

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

DECEMBER 22, 2022

BERLIN • NORTH WORCESTER COUNTY • OCEAN PINES

FREE



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STAR TURN

Families and students of the Worcester Preparatory School Lower School, Pre-K through fifth grade, kicked off the holiday season with the annual holiday performance on Dec. 8. Lower School Music Director Joanie Brittingham debuted "The Star," filled with holiday songs and dance. Fifth grader Lea Jaoude "starred" in the show playing the role of Esther.

Accidents spur call for traffic light

Tyndall says town doesn't need anything complicated

By Gee Williams
Contributing Writer

(Dec. 22, 2022) Two separate auto accidents that resulted in four persons being hospitalized has renewed Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall's request that the State Highway Administration (SHA) upgrade the intersection of US 50 and MD 818 (N. Main Street) with the installation of a traffic light.

"The Town Council and I included safety improvements at the intersection in the state's consolidated transportation plan request that we make to SHA," Mayor Tyndall said. "This is something the council and I brought up when we met with our state legislators last month in Berlin. Anything we can do to make this intersection safer is what we all want."



'Anything we can do to make this intersection safer is what we all want.'

— Mayor Zack Tyndall

Tyndall said recent SHA safety improvements that were made at the intersection of US 50 and MD 610 east of Berlin are a good example of what should be done at two intersections with state highways in Berlin.

The mayor said Berlin is not looking for a re-design of either intersection, but for straightforward affordable safety upgrades. "We want what's been done at the intersection of MD 610 and US 50 to also be done in Berlin." These improvements include "Look Again" signs, traffic cameras, more speed limit signs and a traffic light at each location where Main Street intersects with state dual highways.

See BERLIN Page 3

OPVFD wants proven fundraiser

Task force says campaign for South Station will seek donors, government grants

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Dec. 22, 2022) At this time next year, the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department hopes it will be celebrating a successful capital improvement funds campaign for renovating or building a new South Station.

During Saturday's regular board of directors meeting, and Ocean Pines Association task force charged with evaluating the situation briefed the board on the path they believe lies ahead.

The task force, assembled by

Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola and led by former director Ted Moroney, has looked into how the OPVFD and the association should raise the money needed to rebuild or replace the firehouse at 911 Ocean Parkway.

It appears to be settled on donors, fundraising and government grants, according to Maroney.

"Through a lot of work ... we were able to arrange several meetings between our team and several experienced fundraising individuals on the Eastern Shore," Maroney said during the meeting.

"Through those meetings, those individuals were able to validate our approach and (request for proposal), encourage our continued path to pur-

sue additional grants, provide us with the names of many key stakeholders in and around Ocean Pines, expressed a willingness to assist us in doing interviews with RFP respondents and (they could be) supplying ongoing assistance depending on the feasibility results."

Maroney added that nine requests for fundraising proposals were sent out and six responses were received, ranging in terms of cost from \$28,000 to \$60,000, not including out-of-pocket expenses.

"Based on research we had done preliminarily, we expected this to be (a) \$20,000-plus out-of-pocket expense," Maroney said.

The task force has identified one

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JACK CHAVEZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ocean Pines Association is moving forward in its search for a fundraising expert to help raise funds to either renovate or replace the OPVFD South Fire Station on Ocean Parkway.

Pines fire station campaign might take hybrid approach

Continued from Page 1
 “respected” fundraiser who raised “millions of dollars” for the Salisbury Zoo and Delmarva Discovery Museum, Maroney added.

“Our feeling throughout this has been that we need a hybrid campaign with three distinct levels of solicitation,” he said. “After reviewing the proposal, we were convinced that is the correct approach.”

The three-pronged approach, as Maroney put it, would consist of identifying key donors, pursuing the right grants and community fundraising.

Donors are a low-risk, high-reward option, but Maroney said the association will have to be mindful of what grants it can pursue. Though the OPVFD already has about \$1.35 million in grant money from the state and has been authorized for about \$350,000 in state bonds, the OPA cannot look into grants available to municipalities because of its private status as a homeowners association.

