

Fleetwood resigns as Berlin's administrator

Says he had been weighing his retirement for months, wanted to see budget pass

By Greg Ellison

Staff Writer

(April 21, 2022) Berlin Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood announced his retirement on Monday with a departure slated for tomorrow.

Fleetwood, who was originally hired as human resources director in 2010 moved into his current role in August 2019.

Speaking on Tuesday, Fleetwood said he began weighing a move about



Jeff Fleetwood

six months back.

"I've been toying with the idea of retiring," he said. "I've been in this role three years this summer."

Fleetwood's contact had run through next summer.

"I met with the mayor [Zack Tyndall] last night and shared my intent to retire," he said. "He choose the last day of work to be this coming Friday."

Fleetwood said he was not being fired or forced out of his role.

"I made a request to retire and I am retiring," he said.

Following his disclosure to Tyndall on Monday night, the Berlin Town Council held an executive session related to the pending departure on Tuesday evening.

Speaking on Wednesday, Tyndall had no comment on the matter.

"I do not comment on personnel matters," he said.

Fleetwood, 65, said after discussing the matter with his wife the couple agreed the time was right to step down.

Fleetwood said despite the apparent suddenness, the departure was amicable, with the town compensating him through June.

"I'm not going to say it was a bone of contention because we agreed to it," he said.

Councilmember Troy Purnell was less than enthused to learn of Fleetwood's decision.

"I hope he sticks around until July 1, but he probably doesn't want to," he said.

Purnell said Fleetwood's presence would be sorely missed.

"This is extremely unfortunate for Berlin," he said. "Jeff is a major asset."

As for what he will do next, Fleetwood, who acknowledged possessing hyper energy, has yet to decide what direction to pursue but is contemplating at least part-time work.

Voters get ballot for referendum on bylaws rewrite

OPA members have until mid-May to have their say

By Greg Ellison

Staff Writer

(April 21, 2022) Ocean Pines officials are sending out referendum ballots this week for a slate of proposed bylaws language revisions.

Homeowners are being presented with 28 potential changes to bylaws, with ballots due back by May 19 at 4 p.m.

The language changes under consideration were developed after more than a year of consideration and discussion by the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee, a subcommittee and the board of directors.

Additionally, several public meetings were staged to review the process with the community.

Association President Colette Horn said in a statement that OPA at-

See REFERENDUM Page 3



Colette Horn



GREG ELLISON/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

EGG SCRAMBLE

Following an appearance on Saturday morning by the Easter Bunny at the Taylor House Museum in Berlin, frantic youths scour the lawn for prize-filled eggs as parents oversee the mayhem while recording cell-phone videos.



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Berlin budget work session reviews utility fund monies

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 21, 2022) Town of Berlin officials reviewed FY23 projected health insurance costs, along with utility fund revenues and expenditures during a budget work session on Monday.

The evening session opened with a presentation on insurance renewal options from Kelsey Jensen with One Digital.

Jensen recommended the town retain current provider CareFirst for the next fiscal year, while also noting that United Healthcare offered nearly identical price points.

"The maximum out-of-pocket and co-insurance is slightly higher," she said. "We're taking a little bit more risk there."

Although CareFirst initially proposed a rate hike of more than 12 percent for FY23, Jensen said that figure was negotiated down to a 3.7 percent increase.

"That was quite a jump there," she said.

The overall cost increase for FY23 would be roughly \$39,000.

Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood said staff issues with CareFirst were nonexistent.

"I haven't heard any complaints," he said.

Jensen said CareFirst is holding open enrollment between May 17-19.

Mayor Zack Tyndall said if council members did not object, the town should retain CareFirst for FY23.

"I can safely say based off this presentation that CareFirst is very competitive," he said.

Turning to the water fund, Finance Director Natalie Saleh said the principal source of revenues are user fees.

Saleh said special connection fees from sales of EDUs are estimated at \$442,000 for FY23.

Water service revenues are estimated at \$725,000 in FY23, which reflects a \$55,000, or 8 percent, increase over the \$670,000 anticipated to be collected during the current year.

Saleh also noted \$150,000 from

See BERLIN Page 4

Zack Tyndall

Berlin awarded state grant for safety issues downtown

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 21, 2022) The Town of Berlin has received state funding for public safety improvements to keep gatherings peaceful downtown and to deter crime and vandalism.

Berlin officials last week announced the receipt of a Community Safety Business District Grant of \$76,300 that was awarded through the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Economic and Community Development Director Ivy Wells said the grant would cover the acquisition of security cameras for the business district.

"Our police department has always wanted security cameras downtown," she said.

In total, 20 security cameras are being added to monitor downtown streets and parking lots.

"It's a whole security camera package," she said.

The setup includes an app that sends real-time notifications if shenanigans occur.

"There's been a couple of shoplifting incidents where security cameras

would have been helpful for our police department," she said.

The largest portion of the grant, however, will be used to buy vehicle barriers, including cones and barrels, to block off streets during public gathering.

"We've needed those for decades," she said.

Moreover, \$48,000 is earmarked to buy modular vehicle barriers that can be placed on the perimeter of event locations.

"The Department of Homeland Security came here and assisted our police department with some suggestions to keep the town safe," she said.

Wells said a dozen barriers would be purchased at a cost of \$4,000 each.

"This particular barrier stops the car in its tracks," she said.

Although light enough to transport and easy to set up, the barriers have proven an effective means to maintain public safety.

"If a car rams into it, it stops it," she said.

Wells said the equipment should be ready to use later this summer.

"We have to have these when the roads are closed," she said. "We live in a new world and we have to be prepared."

Ivy Wells

Commissioners to maintain last year's property tax rate

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer
(April 21, 2022) On April 5 the Worcester County Commissioners approved the advertisement for a public hearing on May 3 to discuss plans for the FY23 real property tax rate.

Like many jurisdictions around the country, Worcester County considers a formula called the constant yield tax rate when deciding where to set the real property tax. The formula determines the tax rate that will result in the county receiving the same revenue as it did in the previous year. A key feature of this formula is that the actual monetary value of the tax rate can increase — or decrease — while the revenue received by the jurisdiction stays the same.

The county is currently planning on rolling over the same tax rate from FY22 and thus going over the constant yield tax rate for FY23,

The county estimates that beginning July 1, the real property assessable base will increase by 1.9 percent — from approximately \$16.49 billion

to \$16.78 billion — according to a memo from county budget officer Candace Savage.

If Worcester maintains the current tax rate — \$0.845 per \$100 of assessment — real property tax revenues will increase by 1.9 percent, resulting in \$2.63 million in new property tax revenues.

To offset the increasing assessments, and adhere to the constant yield tax rate, the real property tax rate would need to be reduced to \$0.8294 per \$100 of assessment.

“The county is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments,” Savage wrote. “The county proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$0.845 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 1.9 percent higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate (about \$2.63 billion) in additional real property tax revenues.”

The public hearing is scheduled for 7 p.m. on May 3 at the Government Center in Snow Hill and will be streamed live on the county website.

Referendum ballots distributed

Continued from Page 1

torney Jeremy Tucker had also reviewed suggested revisions.

“We believe these changes are necessary to clear up some inconsistencies in the bylaws, and to help protect the association from future litigation,” she said.

Ballots can either be mailed or dropped off at a ballot box located inside the Ocean Pines Police Department lobby at 239 Ocean Parkway that is accessible 24 hours daily.

Ballots must be submitted in the included return envelope or they will be considered void.

To cast a referendum ballot, homeowners must have paid 2021 assessments by April 15.

Ballots will be counted on May 20

starting at 10 a.m. in the Administration Building. The process, which is open to the public, will be recorded and posted online on the association website.

On a related note, the board rescheduled a special meeting originally set for April 18 until this Friday at 9 a.m.

The virtual meeting is to consider a change to the proposed candidate registration form to specify that several included questions were not mandatory.

To request a duplicate ballot or to inquire about other issues related to the referendum, email elections@oceanpines.org or call 410-208-3989.

For questions about voter eligibility, email member@oceanpines.org.



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Vendors in bloom at Pines Farmers & Artisans Market

(April 21, 2022) The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market at White Horse Park is seeing the seasonal return of its vendors, as about 80 merchants have enrolled so far in the marketplace.

Market manager David Bean said he expects that number to exceed 130 by the peak of the summer.

“When the market bell rings next Saturday morning, shoppers will find the freshest produce and so much more for their market basket,” Bean said. “Fresh asparagus is now being harvested by our local farmers. Look for these harbingers of spring this weekend when shopping the green market loop.”

Other notable vendors include seamstress In My Hands, located in the Artisan Plaza and carrying a selection of handmade totes and other one-of-a-kind items.

See BEAN Page 5

Berlin budget work continuing

Continued from Page 2

FY22 special connection fees would be earmarked for capital projects in FY23.

Looking at water fund expenditures, Water Resources Superintendent Jamey Latchum said vehicle upgrades are being requested for FY23.

Latchum is working in conjunction with Public Works Director Jimmy Charles to acquire a mutual-use Ford F550 dump truck, in addition to three F250s.

Overall, this would replace a trio of high mileage trucks currently in use.

“We use each other’s equipment,” he said. “We’re a group here and we work for the Town of Berlin.”

Tyndall noted the Maryland Energy Administration just announced expanded timeframes to apply for grants to purchase vehicles not powered by fossil fuels.

“This morning MEA has issued an extension for grant funding for alternative fuel vehicles,” he said.

Tyndall said grants could cover the cost of acquiring all four trucks.

“If we’re successful, the town could potentially have to cover the costs for a fueling station,” he said.

Despite the extra costs for an alternative fuel source, Tyndall said the price tag would likely be lower than the vehicle costs.

Switching to the water treatment plant, Latchum said updates are slated in FY23 for well houses on Franklin Avenue and Powellton Avenue.

Latchum said the Franklin Avenue site needs new water flow meters to be in accordance with the updated meter reading system.

