 12 new classrooms, four science labs, meeting and prep areas, and storage space to the existing 79,500 square-foot school on Seahawk Road in Berlin, for more than two decades. If all goes as planned, it will finish by the end of 2022.

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Cuisine

Suplee provides steps for smoking bluefish

With a glass of chardonnay in one hand and a smoked bluefish crustini in another, I reflect on what has happened in the last two years.



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3

Another year is just about to be over and the unique and sometimes hard-to-believe memories will be long for this world as we anxiously await the challenges of the coming year.

At a time when many of us thought that we had seen the decline of this blasted pandemic, another more infectious strain pops its ugly little head up. Will the madness never end?

Tonight, we sat laughing around a holiday table snacking on cookies and homemade hors d'oeuvres, our conversation naturally taking on the good and the concerning, sometimes getting a touch sentimental.

As we welcome the new year, I realize that there are so many things that I want to do for and with my friends and family. There is talk (by my 16-year old) of a week in Tokyo, and even more discussion about another trip to Central America.

I would still love to visit Europe again, but times could be tighter in 2022 than they were in 2020. It is time to start squirreling away the survival slush fund, and who knows what new restrictions will be in-place worldwide? I don't think travel will be the norm for a while.

I was in California about 14 years ago, and I remember plain as day sitting in my hotel room near the Culinary Institute typing away about wanderlust. The holidays always seem to rekindle a similar love for travel, and as my kids take after me and their mother, it is a normal topic of discussion.

Still fascinated by the notion that Napa Valley is simply Delmarva with mountains and grapes instead of soy and wide-open fields, we discuss a week or two of visiting ranches, vineyards and restaurants.

I notice as I write that this time of year spawns a wanderlust in me that is difficult to put into words — a deep desire to get out of here. The cold isn't the issue, as I would love nothing more than to be in the Swiss Alps. Skiing down the slopes (I don't know how to ski, so I'm hoping that there are bunny slopes in Switzerland)



right into the lodge with burning legs and a stiff back, I would be greeted by a wassel or another toasty beverage.

And as much as I want to travel and give that experience to my children, traversing continents and states, I am just as content to be home, as long as I'm with family. Travel will be a thing again, soon, and perhaps next year's holiday article will be written from a land afar. Time will tell.

Smoked Bluefish Crustini

Makes about 2 pounds

1 ea. Smoked bluefish filet (recipe follows)

1 c. (or as needed), mayonnaise
2 Tbsp. Gherkins, minced
1 ea. Shallot, finely minced
Kosher salt, as needed
Ground black pepper, as needed
Crustini or crackers, as needed
Herb oil or herbs for garnish

1. Remove skin and blood line. If it's not white flesh, remove it. This will greatly reduce any lingering fishy taste.

2. Remove pin bones and mash the fish with your hands, and make it as you would a simple tuna salad.

3. When the salad is at a consistency that you like, season and keep chilled until ready to use.

4. You can serve the dip/salad in a bowl with bread, crustini and crackers on the side, or you can plate them up like I have in the picture above. Either way is a win-win.

Smoked Bluefish Filet

per gallon of brine

1 gallon cold water
1/2 c. Kosher salt
1/2 c. Brown sugar
3 ea. Lemons, halved
4 sprigs fresh thyme
4 2-inch pieces rosemary
stems from 1 bunch of parsley
12 cloves garlic, smashed
3 Tbsp. Black peppercorns
3 Tbsp. Paprika
3 Tbsp. Dried oregano
2 Tbsp. Fennel seed
3 ea. Bay leaves, fresh if possible

1. Combine all ingredients, making enough to cover the fish filets.

2. Allow to sit under refrigeration for at least four hours. This will pull blood out of the filets, as well as tame the fishy taste.

3. Remove from the brine, discarding the latter.

4. Lay the filets flat on drain racks if you have them and pat dry.

5. Allow to sit uncovered in the ice-box for as long as 48 hours. This dry-

ing process will create the pellicle, a tacky surface which will allow the chemicals in the smoke to adhere to the product.

6. This fish does best with a hot smoke, so set up your smoker with the blend of your choosing. Personally, since bluefish has such a bold taste, it will stand up to my standard blend, which is cherry, hickory, apple and alder.

7. Smoke the fish per your smoker's manufacturer's instructions until the fish is cooked through. Typically, I'll turn the smoker off and allow the fish to rest in there for about 30 minutes.

8. Remove from the smoker and once again allow it to air out in the refrigerator. This will get rid of any acrid nuances that build up in the fish.