Director Colette Horn asked OPVFD President Dave Van Gasbeck how he sees the impact on existing fundraising. He replied that the fundraising is for apparatus needs and that the OPA and OPVFD have each provided 50 percent of the needed funds for apparatus replacement.

“Our fundraising proportion

where we’re selling raffle tickets, et cetera, that’s for apparatus specifically,” he said. “Much of those proceeds come from part-timers and tourists.”

Director Frank Daly asked if a contract had been executed with the fundraiser mentioned earlier, with Maroney replying that the association’s legal team as well as the fundraiser are looking over a legal document.

“As to the different fundraising prongs,” Daly asked, “does the group have an estimate on how much they can raise or should raise to meet whatever the ultimate goal is?”

Maroney said he doesn’t believe so and that there has been no solicitation or donor preparation like a normal capital campaign would have had by now.

“This is like walking in fresh,” he said. “That’s one of the reasons we were more sold on an Eastern Shore person (as a fundraiser) who is only going to get paid on what they bring in.”

“From a risk standpoint, because we don’t have the history (nor) the analytics you would have if you were at a college, for instance ... we don’t know what they can raise through this. With the grants, we’ll have a much better answer in January when we’ve gotten this report back.”

Worcester County govt. lists office closings for holidays

(Dec. 22, 2022) The following Worcester County Government (WCG) offices will be closed Dec. 23 and 26, and Jan. 2, in observance of the Christmas and New Year’s Day holidays: Worcester County Government Center, Cape Isle of Wight satellite offices, Worcester County Recreation Center, and Worcester County Library.

In addition, all five branch libraries will also be closed Dec. 24 and

will close at 1 p.m. on Dec. 31.

The Central Landfill in Newark and the Home Owner Convenience Centers in Berlin and Pocomoke will be closed Christmas Day, Dec. 25, and New Year’s Day, Jan. 1.

The county government staff wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season. For more information on county government’s hours of operation, contact Kim Moses, public information officer, at 410-632-1194.

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GEE WILLIAMS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

A Worcester County School Bus traveling on MD 818, N. Main Street, in Berlin crosses into US 50, Ocean Gateway. A recent auto accident at the highly traveled intersection has renewed efforts by Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall to get the State Highway Administration to make safety improvements to this intersection and a second one at the crossing of US 113 and S. Main Street.

Berlin seeks uncomplicated solution for highway safety

Continued from Page 1

“Nothing has to be reconstructed, just installed,” the mayor said. “Berlin traffic at these intersections is not just seasonal anymore.”

The first accident on Friday, Dec. 16 occurred at the intersection of US 50 and MD 818 (N. Main St.) at about 5 p.m. It was the first of two auto crashes that evening in town limits where people were seriously injured and required hospitalization.

The second accident occurred almost three hours later that evening when a 2007 Jeep Cherokee struck two pedestrians crossing Old Ocean City Boulevard in front of Burn Pizza.

The first accident occurred when two motor vehicles collided causing one, a 2000 GMC truck attached to a camper trailer to be engulfed in fire.

The driver of the truck, a 59-year-old man from Shirley, New York, was flown to Maryland Shock Trauma in Baltimore by a Maryland State Police Aviation Unit helicopter.

The passenger of the truck, a 63-year-old woman also from Shirley, was transported by ambulance to Tidal

Health in Salisbury.

The driver of the second vehicle, a 43-year-old man from Delmar, had been driving a Ford F-150 and was also taken by ambulance to TidalHealth.

The accident occurred when the GMC truck with the camper trailer was on MD Route 818 and crossed the intersection at US 50 into the path of the Ford F-150 as it was travelling east on the dual highway.

When police officers arrived at the second accident, they observed a 2007 Jeep Cherokee and two injured pedestrians on Old Ocean City Highway.

Both pedestrians, a 55-year-old man and a 49-year-old woman, are from Ocean Pines. Both accident victims were ultimately flown by state police helicopter to the Maryland Shock Trauma Medical Center in Baltimore.