Costs for building replacement at the Powellton Avenue location, which were quoted at \$175,00 three years ago, are now estimated at \$300,000. Latchum said the price spike was mainly tied to higher costs for materials.

Looking at the wastewater fund, Saleh said the main source of revenues were service fees, while also noting \$1.23 million is anticipated to be collected from special connection fees in FY23.

“We estimate \$3.5 million for FY23 in sewer fund revenues,” she said.

In terms of wastewater expenditures, Latchum said replacing a SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) system is estimated at \$17,500 in FY23.

“SCADA is what controls the treatment plant,” he said.

The control system provides alerts for malfunctions and if not operational would require staff to be onsite at the treatment plant 24 hours daily.

Latchum also highlighted a roughly \$1 million outlay to replace the Broad Street Lift Station, which was last updated in 1970.

“It’s just a waiting time bomb,” he said.

Latchum also noted higher costs are anticipated to operate the treatment plant in FY23.

“Some of our materials doubled or tripled in price,” he said.

Flipping to the electric fund, Saleh said total revenue estimates for FY23 are roughly \$6.4 million.

“We are past due on a rate study,” she said.

Saleh said the associated cost for a rate study would be roughly \$140,000, while also noting \$70,000 would be required to cover FY22 purchase orders for transformers.

Saleh said both sums are anticipated to be covered by transferring \$210,000 from reserves.

Electric Utility Director Tim Lawrence said costs for fuel and materials have skyrocketed.

“Everything has risen 20-40 percent,” he said.

In terms of capital outlays for equipment, Lawrence said his department is requesting a Ford F250 4x4 truck at a cost of \$55,000, which would replace two trucks dating to the 1990s.

In closing, Tyndall highlighted the importance of reviewing planned designations of American Rescue Plan Act funds for FY23.

FY23 budget introduction is scheduled on May 9 with adoption slated on May 23.

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OP Racquet Sports looks for warm weather

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 21, 2022) The Ocean Pines Racquet Sports Committee discussed court repairs and facility expansions during its meeting on Thursday.

Committee Chair Rhett Parsons said the installation of additional pickleball courts is almost ready to begin.

“Public Works is about to start the site work,” he said.

Parsons said ground preparation and environmental aspects would be handled in-house prior to construction, with unknowns remaining as to when contractors would begin work.

“We don’t know the timing yet,” he said.

The problem of cracks on the court was also examined during the meeting last week.

Parsons said committee members are looking to schedule a date to meet with contractors and have Public Works Director Eddie Wells gather details on the repair particulars.

“We’ve submitted questions to have Eddie Wells ask the guy,” he said.

Those questions would include, according to Parsons, how much resurfacing would be needed to fix the cracks on the court’s surface.

“What options do we have in the short-term to get us through the season?” he said.

Also uncertain is how the weather will affect repair work.

“What’s our temperature range where we have to do this work?” he



Ocean Pines Racquet Sports Committee members and board liaison Amy Peck, left, discuss pending court repairs and facility expansions during its meeting last Thursday at the Racquet Sports Center.

said. “If we have to do it in reasonably warm weather, that could end up impacting the later end of the season.”

Regardless of timing issues, Parsons said action to maintain courts in proper condition is needed.

“It effects all of our surfaces and the problem is the cracks are just getting worse,” he said.

Parsons also provided an update on forming a new subcommittee to develop recommendations for improvements at the Manklin Meadows Racquet Sports Center.

“We’re going to put together a survey to solicit input from everybody on facilities and the center,” he said.

Parsons said the subcommittee

would focus n structural needs and facility issues.

Subcommittee membership will include representatives from tennis, platform tennis and pickleball.

With court action increasing as temperatures rise, the committee also reviewed upgrades on tap for this summer.

Research is still being conducted on adding a refrigerated cooler for snacks and beverages that could be in

place next month.

Also, water lines are on the brink of being reactivated to permit use of the wash-down station and water fountain.

While higher revenues are forthcoming in the spring and summer, Parsons said profits in March easily eclipsed the prior month.

“Tennis and pickleball definitely picked up from February,” he said. “We had a good number of platform and a great number of pickleball players.”

Bean anticipates more vendors

Continued from Page 4

Ukulele player Peggy Katona will perform on the market stage, providing a soundtrack for shoppers to stroll the marketplace, and Lyon rum will offer locally made coconut rum.

“There is always something to see and do at your Ocean Pines Farmers

& Artisans Market, where the week-end begins in Ocean Pines,” Bean said.

The market is open Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in White Horse Park.

For more information, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market.

KIWANIS ACCOLADES

Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City President Tim Lund, center, presents “Kiwanan of the Month” awards during the Feb. 2 weekly meeting, to January 2022 recipient, Dave Landis, left, and December 2021 honoree, Tom Southwell.

PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.



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Diakonia plans for expansion

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(April 21, 2022) Engineers working with Diakonia introduced sketch plans for major additions to their facilities to the Worcester County Technical Review Committee on April 13.

Engineer Ronnie Carpenter briefed the committee on the project, a 4.4-acre site that will include retail, office, storage, and conference space along with 48 one-bedroom housing units in the 9600 block of Stephen Decatur Highway, near Diakonia's donation center and thrift store.

"The main use for this property is going to be one-bedroom units and a multipurpose building for training and receiving of goods for Diakonia," Carpenter said. "We have been through a couple of iterations of review and comment with some homeowner programs and we do have final approval for our (stormwater drainage system) at this time and we're very close to receiving approval on sewer and water. We've had multiple discussions with the Maryland State Highway Administration for entrance and they're on board with what we're

proposing at that location."

Carpenter added that they have permits with the Maryland Department of the Environment for buffer encroachment.

"It seems like things are heading in the right direction for this project," he said.

Carpenter didn't have architectural sketches for the committee to review, saying that they wanted to get through this initial meeting to make sure no major changes were necessary before committing to any designs. Those designs will likely be introduced when the developers go in front of the county Planning Commission.

"We spread out the parking and handicapped spaces for each of the proposed buildings, single entrance off 611 and we've managed to make the stormwater work," he said. "I think it's a good project and certainly something that's needed for this area."

Along with the aforementioned facilities, Diakonia also operates a food distribution shelter. The organization played a vital role in helping local residents stave off eviction and/or homelessness during the covid-19 pandemic.



Diakonia is planning an addition to its facilities, which will include more than three dozen one-bedroom living spaces, a multipurpose room and more. After going over the plan with the Worcester County Technical Review Committee, they will take architectural plans to the Planning Commission next.

Nordstrom donation made to benefit foster care youth

(April 21, 2022) More than half a million dollars, presented by the Nordstrom Family Fund, will benefit the needs of foster children and children in crisis situations in the lower shore community.

The Nordstrom Family Fund at the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore was created by Ray and Bonnie Nordstrom after they were inspired to grow their impact while continuing to make a difference in the lives of area children.

"We have worked with so many local organizations serving families in need, but our hearts are always drawn to the children. They are our future and we want to help them, in

some small way, to be the best they can be," Bonnie Nordstrom said. "I hear of foster care children being moved to new families with all their belongings in a black plastic bag. Our hope is to provide some basic resources to less advantaged children, so that personal dignity and well-being is elevated during the experience."

The Nordstroms have a history of philanthropy and recognize that in creating an impact, it is critical to meet the day-to-day needs, but also to help identify opportunities to improve the systems that those in crisis have to navigate.

"My father grew up very poor, but



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Nordstrom Family Fund at the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore recently presented a check for \$508,000, which will benefit the needs of foster children and children in crisis situations. Pictured, from left, are Eric Johnston, financial advisor; Bonnie and Ray Nordstrom, founders of the Nordstrom Family Fund, and their son, Joshua; with CFES President Erica Joseph.

always said that education was the great equalizer in life," Ray Nordstrom said. "For educational oppor-

tunity to find fertile soil, certain basic needs need to be met. We hope to provide decent clothes, shoes and personal items to foster care children and children of families in need."

It was the family's financial advisor, Eric Johnston of InFocus Financial Advisors, Inc., who connected the Nordstrom's with the Community Foundation. He knew that a Donor Advised Fund was an efficient and flexible way for the family to support a variety of causes that were close to their heart.

"By utilizing the resources offered through the Community Foundation, the Nordstrom's gift will make a long-lasting difference," said Erica Joseph, Community Foundation president. "Through earned interest, their gift will be able to continually grow, which in turn creates more money available in the future for these important causes."

For more information on creating a charitable impact, visit the Community Foundation's website at www.cfes.org.

The Community Foundation of the
See NORDSTROM Page 7



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Berlin man pleads guilty to crack possession and intent

(April 21, 2022) Marcus Pitts, age 49, of Berlin, pleaded guilty on April 8, to possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine, according to a joint announcement issued by federal, state and local law enforcement officials.

According to Pitts's guilty plea, in September 2018, members of the Worcester County Criminal Enforcement Team (WCCET) were investigating Pitts for suspected drug distribution.

While conducting surveillance at Pitts's residence investigators saw a suspected drug user go into the residence, come out a short time later, and then drive away.

Investigators conducted a traffic stop of the individual and recovered a glass smoking pipe and a small amount of cocaine, which the person acknowledged he had just purchased

from Pitts.

On Sept. 14, 2018, members of the enforcement team executed a search warrant at Pitts's residence, where they recovered approximately 396 grams of crack cocaine, baking soda, a glass Pyrex dish, plastic baggies, an empty digital scale box, three cell phones, and \$1,472 in U.S. currency.

An additional cell phone taken from Pitts contained numerous text messages indicating that Pitts was involved in trafficking crack cocaine.

Pitts was released from state custody on bail on Sept. 24, 2018. He was arrested on Jan. 2, 2019 on a federal arrest warrant.

At the time of his arrest, Pitts was in possession of a bag of crack cocaine, which he tried to throw away as police approached. Investigators also recovered a cell phone from Pitts's vehicle.

The cell phone was found to contain numerous text messages indicating that Pitts continued to distribute crack cocaine while he was released from state custody on bail.