9. Keep the fish chilled, and if you have a food saver or vacuum, bag the fish and freeze. This will last for a very long time if vacuum packed and frozen.

—Paul Suplee is a Professor of Culinary Arts at Wor-Wic Community College and owner of boxcar40 and boxcar on main. Visit him at www.boxcar40.com; www.boxcaronmain.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.

Thurs., Dec. 23

24TH ANNUAL N.O.E.L. COMMUNITY DINNER
St. Paul’s by-the Sea Episcopal Church, 302 Baltimore Ave., Ocean City, 10 a.m.-noon. The church will distribute bags of non-perishable foods filled with some traditional food items to prepare at home. A special bag given to those who can’t prepare food. www.stpaulsbythesea.org, 410-289-3453

STORY TIME ‘BUILD IT’
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and rhymes. Take-home activity included. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

MUSIC & MOVEMENT: WALKING IN A WINTER WONDERLAND
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Come listen to some classic winter time music, play some fun games and shake all of those sillies out. Take home activity included. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Bourbon St. on the Beach Restaurant, 12601 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 4-10 p.m. Featuring Jimmy Charles Band with guest Randy Lee Ashcraft (4-7 p.m.). Buffet, silent auction, toy drive and raffles. Tickets cost \$50. <https://feedback.facebook.com/events/601829777804465/>

BEACH SINGLES
Thursdays - Harpoon Hanna’s, 39064 Harpoon Road, Fenwick Island, DE, 4-6 p.m. Info: 302-436-9577 or Beachsingles.org

Mon., Dec. 27

OPEN SKATE
Sturgis Park, River Street, Snow Hill, 12-7 p.m. Free ice skating. Children 13 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Children 6 years and younger are not permitted to skate without an adult on the ice with them. 410-632-2144, Ext. 2505

DELMARVA WOMEN’S A CAPELLA CHORUS
Mondays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 7:00-9:00 p.m. All ladies that love to sing invited. Contact Mary, 410-629-9383 or Carol Ludwig, 302-242-7062.

WRITING FOR WELLNESS
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:30 p.m. Writing about stressful experiences like illness, may boost health and psychologi-

cal well-being. Group uses exercises to stimulate creative expression. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

T.O.P.S. OF BERLIN - GROUP #169
Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5-6:30 p.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly is a weekly support and educational group promoting weight loss and living a health lifestyle. Rose Campion, 410-641-0157

Tues., Dec. 28

STORY TIME ‘SPACE’
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and rhymes all about space. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

STORY TIME ‘MISS SUSAN’S FAVORITES’
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and finger plays. Take-home activity included. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

OPEN SKATE
Sturgis Park, River Street, Snow Hill, 12-7 p.m. Free ice skating. Children 13 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Children 6 years and younger are not permitted to skate without an adult on the ice with them. 410-632-2144, Ext. 2505

DELMARVA DANCING
Tuesdays - Selbyville Elks Lodge 2173, 13324 Worcester Highway, Bishopville, 5:30-9 p.m. Dance to the sounds of the ’50s and ’60s. A \$5 donation to benefit Veterans. Participants show proof of vaccination or wear a mask. delmarvahand-dance@gmail.com, 410-208-1151

Wed, Dec. 29

STORY TIME ‘STEM PICTURE BOOKS’
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Stories about budding young scientists who dream big. A fun activity is also includes. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

OPEN SKATE
Sturgis Park, River Street, Snow Hill, 12-7 p.m. Free ice skating. Children 13 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Children 6 years and younger are not permitted to skate without an adult on the ice with them. 410-632-2144, Ext. 2505

PAGE TURNERS BOOK CLUB
Held via Zoom, 3:30 p.m. Kids ages 8-11 years join in for a book discussion. Par-

ticipants will vote on the title at the November meeting. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

BELIEVE IN TOMORROW CHILDREN’S FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER
Sunset Grille, 12933 Sunset Ave., Ocean City, 4-10 p.m. Enjoy a three-course, traditional Polish meal at a cost of \$25. Support Melisa Colimore in her desire to be 2022’s Prom Queen. One hundred percent of the \$25 fee will be donated to Believe in Tomorrow. 410-744-1032

Thurs., Dec. 30

STORY TIME ‘ANIMALS IN WINTER’
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and rhymes. Take-home activity included. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

PJ/MOVIE TIME: DISNEY’S ‘FROZEN’
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Come and watch a family favorite in your coziest outfit. Rate PG. Run time: approximately 108 minutes. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

OPEN SKATE
Sturgis Park, River Street, Snow Hill, 12-7 p.m. Free ice skating. Children 13 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Children 6 years and younger are not permitted to skate without an adult on the ice with them. 410-632-2144, Ext. 2505