The Jeep’s driver was checked medically and released at the accident scene. Both pedestrians are reported to be in serious but stable condition.

A police investigation is ongoing into the auto collision with the pedestrians.



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Pines GM report highlights cash flow, upcoming budget

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Dec. 22, 2022) Ocean Pines General Manager John Viola reported the following during the regular meeting of the Ocean Pines Board of Directors on Saturday:

Budget

The Ocean Pines Budget and Finance Committee has issued its advice on how to proceed for the FY23-24 budget. Viola said he's met with each department head and has



John Viola

prepared a budget packet, which the department heads approved. The committee will review the budget from Jan. 4 to Jan. 6 and the board will review it from Jan. 18 to Jan. 19.

Viola said that during the budget process the association will need to be mindful of the fluidity of the current economy. Inflation, rising minimum wages, labor pool issues and insurance premiums are all factors that must be watched closely.

"You will see in the budget that we have addressed that financially," he said.

Likewise, the association needs to be aware the improved performances of its amenities and departments, a goal that many departments and committees will continue pursuing in the new year.

Drainage

Deppe Bros. Excavation is working on pipes on Birdnest Drive and Abysshire Road for \$10,200, the Ocean Parkway-Wood Duck bulkhead pipe for about \$9,600, Teal Circle bulkhead stormwater pipe for \$10,200 and the Teal Circle road pipe for \$7,800.

Viola estimated that the final price tag for 2022 would be around \$550,000, with drainage maintenance coming in at around \$175,000.

Bulkheads

Viola said his staff is looking to lock

in a contractor for the next budget cycle to enable cost savings. Bulkheads on Watergreen Lane, Goldeneye Court and Wood Duck Drive — a total of 2,300 square feet and costing \$978,000 — will be addressed.

Acoustic Panels

Ocean Pines installed 30 acoustic panels in each room of the Golf Clubhouse to adjust noise to acceptable levels. The Golf Advisory Committee met on Dec. 15th and gave positive feedback on the project, Viola said.

Kayak pier

Viola said the Recreation and Parks Committee chose Pintail Park as the location for a \$100,000 kayak pier, which is part of next year's proposed budget. County, state and the federal government have approved the project and the association is just waiting on the Maryland Department of the Environment to sign off on the project. Once signed, the county will release the construction permit.

Golf

The successful Santa's Open on Dec. 10 featured 32 teams, with Big Brothers and Big Sisters raising "thousands of dollars," as they do each year, Viola said.

Clean-up efforts are underway on the golf course as well. Viola said that they will be reopening the driving range teeing area and reorganizing other areas.

"The numbers are always good," Viola said of the revenue generated by the Golf Club. "They've been record-breaking."

Roads

Paving projects that are finished include Barnacle Court, Beach Court, Bidets Court, Garrett Drive, Liberty Bell Court, Moonshell Drive, Rabbit Run Lane, and Surfers Way.

Fosse Grange, Ivanhoe Court, Little John Court, Watergreen Lane and Willow Way are scheduled to be done in the next couple of weeks, administrative assistant Linda Martin said.

The paving project totals more than 3 miles of roadway at a cost of about \$363,000.

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Berlin's annual audit shows town in good money position

By Gee Williams
Contributing Writer

Dec. 22, 2022) The Town of Berlin is in good financial position based on the most recent audit of both the general fund and enterprise funds performed by accountants PKS & Company of Salisbury.

Mike Kleger, one of the firm's auditors, told the Berlin mayor and Town Council at their most recent public meeting, the town's financial statements for fiscal 2022 were presented fairly and PKS offered a clean unmodified opinion.

The audit was of the town's finances for the fiscal 2022, which ended June 30.

"We did not identify any material weaknesses in internal controls," Kleger said.

The audit showed that at the end of the 2022 fiscal year the town's general fund balance had increased by \$1.7 million over the previous year.

As in the past, according to the audit, most of the town's general fund revenue, a total of 57 percent, came from property taxes.

Leslie Michalik of PKS said the audit showed that 26 percent of the general fund revenue of \$7.7 million was related to general government operations. She said general fund expenses for the year were \$6.2 million.