Pitts and the government have agreed that, if the court accepts the plea agreement, Pitts will be sentenced to seven years in federal prison. U.S. District Judge George L. Russell III has scheduled sentencing for June 17 at 2 p.m.

Participating in the investigation, arrest and prosecution of Betts were United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Erik L. Barron; Homeland Security Investigations Baltimore; the Worcester County Criminal Enforcement Team; the Ocean City Police Department, the Ocean Pines Police Department, the Worcester County Sheriff's office, the Maryland State Police and the Pocomoke City Police Department.

Vehicle fire injures several firefighters in Ocean Pines

(April 21, 2022) The Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office investigated a vehicle fire this morning in Ocean Pines that injured several firefighters and destroyed the vehicle.

At approximately 11:26 a.m., the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched to 16 Wood Duck Drive for a reported vehicle on fire. Upon arrival, crews saw a work van in the driveway of the residence well involved with fire.

A short time later while firefighters were working to extinguish the fire, the fuel tank ruptured and caused a flash fire

that injured three firefighters.

One firefighter was taken to a nearby hospital with non-life-threatening injuries while two others were evaluated and released at the scene.

The property where the fire occurred is owned by Joe and Kathy Gallagher and the residence itself sustained minor heat damage as a result.

The origin and cause of the vehicle fire remains under investigation.

For further information, contact Fire Marshal Matthew Owens at 410-632-5666 x1 or mowens@co.worcester.md.us.

Nordstrom Family Fund aims to help Eastern Shore kids

Continued from Page 6
Eastern Shore connects people who care to causes that matter for the common good of the Lower Eastern Shore.

It is a 501c3 nonprofit with an inspiring history of fostering charitable endeavors, and has provided more than \$94 million in grants and scholarships to the local community since 1984.

CFES collaborates with individuals, families and businesses to match their charitable interests with community needs and strengthens local nonprofits through grants and resources. It is devoted to improving the regional community and believes in the power of philanthropy.

For information, contact Victoria Kent, marketing officer, at 410-742-9911 or vkent@CFES.org.



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‘Hedgehog’ shooting in Berlin

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(April 21, 2022) Berlin might share a name associated most closely with Germany, but this week “America’s coolest small town” per Budget Travel some years back is doubling as Ukraine for the upcoming short film, “Hedgehog.”

“Hedgehog” is produced in part by Ocean City resident Dave Messick, who said he has aspirations that the film can be featured at the Sundance Film Festival, the Cannes Film Festival, the Berlin (Germany) International Film Festival and locally at the Ocean City Film Festival.



D. Mitry

“It’s a (Ukrainian) film,” Messick said. “The film is about a little girl that gets dropped off at her grandmother’s house so her parents can fight in the war.”

“It’s a great story and I’m excited to do something like this here. Bringing bigger productions here to Ocean City is something I’ve wanted to do for a while.”

Messick added that he expected filming to last four and a half days for the 18-minute short.

Messick has enlisted some serious Hollywood help for the film. One of his other producers has 40 feature films under his belt and director D. Mitry — a native of Minsk, Belarus —



Dave Messick

has six previous films on his resume as both screenwriter and director.

“He’s great,” Messick said, adding that Mitry’s wife is also a producer on the project.

Mitry said that he wanted to write something that would be a “pro-human, humanistic piece” that walked the line between being pro-Ukraine but did not paint the people of Russia in an unfair or negative light.

“(It’s) a film that goes along with the theme that as human beings we have an obligation to be human to each other,” he said.

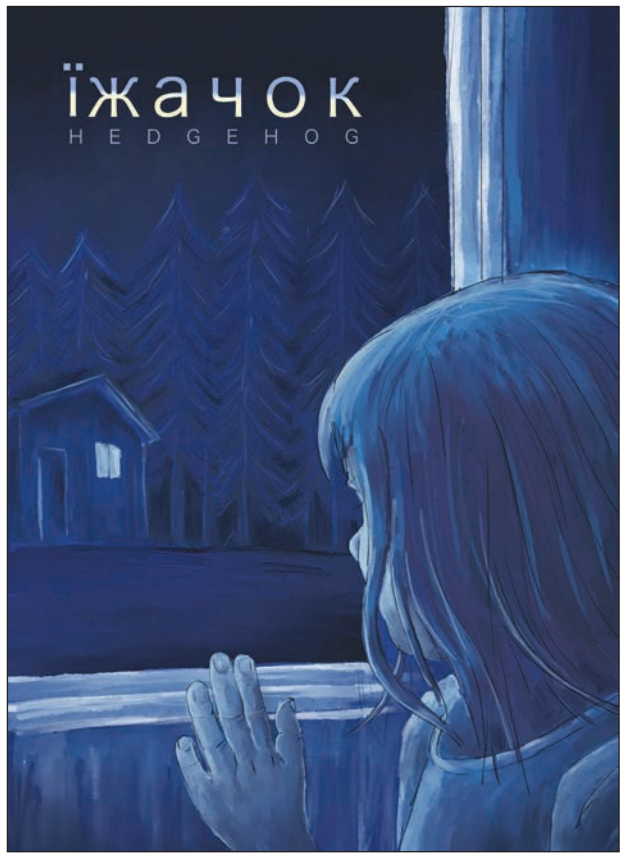
Mitry said that he and his wife met Messick at a film festival in Iowa where his film “Reggie’s Forest,” which won the People’s Choice Award at the 2020 Ocean City Film Festival, was screened.

“They were showing his (film) ... and we became friends,” Mitry said. “When looking for a location we wanted to recreate Ukraine and we couldn’t think of a better place than

where Dave shot “Reggie’s Forest.” We pitched the idea to Dave and he opened his arms with his production company and introduced us to the town.”

“Everyone has been incredible and 100-percent supportive of this. I hope that people around the world will get to see this and I hope it speaks to them.”

Filming on “Hedgehog” began yesterday.



Timeless Tennis lessons for free in Pines this Saturday

(April 21, 2022) The Ocean Pines Platform Tennis Club will offer free Timeless Tennis lesson clinics on Saturday, April 23 at 11 a.m. and Thursday, April 28 at 4 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center.

Timeless Tennis is played with a regular tennis racquet and a lower-bounce tennis ball. Equipment will be provided at both clinics.

The clinics are free, but email registration is required.

To sign up, email OPPaddle2020@gmail.com.

Timeless Tennis Director Araceli Popen said both new and seasoned players are welcome.

“If you have never played a racquet sport, we will help you develop your skills. If you used to or still play tennis, and you have limitations playing on a regulation-size tennis court,

See NO Page 9

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Berlin's Memorial Day on Flower St. slated for May 30

(April 21, 2022) The Town of Berlin and the Berlin Community Improvement Association (BCIA) have announced the return of the "Memorial Day Parade on Flower Street," on Monday, May 30.

The parade will begin at the corner of Seahawk Road and Flower Street and conclude at Dr. William Edward Henry Park.

The theme of this year's parade "Hometown Heroes," which will honor members of the United States military who died while serving our country and celebrate the essential workers in the community who worked on the front lines during the covid-19 pandemic.

In addition to the parade, community members will be encouraged to visit Dr. William Edward Henry Park and the Multipurpose Building property to grab a bite to eat, shop at local vendor tables, and participate in other activities.

The number of entries in the parade is limited. Priority will be given to entries associated with the military and essential workers who served the community throughout the pandemic.

Any questions regarding the parade or to be a vendor, contact DJ Lockwood at 443-497-3242 or email djlockwood334@gmail.com.

No-cost racquet sport instruction

Continued from Page 8

Timeless tennis is for you," Popen said. "The sport is played on the fenced platform tennis courts that are one-third the size of a regulation tennis court, so it's never too far to the ball.

"New players typically are able to join a drop-in after a lesson or two, and we are conveniently located at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center on Manklin Creek Road. There are drop-ins, and ladies', men's and co-ed groups that play," she continued. "It's really a fun-loving group of people. Just come on down, and we will get you playing!"

For more information, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/timeless-tennis.

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Bikers Without Borders Autism ride

Inaugural event scheduled for April 23 fundraiser for Worcester nonprofit group

(April 21, 2022) Join the Bikers Without Borders Foundation on Saturday, April 23, for the inaugural Bikers for Autism ride.

This event, held in Ocean City and surrounding communities, will raise funds for the Autistic Children's Support Group of Worcester County.

Bike registration will be held from 9-11 a.m. at The Cork Bar (motorcycles park along Wicomico Street) followed by the ride, escorted by the Wicomico and Worcester County Sheriff's departments.

Following the ride, join the Bikers

Without Borders Foundation and other enthusiasts from noon to 3 p.m. for a block party sponsored by The Cork Bar, The Bearded Clam and Crawl Street Tavern with live music from The Chest Pains.

The \$25 registration fee includes a buffet lunch and non-alcoholic beverages. All are welcome. There will be silent auctions, raffles and a 50/50 raffle.

The Autistic Children's Support Group of Worcester County is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization dedicated to providing support to families of children with autism and related development disabilities in Worcester County and surrounding communities.

The group was formed with the goal to provide parent-to-parent support.


For more information, visit www.acs-gwc.org.

Bikers Without Borders Foundation is comprised of men and women that believe that giving back to the community is a civic duty.

Members are motorcycle riders and non-riders who participate in charitable and volunteer activities, which support local communities. The foundation focuses on supporting and serving veterans and active military, emergency responders, children and youth, and those who are most vulnerable in our communities.


For more information, visit www.facebook.com/bikerswithoutbordersfoundation or email biker-withoutbordersfoundation@gmail.com.

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Worcester Youth Pirate Party set for May 13

(April 21, 2022) Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services will host its 12th annual Pirate Party fundraiser on Friday, May 13, from 6-9 p.m. at Sunset Grille in West Ocean City.

Attendees are encouraged to join the fun by coming dressed in their best pirate garb, although it is not required. A \$65 admission ticket includes a light fare buffet, a pirate-inspired rum drink voucher, live entertainment, raffles, and games. Tickets can be purchased in advance online by going to gowoyo.org.