BEACH SINGLES
Thursdays - Harpoon Hanna’s, 39064 Harpoon Road, Fenwick Island, DE, 4-6 p.m. Info: 302-436-9577 or Beachsingles.org

Fri., Dec. 31

NEW YEAR’S EVE FIREWORKS
Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 11 p.m. DJ BK with Radio Ocean City will be live hosting remotely on a big screen with music and a countdown at midnight. The fireworks will begin promptly at midnight. Winterfest of Lights will stay open until 10:30 p.m. Northside Park will close at 11 p.m. as New Year’s Eve festivities on Jamaica Avenue begin. The town will be offer free bus service on New Year’s Eve. Masks are required on public transit. 410-289-2800 or 800-626-2326.

NEW YEAR’S EVE IN BERLIN
Downtown Berlin, 2 S. Main St., 10 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Music, dancing, laser light show and ball drop at midnight. Beer and wine sales benefit We Heart Berlin. <https://berlinmd.gov>, 410-641-2770

KIDS BALL DROP & LASER LIGHT SHOW
Downtown Berlin, 2 S. Main St., 5:30-6:30 p.m. Ball drop at 6 p.m. <https://berlinmd.gov>, 410-641-2770

NEW YEAR’S EVE JELLYFISH DROP & JAM
Delmarva Discovery Museum, 2 Market St., Pocomoke City, 7-10 p.m. Dancing, crafts, candy, animal programs, Jellyfish Ball Drop at 10 p.m. Tickets: \$15 for adults, \$10 for kids 4 years and older and free to those 3 years and younger at www.delmarvadiscoverymuseum.org. 410-957-9933

Sat., Jan. 1

28TH ANNUAL PENGUIN SWIM
Princess Royale Oceanfront Resort, 9100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 1 p.m. Registration at 10 a.m. Get a short-sleeve T-shirt for a \$25 registration fee or a long-sleeve T-shirt for a \$100 or more donation (while supplies last). Registration required: www.aghpenguinswim.org. 410-641-2770

OC MAYOR’S NEW YEAR’S DAY CONCERT
Performing Arts Center - Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 4-6 p.m. Mayor Rick Meehan and the Ocean City Council will host a free concert featuring “The Priceless Band,” a Motown band from New York. No tickets issued. Seating is first come, first served. 410-289-8931

ILIA FEHRER / JUDY JOHNSON MEMORIAL BEACH WALK AND NEW YEAR’S DAY HIKE
Assateague State Park’s Day-Use Boardwalk, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meet members of the Assateague Coastal Trust and State Park staff, enjoy a campfire and free hot chocolate and coffee. Bring your own mug. The hike is happening Jan. 1 and 2 from 7 a.m. to sunset. State Park staff will be available 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dogs on a leash are welcome only as far as the boundary of the State Park.

ONGOING EVENTS

29TH ANNUAL WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS
Northside Park, 200 125th Street, Ocean City, through Jan. 1. Hours are Wednesdays through Sundays, 5:30-9:30 p.m. Admission cost is \$5 for adults and free to those 11 years and younger. Pets are welcome on Wednesday evenings. The 2021 Winterfest of Lights will be an expanded walking tour through the animated lights. There will be hot chocolate, photos with Santa, a gift shop, an array of holiday exhibits and the 50-foot Christmas tree. Pets are welcome on Wednesdays. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/241649021281497/> for updates. Info: 410-250-0125, 800-626-2326.

Puzzles

JOB SHARING

BY DANIEL OKULITCH AND DOUG PETERSON / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Daniel Okulitch, originally from Calgary, Alberta, is a professional opera singer of more than 25 years. He has performed for the New York City Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires and many other venues. Last month he completed a run of shows at the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow as the title character in Mozart's "Don Giovanni." His partner, Lara, also a singer, introduced him to crosswords last year as part of their morning routine and he started constructing soon after. Doug Peterson, of Pasadena, Calif., is a professional crossword constructor. The two were introduced online. - W.S.