Michalik also noted the town's unassigned fund balance of about \$2.2 million was available for emergencies and represented 4.3 months of operating expenses. "Your fund balance is the highest it's been over the last six years," she reported.

Berlin's enterprise funds (town utilities) continue to experience some financial losses.

Michalik said the electric department's revenues were down from the previous fiscal year.

The PKS auditors noted that the Town of Berlin has filed for an increase in municipal electric rates with the Maryland Public Service Commission. An electric rate study by the town is now underway.

Mayor Zack Tyndall noted, "I think it's important to say we're trending in the wrong direction, adding that the town could be facing an Electric Utility loss by the end of the current year, FY 2023.

The mayor said the town is now conducting a rate study to get the Electric Utility "back on track."

Another enterprise fund, the town's stormwater utility also continues to show a loss for the last fiscal year of \$88,995 but was less than the previous year's loss of \$101,512.

Berlin's sewer fund was reported as a bright spot financially in the town's FY 22 audit.

The sewer fund ended the fiscal year with positive operating income of \$741,100 compared to the previous year when sewer operations experienced a loss of nearly \$200,000.

After the audit summary was presented by PKS, Councilman Jay Knerr asked Kleger, "Is Berlin on good financial ground?"

Kleger responded, "Berlin is in a good financial position."

Councilman Steve Green noted that the audit showed the town's general fund was the highest it had been in six years and was worth noting. Green said the positive balance showed the Town of Berlin is in a healthier financial condition than it has been in recent years.

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Correction

The Mayor's New Year's event included in the "Celebrate the Holidays" insert of the Bayside Gazette is incorrect. The information for this year's event can be found at <https://www.ococean.com/events/mayor-s-new-year-event-2022>.

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Janasek goes public on OPA with grievances from lawsuit

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Dec. 22, 2022) As the settlement case between the Ocean Pines Association and former director Tom Janasek continues, Janasek is taking his grievances public.

During the regular board of directors meeting on Saturday, Janasek took to the podium during public comments to air his grievances for all in attendance. He claimed his reasoning was to ensure such a conflict doesn't happen to an Ocean Pines homeowner again.

Ever since the OPA attempted to suspend his amenities privileges for 90 days — a move that may not have been covered under the association's bylaws and was subsequently enjoined by a Circuit Court judge — Janasek has claimed that the whole conflict has had nothing to do with protecting Ocean Pines members and amenity patrons.

"What the board did to me was wrong — period," Janasek said during the meeting. "I didn't want it to happen to anybody else. They weren't looking out for Ocean Pines, as they said. (But) it had nothing to do with saving Ocean Pines from big, bad Tom. It was personal. The judge said so. It's been proven that that's what it was."



Tom Janasek

Referring back to times the board took action against former director Slobodan Trendic and current director Rick Farr, Janasek claimed that those past instances along with the current beef were not only personal but "against the wishes of our attorneys."

"It has nothing to do with the 8,500 members of Ocean Pines, even though they're paying for this as we go along," Janasek said.

At one point he took aim at an allegation that a member of the board said the purpose of drawing out negotiations and ensuring Janasek receives as little compensation as possible was "to bleed him dry."

In response, OPA President Doug Parks asked Janasek to please refrain from speaking on any details that are directly linked to the ongoing litigation.

Because of a confidentiality agreement, no one named as a defendant in the lawsuit can speak on the record about it. Defendants include the board as well as former directors Larry Perone, Josette Wheatley and Amy Peck.

The settlement will return to court on Jan. 25 if an agreement is not made before then.

The board imposed the suspension on Janasek after he verbally accosted a female member of the board in public and reportedly used language considered to be highly offensive to women.

Ocean Pines Association Briefs

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Dec. 22, 2022) The Ocean Pines Board of Directors discussed the following during the regular board meeting on Saturday:

Treasurer's Report

As of Nov. 30, the OPA had about \$16 million in cash.

Cash increased by \$1.2 million from November 2021 and decreased by \$700,000 from October.