This is Worcester Youth & Family's biggest fundraising event of the

year. All proceeds go directly to support the organization's youth programs, which have a huge impact on the lives of Worcester County's most vulnerable residents.

The programs help to engage residents in healthy, structured social activities in addition to working with them in therapeutic environments to improve their lives. Any donations made will support the organization's youth enrichment programs and Lower Shore CASA program, which advocates for neglected and abused children in the child welfare system.

Local businesses and individuals continue to generously support this annual event, including Ayers Creek

Adventures, Bergey & Company, Cards Technology, Duckaneer, Sunset Grille, Harborside Grill, First Shore Federal Bank, and Delmarva Power. However, additional sponsors are still being sought.

Individuals can also support the fundraiser by becoming a pirate, who are asked to raise funds leading up to the event, or donate to financially support a specific pirate. Friends, family and colleagues can help pirates meet their financial goals by visiting the Worcester Youth website at www.gowoyo.org and donating to "their" specific pirate. Anyone interested in becoming a sponsor or a pirate should contact Worcester Youth

at 410-641-4598.

The party rain date is May 20.

Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services is a nonprofit organization serving the community since 1975 located in Berlin. Through programs that include comprehensive mental health counseling, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), youth mentoring, family resource navigation, and youth camps and groups, WYFCS is increasing awareness about mental health, advocating for abused and neglected children, providing community resources and education, and making a difference in the lives of the people in the community.

Record crowds visited Assateague last year

(April 21, 2022) Assateague Island National Seashore received a record 2,662,716 visitors to its Maryland and Virginia units in 2021.

This put Assateague Island 33rd among the 380 National Park Units reporting visitation numbers, and ahead of such iconic locations as Mount Rushmore, Bryce Canyon and Shenandoah.

Summer visitation increased

slightly over a record-breaking summer of 2020, but much of the increase came in the spring and fall.

The National Park Service recorded 297.1 million visits in 2021, with 44 park units (including Assateague) posting record visitation.

"It's wonderful to see so many Americans continuing to find inspiration in these incredible places during the second year of the pandemic,"

said National Parks Director Chuck Sams.

Whether coming to Assateague Island for the beach, for surfing or fish-

ing, to view the horses and other wildlife, to attend ranger programs, to hike, or to camp, there are a couple


See CROWDS Page 11



PHOTO COURTESY ASSATEAGUE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE


Assateague Island National Seashore received a record number of visitors topping the 2.6 million mark in 2021.

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PHOTO COURTESY PHILIP SMITH, NATIONAL AQUARIUM
A grey seal pup, too young to survive in the ocean without its mother, was rescued by the National Aquarium in February. It is one of three maternally-dependent seals admitted to the Animal Care and Rescue Center (ACRC) over the past year.

Grey seal pup recovers after National Aquarium rescue

(April 21, 2022) A grey seal pup that is too young to survive in the ocean without its mother was rescued by the National Aquarium and is on its way to learning how to thrive on its own.

It is one of three maternally-dependent seals admitted to the Animal Care and Rescue Center (ACRC) over the past year, indicating a possible establishment of a grey seal colony, known as a rookery, in mid-Atlantic waters.

Aquarium staff welcomed the grey seal pup on Feb. 26 to the ACRC. The pup was rescued from Assateague Island National Seashore, where he was found stranded and dehydrated with

wounds of unknown origin to his face and left flipper.

He has been nicknamed “Louis Armstrong” in keeping with the National Aquarium’s 2021-2022 rescue season naming theme of musicians and instruments.

Weighing in at just 35 pounds, the Animal Rescue team was quickly able to determine that Louis was born sometime in January and, in the wild, would still be dependent on his mother for nourishment, leaving him vulnerable to predators and susceptible to malnutrition on his own.

Since arriving at the center, Louis has been treated with antibiotics to

See GREY Page 12

Crowds visit Assateague in '21

Continued from Page 10
of things to remember.

- * During the peak hours, entrance lines in both Maryland and Virginia can be several miles long, with waits of well over an hour.
- * Holiday weekends or good weather Saturdays can be even busier, occasionally involving waits of up to four hours to enter in late morning or early afternoon. Lines to enter the Maryland Oversand Vehicle area are often three to four hours long by early morning. Consider arriving early or late to avoid the worst of the lines.
- * Remember that all wildlife, including the horses are “wild.” The horse will bite, kick, or damage a vehicle. Always keep at least 40 feet from the horses and never feed or attract them.
- * Follow all food storage rules. Improperly stored food may be confiscated, and substantial fines may be levied for feeding or touching the horses.

Passes can be purchased at the Visitor Centers or at the Entrance Station. Maryland Oversand Vehicle

permits can only be purchased at the Ranger Station just inside the park entrance.

America the Beautiful-National Parks and Federal Recreation lands passes, senior passes and Assateague Island annual passes are available at both locations. Free passes are available for eligible active-duty military, veterans, disabled visitors, and the fourth grade-Every Kid Outdoors annual pass. Check the park website for details.

Check with Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge for Virginia only passes. Details about camping are also on the website and reservations can be made at www.recreation.gov.

In addition, consider visiting the other two National Park Service units – Harriet Tubman National Historic Site in Cambridge, and First State National Historic Site in various locations throughout Delaware. Also check out the many state parks in Maryland, Delaware and Virginia.

For general information about the seashore and park activities, visit www.nps.gov/asis or call 410-641-1441.

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Burbage gift to Land Trust starts new fund

Donated property bordering airport sold for buffer zone with proceeds to nonprofit

(April 21, 2022) The stretch of forested buffer situated to the north side of the Ocean City airport isn't just a pretty view along Route 611. This property serves as a buffer to the airport and now will no longer be at risk of development.

Jack Burbage, a local developer, philanthropist and outdoorsman, is also well-known for supporting worthy causes on the Eastern Shore. His name adorns hospitals as well as other local buildings, and he is a past recipient of the Hal Glick Award.



Jack Burbage

True to his reputation, Burbage bestowed the ultimate gift on the Lower Shore Land Trust in 2019. The gift of commercial real estate was the first of its kind for the Lower Shore Land Trust, and according to Hugh Cropper, chairman of the Board of Directors, prompted the organization to review gift policies and asset management before accepting the gift.

Suzy Taylor, Lower Shore Land Trust treasurer, noted that the organization thought it may have to hold the land for some time waiting for the right conservation-minded buyer, so

it came as a pleasant surprise when the Town of Ocean City determined that this was a parcel critical to satisfy the need to buffer the airport.

The proceeds from the sale of the property will be managed by the Board of Directors for the purpose of long-term stewardship of protected lands, and more significantly, will launch the "Jack Burbage Conservation Land Fund."

The new fund will allow the organization to seize opportunities to protect vulnerable conservation lands across the Lower Shore. Furthermore, this gift of property and recent sale will allow the Lower Shore Land Trust to address stringent accreditation goals for stewardship of the or-

ganization's land portfolio.

Burbage has been a friend of the Land Trust for some time. All of his previous support has been important and impactful, but this one gift will cement Burbage's legacy as one of its most important donors.

"This is the type of gift we dream of, and now we can set our sights on utilizing the new Jack Burbage Conservation Land Fund to expand our land preservation programs," Kate Patton, executive director of Lower Shore Land Trust, said.

For information about the Lower Shore Land Trust and how to support the Jack Burbage Conservation Land Fund, contact Patton at kpattton@lowershorelandtrust.org or 443-234-5587.

Controlled burn in Pines moved to mid-May

(April 21, 2022) A planned controlled burn of the Seasons Plaza commercial building on Route 589 has been moved to mid-May, because of permit issues.

The Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department held training sessions at the site last month.

Chief Steve Grunewald said the fire department acquired the rights to

the commercial building, near the snowball stand and Walgreens on Route 589, between Cathell Road and Racetrack Road.

It's the future site of a Royal Farms store, and Grunewald said the company granted rights to use the property for training. The opportunity was also extended to neighboring agencies.

"It is very rare to have an opportunity to train in a commercial structure, so department leadership has offered to share our access with neighboring fire and police departments," he said. "To ensure the highest level of safety, a representative from the OPVFD will always be on-site while neighboring agencies train."

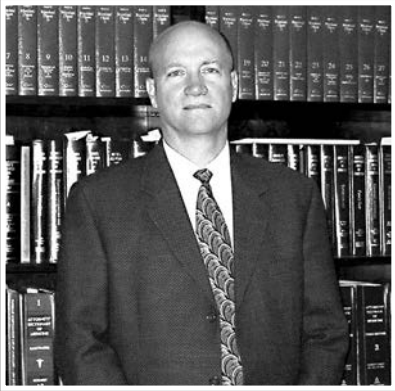
A controlled burn and demolition of the building had been scheduled for April 9, but Grunewald said permit requirements for demolition and removal would postpone that activity until the middle of next month.

He said the fire department would continue to use the building for training exercises for the next several weeks, until the actual burn.


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Grey seal continues recovery

Continued from Page 11

address infections resulting from the wounds to his face and flipper. The Animal Rescue team is now working with Louis to master independent swimming and foraging for food, which are skills he will need to survive on his own after his release.

Louis is a vocal and spirited pup who has no reservations about making noise to let rescue staff know when it's time for a meal, and his aquarium caregivers describe him as having a big personality.

He is slowly getting comfortable in his splash pools and seeking out fish.


Since a seal his age would still rely on its mother for nutrition, it is critical that Louis begin to understand how to find and eat fish on his own while in the aquarium's care.

Louis is the third maternally-dependent seal admitted to the ACRC over the past year, which indicates a trend that the Animal Rescue team is looking at carefully. The ongoing presence of grey seals, in particular, indicates the possible establishment of a rookery in mid-Atlantic waters.

While the National Aquarium's Animal Rescue staff cannot say with certainty where any individual rescued seal is from or what led them to haul up on a mid-Atlantic beach, it stands to reason that it will continue to see grey seal rescue cases.