ACROSS

1 Research subject for which Bohr won a Physics Nobel

5 Grimm account

9 Musical medley

15 Like cranberries

19 Protagonist of Colson Whitehead's "The Underground Railroad"

20 Big-time

21 Tarot deck grouping

22 Trash day reminder, maybe

23 Side hustle for a hairstylist?

25 Rodent-catching feline

26 Maker of Regenerist products

27 Oust

28 French auto pioneer

30 Dan Conner and Danny Tanner, e.g.

32 [Blown kiss]

34 Side hustle for a veterinarian?

36 Manage OK

39 Dangerous crowd

41 Try to lighten up, perhaps?

42 New York Cosmos star of the '70s

43 Metal precioso

44 Polite rejection

46 National gemstone of Mexico

50 Side hustle for a therapist?

56 "A Confederacy of Dunces" author

57 Shed, with "off"

58 Many a Sharon Olds poem

59 Leaf-to-branch angles

62 It may be glossed over

63 Turned

65 Its fleece is hypoallergenic

66 Part of a gig

67 Side hustle for an anesthesiologist?

73 Leon who wrote "Battle Cry"

74 Avid bird-watcher, say

75 URL divider

76 "Mr. Mayor" airer

77 First stroke of the day

78 Holy ones: Abbr.

81 Spanish city north of León

84 Encrusted

87 Side hustle for a carpenter?

90 Netted

93 Give an address

94 Home in the mud

95 Christmas purchase

96 Like Athena

98 Moving ____

100 Record label for Otis Redding and Big Star

101 Side hustle for a marriage counselor?

106 Small sweater?

108 Cold-weather jacket

109 Person with lots to show

111 Kind of license

115 Museum that awards the Turner Prize

116 "Oh yeah? Watch me!"

118 Side hustle for a drill instructor?

120 Tech tutorials site

121 Sub groups?

122 Set of showbiz awards, in brief

123 Hightail it

124 Actress and inventor

125 Where the tradition of shaking hands as a greeting originated

126 Clinches, with "up"

127 Show off at the gym

12 Something made in a hurry

13 A in French class

14 One getting down, so to speak

15 Cheery "Ciao!"

16 Two-time opponent of Dwight

17 Map lines

18 Guilt-producing meeting, perhaps

24 Maxim

29 Nobel-winning author

31 Park supervisor?

33 Refine

35 Economic stat.

36 Male swans

37 Like one Freudian fixation

38 Bouncy toys

40 Thrift-store fashion, informally

45 Blue

46 Order member

47 Hindu, for one

48 Justice beginning in 2006

49 New Testament miracle recipient

51 "Uh-oh" sounds

52 ____ fresca

53 Its etymology may derive from the diminutive of "borough" in Italian

54 "Mission: Impossible" theme composer

55 Convention center event

60 Some HDTVs

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		

61 1979 Commodores hit with the lyric "Good times never felt so good"

64 Singer Celine

65 One of two in "Hamilton"

66 Aggressively mainstream, in slang

67 Unit of prevention

68 ____ legend

69 Revise, as text

70 Org. with Divisions I-III

71 Suspense novelist Hoag

72 Pandora native in "Avatar"

78 Side of a block

79 Word after high or weak

80 Classic skit comedy show

82 Sole ingredient in some cookies?

83 Rock with colorful bands

85 Sum total

86 "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" vampire

88 Like a bad outcome for all

89 Great deal

91 Causing quite a stink

92 Opposite of morn

96 Frank

97 "Hold on ..."

99 Hotel room restriction

100 Drive to the station, say

101 Come down with

102 Nonsensical

103 Checked a box, maybe

104 Accent ____

105 Wizards' wear

107 Giant bird of Arabian myth

110 Blow a fuse

112 Starbucks size

113 Slurpee relative

114 Party mix ingredient

117 Big game show prize

119 Scatter

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HARD - 63

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

CBS	ASLEEP	UPSET	GMC
LAI	NEURAL	NOONE	OAR
ALLA	NEVER	ENDING	STORY
USED	CAR	UAE	LONE
SANSA	BEARS	REPEATING	
EMT	MARIMBA	DRAW	SEGA
	PERPETUAL	MOTION	SOY
KANYE	WEST	AGENTS	
FARMS		EOS	ASPCA
ETTA	NANA	POPART	ISAY
TANS	ADIN	FINITUM	KERR
INES	GOLDEN	GEEZ	HUME
DAREI		WED	TIDES
	SHARPE	IMPOSES	ON
NBC	RECURRING	DREAMS	
ORAL	RAFE	NAMASTE	CIT
NONSTOP	FLIGHTS	GUIDO	
CIAO	ACR	ALGREEN	
CONTINUITY	OFCARE	SNAG	
ODE	LETME	URCHIN	ACLU
YES	STEPS	POSIES	ESE

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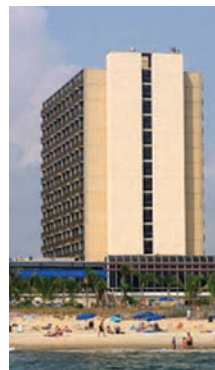
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