The association has \$11.1 million invested in CDARs and the remaining \$4.9 million is in Insured Cash Sweep, the money market and other

operating accounts, according to Treasurer Monica Rakowski.

She noted that with the continued rise of interest rates, there will be an upward trend of interest income realized within the association's reserve accounts in 2023.

Paperless OP

Ocean Pines John Viola received approval for a contract with eFileCabinet, a document management vendor.

The OPA will spend about \$9,450 in the first year and \$7,000 in the second and third years.

Continued on Page 7

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Harbor Freight Tools to open Berlin location this winter

(Dec. 22, 2022) Harbor Freight Tools, the low-price tool retailer, has announced that it will be opening a new store in Berlin at 10716 Ocean Gateway this winter. An official opening date will be announced closer to opening.

Construction has begun at the location, using local workers and companies from the surrounding Berlin area, a statement from the company said.

“We’ve been looking to open a location in Berlin for a number of years so that we can provide the tools and equipment at tremendous values to the community,” said Trey Feiler, senior vice president, real estate and construction for Harbor Freight Tools. “In addition to finding a great location, we were attracted by the availability of great associates in the Berlin area, and we look forward to having them join the Harbor Freight team.”

The store is expected to bring be-

tween 25 and 30 new jobs to the community, including sales and logistic supervisors, senior associates, sales associates, and seasonal opportunities as well.

The company said Harbor Freight Tools offers a competitive starting rate along with a best-in-class retail benefits package that includes robust health coverage, and Thanksgiving and Christmas off.

Harbor Freight now has more than 25,000 associates and more than 1,300 locations nationwide.

Forbes Magazine has recently recognized Harbor Freight as one of the top 20 large employers in all of retail, one of the top employers in terms of diversity, a top employer for women, and one of the country’s Best Employers for Veterans for two years in a row.

Diversityjobs.com has also recognized the company as a top employer for its commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Ocean Pines Association Briefs

Continued from Page 6

The vendor will provide access to its product Rubex, which will help the association migrate to more efficient paperless file management.

Bulkhead replacement

Viola received approval to replace the Fisher Marine bulkhead for \$977,500.

The bulkhead will be replaced in the FY23-24 budget period.

Director Frank Daly asked about concerns over the bulkhead’s height and how climate change might be a factor and if it was a point of consideration.

Viola said that right now the bulkheads cannot be built higher, but the bulkheads have been slightly heightened in replacement projects over the last several years.

Platform tennis

The board conducted the first reading for revisions to Resolution C-14, as advised by the Racquet Sports Advisory committee, to replace the term “paddleball” with “platform tennis.”

The committee has said that this change reflects the correct term for the sport. The second reading and possible authorization will occur at the next board meeting.

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Coastal Cuts brings charm to WOC

New family-owned salon on Ocean Gateway aims to win over clients with familiarity

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Dec. 22, 2022) As unlikely as it may have been, a near-death experience brought life to the new Coastal Cuts Salon in West Ocean City.

Coastal Cuts opened its doors to clients on Nov. 15 and since then, the staff of mostly veteran resort-area stylists has been making its whereabouts known.

It all came together when the mother of salon manager Sandy Beauchamp and her sister, owner Bunny Newcomb, had an extremely close brush with death at an area salon.

“This place has been in honor of our mother,” Newcomb said. She added that her sister was working at another local salon when “our mom came and had her hair done and she collapsed.”

Said Beauchamp, “She had a death experience. She actually went to the other side for 25 minutes.”

Newcomb added that she had no heartbeat and that four ambulances showed up.

“She pulled through and I just couldn’t stand the thought of looking down that hallway and seeing mom on the floor,” Beauchamp said. “I was telling Bunny about it and we were on the phone and I didn’t know she had me on speaker. I was crying and, the next thing I know, her husband said go find a location. So we did.”