Louis will remain at the ACRC until he is cleared for release. He will need to meet several health checks, including reaching a weight of 50 pounds before he is deemed eligible for a return to his ocean home.

Seal rescue season in the mid-Atlantic typically lasts from the early winter through May. Should you encounter a beached seal, it may not be sick, only resting. Do not touch or approach it and keep a distance of 150 feet. Note location and time of day and immediately contact the National Aquarium's Stranded Animal Hotline at 410-576-3880.



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Resto and McAllister receive new titles in SH

(April 21, 2022) The Town of Snow Hill has announced the official hiring of Lorissa McAllister, who has been serving as interim media, marketing and promotions coordinator since October, 2021.

Recognizing the need for this position's restructuring as well as the town's increasing need for economic development leadership, the new position of economic development director was created.

After the position was advertised, three candidates were interviewed and carefully considered. The mayor, council and town manager unanimously supported the decision to hire McAllister.

She has dedicated her work to the town's forward progress through several programs and initiatives, such as managing Arts on the River 1st Fridays, hosting the kick-off meeting for the revival of the Arts & Entertainment District program, actively serving and leading on the Main Street Committee, and creating the first Business Incentives package for the town, to name a few.

"In recent months, Snow Hill has gained enormous momentum toward sustainable growth and community building. I have been fortunate enough to be involved in many of the projects and initiatives behind that

momentum for the past six months as interim media, marketing, and promotions coordinator," McAllister said.



L. McAllister



Margot Resto

"I am greatly looking forward to continuing my involvement and contributing my skillset to fortify the business climate in Snow Hill as the director of economic development. Snow Hill is my home, and seeing it prosper is my passion. I am elated to be a member of the strong team of Town Hall staff and community stakeholders who are working so hard to strengthen our town."

Additionally, the mayor and town manager decided to promote Margot Resto from administrative assistant to deputy town manager to better recognize the responsibilities and unique challenges faced on a daily basis compared to those of a typical administrative assistant.

Officials wanted to recognize Resto for the tasks that she had already been performing as well as additional responsibilities taken on over the more than

two years of her service to the town.

"I am truly grateful for the mayor, council and town manager's recognition and promotion, and I treasure the opportunity to come to work every day for the town and together with town staff. It's an excellent team of people whom I admire and respect," she said.

"In my brief time with the Town of Snow Hill, I have to say that I have been extremely impressed by the high quality and dedication of all our town staff," said Snow Hill Town Manager Rick Pollitt. "Ms. Resto has truly served the citizens well for quite a

while covering every town issue from one end to the other and keeping the process of government transparent and responsive to the peoples' needs and is already performing as a deputy town manager. Ms. McAllister wears so many hats, all designed to improve the economic climate of the community, that appointing her as our first economic development director was just an acknowledgement of the great work she has been doing for many months. So happy the mayor and council have recognized their good work in this way."

'American Pickers' to visit Md. in June, seek collections

(April 21, 2022) "American Pickers" is returning to Maryland and plans to film episodes of The History Channel's hit television series around the state in June.

"American Pickers" is a documentary series that explores the fascinating world of antique "picking" on The History Channel. The show follows skilled pickers in the business, as they hunt for America's most valuable antiques. They are always excited to find sizable, unique collections and learn the interesting stories behind them.

As they hit the back roads from coast to coast, the pickers are on a mission to recycle and rescue forgotten relics. Along the way, they want to meet characters with remarkable and exceptional items.

They hope to give historically significant objects a new lease on life while learning a thing or two about America's past along the way.

The pickers have seen a lot of rusty gold over the years and are always looking to discover something they've never seen before. They are ready to find extraordinary items and hear fascinating tales about them.

American Pickers continues to take the pandemic seriously and will be following all guidelines and protocols for safe filming outlined by the state and

CDC.

The American Pickers TV Show is looking for leads and would love to explore hidden treasure of Maryland residents. If you or someone you know has a large, private collection or accumulation of antiques that the pickers can spend the better part of the day looking through, send your name, phone number, location, and description of the collection with photos to: americanpickers@cinetflix.com, or call 646-493-2184. Visit Facebook @GoTAPick.

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YARD SALE

Saturday, April 23
9AM to 1PM

9026 Worcester Hwy Berlin MD
furniture * lighting * artwork * rugs * tools * decorative items

*****items purchased must be taken home day of sale*****
*****sale will be inside in the event of rain*****

Prices start at \$1!

Stephen Decatur alumni and Delaware State University freshman, Olivia Brown of Berlin, was awarded Freshman of the Year by the Eastern College Athletic Conference in Fences.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SUPPORTING LAKELYN

Students and faculty participated in “Wear Pink” day at Worcester Preparatory School on Feb. 14, to support the family of Lakelyn Draheim, of Berlin. In January, the 4-year-old was diagnosed with DIPG (Diffuse Infiltrative Pontine Glioma) Stage 4, an inoperable brain tumor. Senior Camden Rayne is Lakelyn’s dance teacher. She partnered with WPS Volunteers to start a fundraiser to help send the Draheim family to Disney World. In doing so, students and faculty were asked to wear pink and donate \$2 each to the cause. WPS raised nearly \$5,000 for the family. To learn more about Lakelyn’s story, visit at www.caringbridge.org/visit/lakelyndraheim or follow the Facebook page “Lakelyn Strong-Defeating DIPG.” Pictured are Lower School grades Pre-K – 1st students.

DONATION

The local branch of Delta Kappa Gamma Society provided toiletries and other needed items to Diakonia and Good Samaritan through their annual “Helping Hands” project. Pictured are President Yvonne Babcock and Corresponding Secretary Nina Willett. DKG is comprised of local women teachers (presently working and retired), whose mission is to promote professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education, and also help others in the community.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



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PROCLAMATION

The Worcester County Commissioners presented a proclamation on Feb. 1, recognizing February as Black History Month to Reverend James Jones of New Macedonia Church of Pocomoke.

Our clinic is open and ready to help you recover, recharge and rise. Choose Atlantic Physical Therapy, part of Phoenix Physical Therapy, for great physical and occupational therapy care. We are proud to have a team of experienced clinicians that is committed to providing patients along the Eastern Shore with personalized therapy programs.

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SWEARING IN CEREMONY
Worcester County Commissioner Josh Nordstrom swore in the 2022 Democratic Women's Club Board during a luncheon on Dec. 2. Pictured, in back, are Board Members at-Large: Susan Buyer, Rosie Bean and Rebekah Simonds; and in front, Sue Challis, corresponding secretary; Pat Tarr, recording secretary; Bev Thomas, vice president; Deborah Fisher-Reynolds and Mary Anne Whitcomb, co-presidents. Not pictured: Irene Daly and Susanna Eisenman, co-treasurers.
SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DONATION
During a recent Ocean City Lioness Lions Club meeting, Cindy Veist, executive director of Women Supporting Women, spoke about awareness and support for breast cancer survivors. Club President Bev Toper, left, and Vice President Donna Greenwood, right, present a donation to Veist.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

PROCLAMATION
The Worcester County commissioners presented a proclamation on Feb. 1, to Cynthia Heselbach of the Worcester County Dental Center in Berlin recognizing February as Children's Dental Health Month in Worcester County. The dental center, which operates under the auspices of the Worcester County Health Department, serves those under age 21 or pregnant who are low income, uninsured, or enrolled in the Maryland Medicaid Program.

OPEN HOUSES

April 21 - April 28

DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENCY/AGENT
Fri-Mon, 11am-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2BR/3BR/4BR+	Condos, Towns & SF	-	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Sat, 12-2pm	8602 Coastal Hwy., Unit B, OC	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$235,000	Lauren A. Smith/Keller Williams
Sat, 11am-2pm	11602 S. Hills Dr., Berlin	5BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$1,635,000	Jennifer Hughes/Keller Williams
Sat, 12-2pm	21N. Pintail Dr., Ocean Pines	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$589,900	PO2 Team/Hileman Real Estate

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Oasis Nutrition gains steam in Ocean Pines

Direct marketing earlier this year helped establish core base of regular customers

By Greg Ellison
Staff Writer

(April 21, 2022) In the few months since opening in Ocean Pines, Oasis Nutrition owners Ben Tarnoff and Kenya Flores have quickly built up a roster of regular customers drawn in by healthy and affordable options.

The couple, who previously started a handful of Oasis franchises on the Eastern Shore, took over operations at the South Gate Shopping Center location in mid-January.

“When I started out, we were getting about two customers a day,” he said.

Along with meal-replacement shakes, Oasis Nutrition also offers protein coffees, metabolism-boosting teas, flavored aloe shots and collagen booster drinks.

After taking the reins, the duo recognized the need to market directly and quickly went about printing business cards with product pictures.

“I was just hunting down people in the parking lot and inviting them in for a free shake,” she said.

During the winter months, Tarnoff canvassed shopping venues within close proximity to Ocean Pines.

“Every single day I would be out talking to people until we got a core group of customers,” he said.

Once two to three dozen daily clients were on board, marketing efforts became self-sufficient.

“Word of mouth has been our best friend,” he said.

Tarnoff said confidence that the product line and personalized service would help the business thrive has been evidenced by 75 percent of sales attributable to recurring customers.

“That’s what we do is daily nutrition,” he said. “The nutrients are the things that the human body is supposed to get every day, so this becomes part of people’s routine and replaces their breakfast or lunch.”

Tarnoff said converted clients who forego their nutrition routine report feeling subpar when not consuming shakes.

“It’s not like a tropical smoothie where you go in when you feel like treating yourself,” he said.

Tarnoff became familiarized with Oasis Nutrition through Flores’ parents.

“Kenya’s parents have been doing this for 16 years,” he said.

After the pair began dating, Tarnoff was impressed upon learning of her parents’ track record of success in the Virginia Beach region.

“The more they talked ... it was intriguing,” he said.

In short order the couple decided to chart the same course.

“We wanted to replicate their success in business and life,” he said.

Before long Tarnoff embraced the principals behind the Oasis Nutrition business model.

“The two most important things are the bond we build with the community and making people healthy,” he said.

Tarnoff said the goal is to develop friendships with customers, while helping to improve their diets.

“When you walk in the door, you’re treated like family,” he said.

Since January, the shake shop has witnessed sales grow precipitously.

“We’re now up to 80 a day [and] hope to double that in the summer,” he said.

Tarnoff was quick to credit supporting staff, including first hire in Ocean Pines Heather Brown, and the entire staff for getting the operation up to speed.

“They deserve probably more of the credit than we do,” he said.

To sum up why those unfamiliar with Oasis Nutrition should sample the offerings, Tarnoff said it boils down to a concise mantra.

“The simplest, best tasting and most affordable way to get healthy,” he said.

For more information call Oasis Nutrition at 443-614-7850 or visit their store at 11021 Nicholas Lane.



Oasis Nutrition owner Ben Tarnoff and staff member Heather Brown are becoming acquainted with a regular crew of recurring customers at the South Gate Shopping Center in Ocean Pines.



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Worcester County Department of Social Services
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Opinion

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

Fleetwood steps down from a job well done

Most people would agree that the resignation of Berlin Town Administrator Jeff Fleetwood had to happen at some point, but that it would not be viewed with a sense of relief regardless of the timing.

Quite the contrary, one would suspect that the community at-large and the town employees who worked with him are sorry to see him go, following his quiet and non-controversial tenure as the town’s chief operating officer.

Over the years, town administrators and managers have come and gone from the Town of Berlin’s employ, with some of them more notable for the ruckus they kicked up than anything else.

That, however, has not been Fleetwood’s style, the dominant features of which have been quiet competence and commitment to the job. This is not to say that he hasn’t spoken up when he disagrees with the town’s elected officials. He has, especially as an advocate for the well-being of the town’s employees.

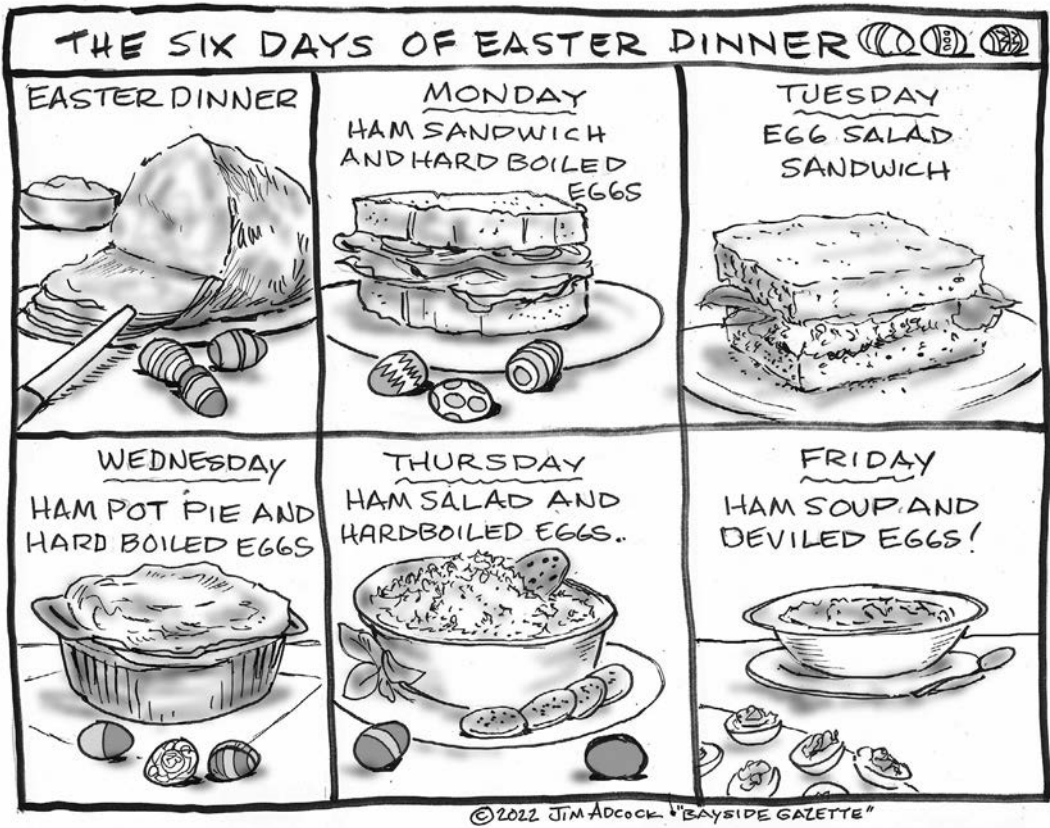
As a long-time human resources manager, dating back to his career in the U.S. Army and later with a couple of this region’s largest corporations, Fleetwood obviously believes that an employer has a duty to take care of the people who take care of it.

He said as much when he assumed the administrator’s post in 2019, after first serving the town as human resources manager and later as managing director.

To paraphrase, he told a reporter the job comes first, the employees come second, and he comes last. He said it’s part of his management style, adding that it’s crucial to gain the trust and respect of town employees.

Apparently, he has done that with the 12-hour workday schedule that’s been part of his routine since his original hire in 2010.

His presence has been good for the town, and he will be difficult to replace, although given his well-established expertise in the area of recruiting, the mayor and council might want to consult him on that.



Letters

Supports sports complex

Editor,

I noticed in the last edition, that the “do nothings” in Ocean Pines are now going countywide to object to the Sports Complex.

These are the same folks who were against building our new Yacht Club, Country Club, replacing bulkheads, Pickleball courts etc. In other words, they want to do nothing because it costs money.

They run to the Ocean Pines Forum, which in my opinion in my almost 25 years as a property owner in OP, is in the top three as worst things to happen to OP and to two rags that masquerade as newspapers that promote their garbage.

The Forum is a website where about 10 experts, that really know nothing, tell the community what they want them to know but not what is actually happening.

They put out that building a new facility, i.e. Yacht

Club, was going to raise their dues because they know people won’t do research on their own.

But it not only didn’t raise their dues, it has turned into a meeting place for the entire community when it is packed on weekend nights and having facilities like this actually raise our property values.

But by the time the rumor mill that started on the website would get around the community, you would think people were losing their houses to pay for a new building.

They wanted to put more paint over the rot on the old Yacht Club.

We finally had to close it for good when an employee went through the floor, but these folks just wanted to hire lighter employees.

Years ago, it was in this very paper that Ocean City had partnered with Wicomico County to host off season athletic events.

I thought at the time, “Look at all that money

going down 50 and 90, when our businesses could be benefiting from a partnership like this.”

When our businesses and the county itself take in more revenue from ventures like this, those revenues go toward keeping the tax rates down, replacing bridges and roads etc. But the “do nothings” will be out with their talking points that this will raise your taxes, the area will be flooded with traffic, no Worcester County residents will be allowed to use the facility etc. I’ve seen this too many times with this group.

Usually a good rule of thumb is if this group is for something, it’s probably bad and if they are against something it’s probably good and will be a benefit.

Our elected county officials need to take the comments from this group with a grain of salt, do their own research and do what is best for the entire county and not just what the “do nothings” say.

Bill Cordwell
Ocean Pines

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.

Calendar

Thurs., April 21

RESERVATION DEADLINE FOR REPUBLICAN WOMEN OF WORCESTER COUNTY GENERAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON
To be held April 28 at Harrison’s Harbor Watch. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. Cost is \$28.50. Reservation and payment: www.gopwomenofworcester.org by April 21. Members and guests welcome.

CPAP MASK FITTING
Atlantic General Hospital, Sleep Disorders Diagnostic Center, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin. For patients who are having trouble adjusting to their CPAP equipment. Free service, but requires an appointment: Robin Rohlfing, 410-641-9726.

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

INTERACTIVE STORY TIME: EARTH DAY STORIES
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Celebrating our planet with fun stories. Hear all about Earth, and how to celebrate Earth Day. Take home activity included. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Workshop starts with a 20-minute lesson on genealogy research by Tom Dempsey followed by a Q&A session. Bring laptop, tablet or papers containing family information. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org. 410-632-2600

COOKING WITH HERBS
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Vanessa Young, founder of the Thirsty Radish, teaches the group about the wonder of herbal cooking. Registration required: www.worcesterlibrary.org. Also, held via Zoom. 410-632-2600

CHAIR YOGA
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Join yoga instructor Nicole Long as she stretches and de-stresses using a safe and gentle method. Registration required: www.worcesterlibrary.org. 410-632-2600

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 3:30 p.m. Celebrate Earth Day by planting flowers and making a bird feeder. For ages 10 years and older. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

ZUMBA FOR ALL LEVELS
Worcester County Library - Berlin

Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4:30-5:30 p.m. Join certified Zumba instructor Joyce Landsman for an hour of movement. These classes uplift and improve mood. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under “Events.” 410-632-2600

NAACP BE SMART PROGRAM
Help parents and adults normalize conversations about gun safety, 6:30 p.m. Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82191538315?pwd=blRaOW9na3V1bmtIRDN-MYS8rQnJpQT09>; Meeting ID: 821 9153 8315; Passcode: 088303.

OCEAN PINES BOAT CLUB’S ANNUAL SPRING GENERAL MEETING
Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m. Speaker is Michael Castoro and his subject is “The History of the Pride of Baltimore” and his subsequent crewing on the Pride of Baltimore II. Public invited.

BEACH SINGLES
Thursdays - Beach Singles join us 55 plus at Harpoon Hanna’s, 39064 Harpoon Road, Fenwick Island, DE, 4-6 p.m. Info: 302-436-9577 or BeachSingles.org

Fri., April 22

GARDEN PLANTING FOR EARTH DAY
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 9 a.m.-noon. Walk-in anytime during the event to plant herbs or flowers in the library’s raised bed gardens. Take home a free seed packet while supplies last. For children of all ages. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

‘APPROACHING GEESE’ DEDICATION
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, Bayside, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 11 a.m. The Public Art Committee of OCDC announces the completion of its latest art project, “Approaching Geese” by William and David Turner. The dedication is open to the public. 410-289-7739.

BERLIN BOOK OF THE MONTH: ‘WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING’ BY DELIA OWENS
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Gail Samis facilitates this novel that juxtaposes nature against a profound coming of age story and mystery. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

4TH FRIDAY STREET FESTIVAL
Downtown Pocomoke, Market and Front streets, 5-8 p.m. “Sports Night” will feature an array of sporting activities for kids, artists, vendors, entertainment by Neal Hooks and Feet of Fire Dance Academy. Food and drinks available. www.downtownpocomoke.com.

FISH PLATTER SALE
Bowen United Methodist Church, 8421

Newark Road, Newark, 5-7 p.m. Platters cost \$10 and include flounder filet, macaroni & cheese, green beans, cornbread and dessert. Beverages included for those who eat-in. Proceeds benefit the fellowship hall. 410-632-1134.

Sat., April 23

CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE
First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City, 1301 Philadelphia Ave., 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Info: 410-289-9340.

CLEAN-UP BERLIN DAY
Stephen Decatur Park, Tripoli Street, Berlin, 8:30 a.m.-noon. Volunteers needed to help with planting, weeding, raking, mulching and clean up. Students earn service hours. Sign up at any Berlin park. Lunch provided. <https://www.facebook.com/TakePrideInBerlinWeek>, 410-641-4314

FENWICK ISLAND BAY TO BEACH CLEANUP
Fenwick Island Town Hall, 800 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, 8:30 a.m. In celebration of Earth Day 2022. Participants will gather at Town Hall for refreshments, cleanup assignments/supplies and a commemorative token of appreciation.

WALK MS: OCEAN CITY
Ocean City Boardwalk, 698 N. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 9 a.m. Walk MS brings together passionate people for a powerful purpose: to end MS forever. Feel the support that can only come from a community whose steps fuel breakthroughs, solutions and a cure.

FREE TIMELESS TENNIS LESSONS
Ocean Pines Racquet Center, 11443 Manklin Creek Road, 11 a.m. Timeless Tennis is played with a regular tennis racquet and a lower-bounce tennis ball. Equipment provided. Registration required: OPpaddle2020@gmail.com. New and seasoned players welcome.

PROJECT T(W)EEN: EARTH DAY CLEAN-UP
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Help pick up litter around the library and throughout the trails behind it. Gloves, masks, trash bags and other supplies provided. Jake Nail, jnail@worcesterlibrary.org, www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET
Saturdays - White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Shop for everything from fresh local produce to unique handmade artisan goods. Open to the public.

FREE PLATFORM TENNIS LESSONS
Saturdays - Ocean Pines Racquet Center, 11443 Manklin Creek Road, 9:30 a.m. All abilities welcome and equip-

ment will be provided. oppaddle2020@gmail.com or 516-508-0313.

Sun., April 24

CHURCH WELCOMES FR. CARL MOSLEY
St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 3 Church St., Berlin. St. Paul’s Episcopal Church welcomes it’s new interim Fr. Carl Mosley beginning April 24 at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome. 410-641-4066

9TH ANNUAL 5K FUN WALK FOR KIDS
Hooters, 501 Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Registration is \$25 and includes the walk, admission to the reception, swag bag and kid-friendly activities. Register: www.thecricketcenter.com, 410-641-0097 or on day of event. Rain date is April 30. 410-641-0097

37TH ANNUAL BOWL FOR KIDS’ SAKE EVENT: ‘HOW THE WEST WAS FUN!’
Ocean Lanes Bowling Center, 115 72nd St., Ocean City, noon-2 p.m. Teams of 4-6 Desperados (western dress encouraged) can register with a donations of \$500, and will receive 2 games, shoe rental, pizza and drinks and an event T-shirt. Register: www.shorebiglittle.org.

MID-ATLANTIC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT
Performing Arts Center - OC Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$50. There are a limited number of free tickets for students, ages 18 years and younger. Reservations are required for the free tickets: 888-846-8600. www.midatlanticsymphony.com.

JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES MEETING
Sundays - Berlin Congregation of Jehovah’s Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 10 a.m. www.jw.org

Mon., April 25

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

UKRAINE RELIEF FUNDRAISER
Harpoon Hanna’s, 39064 Harpoon Road, Fenwick Island, 5-9 p.m. Silent and live auctions, Ukrainian DJ and food and drinks available for purchase. Harpoon Hanna’s will donate 20 percent of its proceeds in the bar area. www.paypal.com/pools/c/8IRvKgTYfG.

T.O.PS. OF BERLIN - GROUP #169
Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, Continued on Page 21

Puzzles

ORDERING SECONDS

BY DAVID W. TUFFS / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

David W. Tuffs, of Pacific Grove, Calif., is a fourth-year linguistics student at the University of California, Santa Cruz. In his spare time he writes for his school's satirical newspaper, Fishrap Live! This is his third crossword for The Times and his first Sunday. Planning the theme involved "manually sifting through endless lists" of words — which sounds tedious, but he enjoyed doing it. — W.S.

ACROSS

1 Sexy one

10 Treat that's dangerous to fillings

15 It has cameras set up around the House

20 Home of the Hittite Empire

21 Novelist Zola

22 Word with box or gloves

23 Unwavering

24 Bit of cinema décor

26 Latin verb that's a letter off from 9-Down

27 Sagelike

28 Get ready for dinner

29 Man-eaters

30 Demeanor

32 Puts the pedal to the metal

34 Outbursts of megalomania

39 Boglike

40 Educator Khan who founded Khan Academy

43 -esque

44 "Ugh, we have so much to sort out"

47 You might come to one suddenly

50 Winston Churchill gesture

52 They're out on their own

54 "Word on the street is ..."

55 Antiquated source of light

58 Toy brand with colorful rods and gears

59 Partner of dark

60 Starts a course, with "off"

61 Where you might see scrolling credits?

64 Heidi of TV's "Making the Cut"

66 The Arthur Ashe Courage Award and others

67 Spectators taking potshots, collectively

70 Will Smith's actor/rapper son

73 Quickly join hands?

74 G or K

75 "Roll Tide!" school

79 Relishes

80 Eats

82 Feature of a healthy dog

84 Fjord, e.g.

85 Like Hathor, goddess of motherhood

89 Film character who shouts, "You are a toy!"

90 Fish with a prehensile tail

92 Primitive time

95 German article

96 Instagram hashtag accompanying a nostalgic photo

97 Two-fifths of a quarter

99 Birthplace of three major world religions

101 What an agoraphobe avoids

105 Uber offering

106 Group email greeting

108 Class

109 "That so?"

111 It's not light reading

115 Advances in a baby's cognitive development

117 Demonology and such

119 Show vanity, in a way

120 Face-planted

121 Cocktail often made with Tennessee whiskey, ironically

122 Looks long and hard

123 Class

124 Not get tense

12 When many commutes begin

13 Converse

14 "___-haw!"

15 Favorite dog breed of Queen Elizabeth II

16 Where bats and birdies are found

17 ___ the Frog (internet meme)

18 God with a helmet

19 Rapper with the platinum albums "Street's Disciple" and "God's Son"

25 Skater Harding

31 The third of Chekhov's "Three Sisters"

32 Iota

33 Valuable deposits

34 Turning point

35 Actor/activist Davis

36 Stretch

37 Woman's name that's part of the body backward

38 Contacts quickly, in a way

41 Imitation

42 Fertile mixtures

45 Finished the golf hole

46 One might be cold or dry

48 Scatterbrained

49 Shot, so to speak

51 Plot device, in brief?

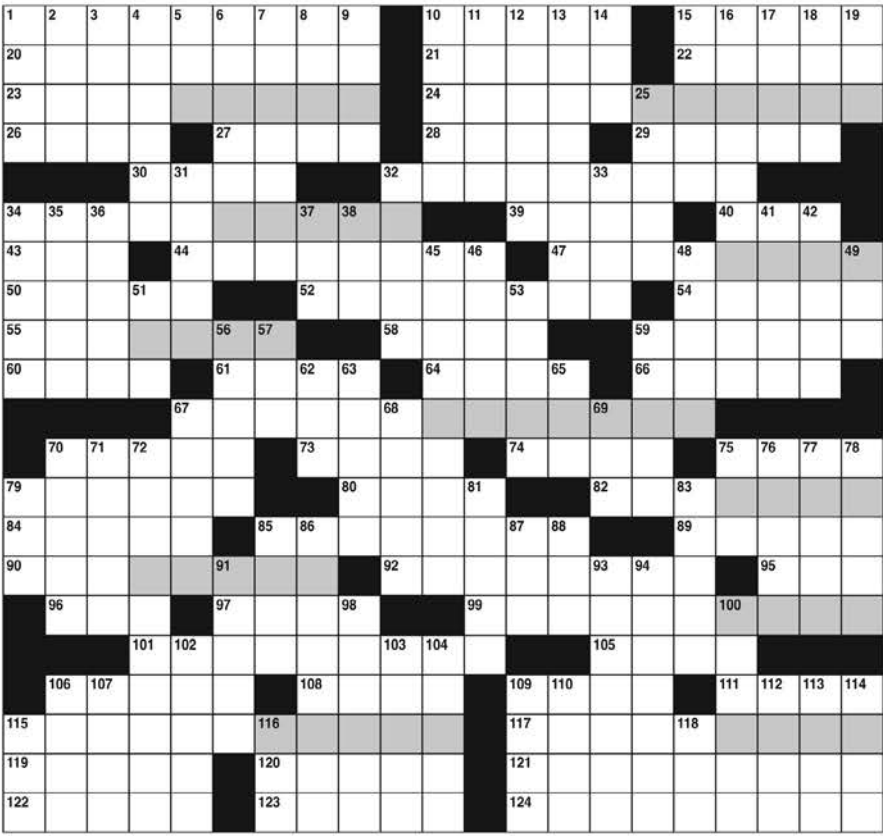
53 Rejoice (in)

56 Debt holdings

57 Bouts with pay-per-view events, for short

59 Transition

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



- 62 Left-leaning organizing grp.

63 Like pronounced muscles

65 Feeling described by this: :|

67 Australia's "City of Light"

68 Covers for campers

69 Spat

70 Former Fed chair Yellen

71 Classroom with cameras, for short
- 72 Executes perfectly

75 "That's just awful!"

76 One end of a cell

77 ___ circus

78 To now

79 Beyoncé, to Solange, informally

81 Tundra or savanna

83 Fabric in a flat cap

85 Leprechaun's home

86 Idaho, with "the"

87 Nickname in "Star Wars"
- 88 Country code for Holland in the Olympics

91 N.F.L. star _____ Beckham Jr.

93 Supermodel Lima

94 Like many a beta release

98 Reaction reducer

100 Tackles

102 "I have other ____, sorry"

103 Norse pantheon

104 Birthplace of Zeus
- 106 Female figure in the "Iliad"

107 Name akin to Agnes

109 Many mainframes

110 Blind sight

112 Number between sette and nove

113 Some petting-zoo noises

114 Seaside bird

115 Dash fig.

116 Twitch user's bane

118 Comic Penn

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(Located on Rt. 113 - 1 min. North of Racetrack Road)

Walk In

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

HARD - 46

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

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 19
5-6:30 p.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly is a weekly support and educational group promoting weight loss and living a healthy lifestyle. Rose Campion, 410-641-0157

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.

Tues., April 26

STORY TIME AT THE COMMUNITY GARDEN - 'SEEDS'
Pocomoke Community Garden - Corner Sanctuary, 327 Clarke Ave., 10:30 a.m.-11:59 p.m., Stories and activities all about seeds. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

STORY TIME 'A WHALE OF A GOOD TIME'
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and fingerplays. Take-home activity included. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

IPAD BASICS
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Stop by the library to learn the basics of your iPad. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

JACKIE ROBINSON MOVIE
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 6 p.m. Join the group for a screening about Jackie Robinson's life starring the late Chadwick Boseman in his first major film role. Registration required: www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

DELMARVA DANCING
Tuesdays - Selbyville Elks Lodge 2173, 13324 Worcester Highway, Bishopville, 5:30-9 p.m. Dance to the sounds of the '50s, '60s and more. A \$5 donation to benefit Veterans. Everyone is welcome. Charlie, 410-465-0445

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING
Tuesdays - Berlin Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 7 p.m. www.jw.org

Wed., April 27

BERLIN BULK WASTE COLLECTION
Free curbside collection for those with Thursday trash collection. By request only: 410-641-2770 no later than 4:30 p.m. the day before; or berlinmd.gov under Departments/Public Works.

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP
Meeting via Zoom on the third and fourth Wednesday of each month. For surgical patients. Contact the Atlantic General Bariatrics Center for more in-



PHOTO COURTESY D.J. LANDIS, SR.

NEW MEMBER
Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City resumed in-person meeting in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center on Feb. 2. Pictured, from left, is newest member after her induction, Joan Esworthy; her sponsor, Jackie Dubin; and club President Tim Lund.

formation at 410-641-9568.

STORY TIME: 'COMMUNITY HELPERS'
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and games all about community helpers. For ages 2-5 years. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

FIRST STATE DETACHMENT OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MEETING
American Legion Synepuxent Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 12 p.m. Any Marines and Navy Corpsman who have served in the Corps, living in

Worcester and Sussex counties, are welcome. 410-430-7181, websergeant@firststatemarines.org.

FEEL-GOOD MOVIE
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Monthly movies that prove the human spirit can prevail despite overwhelming odds. More details: www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-208-4014.

JOB SEARCH WORKSHOP
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 3-5 p.m. Drop in, any Wednesday, to receive

one-on-one guidance from library staff to strengthen your resume and help with your job search. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

PAGE TURNERS BOOK CLUB
Kids ages 8-11 years can join the group via Zoom to discuss "Hu Wan and the Sleeping Dragon," 3:30 p.m. Title available on Hoopla. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

STEM - MAGNETS: PUSH AND PULL FORCES
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 4 p.m. Learn about the forces behind magnets and make your own compass using a magnet and a sewing needle. Register: www.worcesterlibrary.org under "Events" or 410-957-0878. For ages 8-12 years.

VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB
Join the group in discussing Sarah Kurchak's memoir, "I Overcame My Autism And All I Got Was This Lousy Anxiety Disorder," 5:30-7 p.m. Title available on Hoopla. Registration required: www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-632-2600

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP
Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5:30-7 p.m. Providing participants with hope for the future. Gail Mansell, 410-641-9725, gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org

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Cuisine

Wagyu steak with tomato salad and egg

The decision-maker waits patiently, his aging eyes straining to inspect the perfect chunk of beef on my plate.

His nose twitches as he smells the farm-fresh eggs and the warm and cheesy stewed tomatoes, accentuated with goat cheese and homemade



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3

pesto from my girlfriend's garden.

L'éminence grise of this puppet show, Oscar, pulls the strings, ensuring that all the players perform as expected. He knows all too well the power that he holds in this castle.

I am nervous as he leers at me, believing me to have left the steak on a touch too long, but he could not be further from the truth. The steak is delightfully medium rare.

A splurge of this magnitude cannot be mistreated, overcooked or abused in any manner. To do so would be a mortal sin.

An A5 BMS 10+ chunk of Wagyu beef (true Japanese Wagyu from the Miyazaki Prefecture) strip loin is hands-down the finest chunk of beef I have ever eaten.

And as I simply cannot rationalize buying an entire loin (a 4-ounce portion is more than enough even for my hefty frame), I order my 4-pack of 4-ounce chunks from the Rare Cuts Meat Company online.

While true Japanese Wagyu is still incredibly expensive, a connoisseur could indulge themselves once a month or so. Being vacuum packed and well-documented, they will hold that long.

I continue my quest for the perfect post-Easter brunch. A great deal is happening on this seemingly simple plate of brunch; a warm tomato-goat cheese salad with pesto from Ebelein Farms and two farm-fresh duck eggs from a producer in Willards.

The rich, custardy yolk is the perfect accompaniment to the piece de resistance.

I stumbled across some new spice blends from Spiceology recently, and the Jet Tila Fiery Sweet is fantastic. While I would never use it on my Wagyu (sticking with my ubiquitous trimix or even simply salt and pepper), it is divine on the over easy eggs, at least not in excess.

The bite that it gives the eggs



brings them to life and makes them a great addition to a mid-morning pick me up.

When my girlfriend brought her homemade pesto over for Easter, she proceeded to add it to slightly roasted tomatoes that she then schmeared with goat cheese.

Three ingredients never married so well. Of course, I am aware that pesto itself has more than one ingredient, you get the idea.

The acid from the tomato, the creaminess of the cheese and the flavors of the pesto made this dish instantly perfect both warm and cold straight out of the icebox. I still warmed mine up for this morning, but man is this stuff amazing!

And here I am, eating this delicious feast under Oscar's hateful gaze. But, I cannot veer from my original plan.

Not an ounce of scrap will go to anyone but me. Not even my sidekick Dr. Winston will get a crumb from this, as there won't be any to give.

Mayhap in your next life you will be a searer of meats, but that is not mine to decide. For now, I will simply have to enjoy the most expensive steak & eggs I have ever eaten. And it is one that I am sure to eat again, given my druthers.

Oscar, again I say "no"! You are a cat. You have no power over me, or at least until you sleep on my face at night, being the revengist that you are. And now that I am saying this out loud, how does a tiny sliver of this beef sound, Your Eminence?

Seared Wagyu A5 Steak

serves 4

4 ea. 4-oz. Wagyu A5 BMS 10+ sir-

loin steaks

Trimix, as needed

8 ea. Farm-fresh eggs over easy (recipe follows)

2 c. Warm tomato salad (recipe follows)

Pesto, as needed (recipe follows)

- Season the wagyu steaks on all sides (assuming that they are cubes) and heat a frypan but don't let it smoke.
- You do not need any fat in the pan as true Wagyu has plenty. It is similar to searing foie gras.
- Sear the steaks on all sides for about a minute and a half per side. Get the internal temperature to 120F and pull off the heat to rest for ten minutes.
- Serve with the eggs and warm tomato salad. Be simple.

Farm-Fresh Eggs, Over Easy

for 8 eggs

8 ea. Fresh eggs, duck if possible

Jet Tila Fiery Sweet™, as needed

butter, as needed for pan

- If you want to be extra Gucci, crack your eggs in a bowl to ensure that all yolks are unbroken and that there are no shells. That's just another dirty dish for me, so I skip it personally.
- Melt the butter in a non-stick pan and slowly add the eggs, one at a time.
- Season and cook on a medium to low heat until the whites are cooked and the yolks are still that glorious, unctuous runny gold.
- Keep warm until service.

Warm Tomato Salad, Goat Cheese, Pesto

makes about 1 c.

1 qt. Grape Tomatoes or other small heirloom type

1 small stick of goat cheese

Pesto, to taste

Salt & Pepper to taste

- Place the tomatoes, cheese and pesto in a bake proof pan.
- Broil until the tomatoes start to soften.
- Remove, taste and season accordingly.
- Keep warm until service.

—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

CLASSIFIED Marketplace

Classifieds appear in **Ocean City Today** & **Bayside Gazette** each week and online at oceancitytoday.com & baysideoc.com

Call **410-723-6397**
by Monday 5 p.m.



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Ocean Gateway (Rte. 50),
Ocean City, MD (WOC).
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Castle in the Sand

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Experienced applicants are preferred, but not required. We require a satisfactory pre-employment background check by all applicants.

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Rental Office Manager Needed
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www.baysideoc.com

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DONATIONS

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FOR SALE

Now Accepting Consignments for our late spring restaurant equipment sale. Wednesday, May 18 at Rehoboth Beach Convention Center, Delmarva's Annual Restaurant, Bar and Food Service sale. Call Emmert Auctions, 302-227-1433.

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