When a customer walks in the



JACK CHAVEZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Coastal Cuts opened at 11934 Ocean Gateway Suite #8 in West Ocean City on Nov. 15. Pictured, from left, are owner Bunny Newcomb, stylist Kerry Page, salon manager Sandy Beauchamp and operations manager Clarie Hendrix behind the salon’s popular mosaic front desk.

door, the first thing they’re greeted by — besides the high ceilings, generously spaced hair stations and bright lighting — is the illustrious blue and purple sea-themed front desk.

“They can’t get over the way it looks,” Beauchamp said. “People can’t get over the colors, the openness and the lighting. Everything gets mentioned, especially my main attraction — my castle (the front desk). It’s from Avery Gallery which had it 30 years ago. She sold it to a salon and they went out and I got it from them.”

Operations manager Clarie Hendrix, who is the daughter of Newcomb and niece of Beauchamp, said she’d never dream of taking down the

25-year-old piece. “The original owners made their own mark on it, so it’s got its history with it,” she said.

Coastal Cuts offers a variety of services, including all hair styling, all chemical hair treatments and services, pedicures and an aesthetician.

“They walk in here and they know right away that they’re in comfort,” Beauchamp said.

“We’re like no other salon. You don’t have to watch your p’s and q’s. We laugh at a good thing. Nobody is a backstabber. We all get along and work as a team. We work as a family.”

Hendrix said that they’re very welcoming to customers with children.

“That’s not something that is always encouraged by other salons,” she said.

Beauchamp added that she knows of other salons where children’s cuts are marked at \$35 — just to keep children out.

“Our children’s cuts start at \$10. They’re very much reasonable,” she said.

The experience helps as well. Though the staff is currently smaller than the staff they’d like to hire, there are plenty of years of experience between Beauchamp — 40 years total and 23 in Ocean City and fellow stylist Kerry Page — more than 30 years total.

“The experience this salon has as a new salon (is a great benefit),” Newcomb said. “We’re looking for more people. We have 10 seats and we don’t have them filled up yet.”

But with a little natural passion, the staff hopes to make progress toward their goals in the new year.

“It’s my passion,” Beauchamp said. “I finally found it at age 30 when I had a daughter who had a head of thick, curly hair. That’s when I went to beauty school.”

“I just turned 69. I should be retired but no. I love what I do.”



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BAYSIDE GAZETTE www.baysideoc.com

Over Sand Vehicle permits for Assateague Is. on sale Jan. 4

(Dec. 22, 2022) Park Superintendent Hugh Hawthorne announced this week that online purchasing of Over Sand Vehicle (OSV) permits will soon be operational at Assateague Island National Seashore.

Online OSV permit sales will begin Jan. 4.

Visitors are invited to take an early tour of the www.recreation.gov website to get familiar with this new procedure.

This online option will help streamline the OSV sales process for visitors to the island as permits may be purchased in advance online and then picked up at the park office within 10 days of purchase.

OSV permit sales will continue to be possible in person via online computer stations located at the North Beach Ranger Station in the Maryland District and the Toms Cove Visitor Center in the Virginia District.

Obtaining an OSV permit will be an easy process that takes only minutes and can be accomplished one of two ways:

• Beginning Jan. 4, purchase an OSV permit online by visiting www.recreation.gov. Choose which office to pick up the permit, either the North Beach Ranger Station in the Maryland District or the Toms Cove

Visitor Center in the Virginia District.

• By visiting one of two National Park Service OSV permit sales locations: North Beach Ranger Station in the Maryland District, 7206 National Seashore Lane, Berlin, Maryland 21811 or Toms Cove Visitor Center in the Virginia District.

Both annual OSV permits are available:

• OSV Permit (\$110) allows 24-hour access to the Maryland OSV area. Permittee must be actively fishing from midnight to 5 a.m.—no camping or sleeping. Allows access during Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge hours to the Virginia OSV.

• Bullpen Permit (\$200) allows 24-hour access to the Maryland OSV area.

Permittee must have a hard-shelled, slide-in camper with attached and enclosed toilet with a permanently installed waste storage tank that can hold two-days' worth of wastewater.

Permitted vehicles may park overnight in the Bullpen area.

For more information on Over Sand Vehicle permits at Assateague Island National Seashore, visit <https://www.nps.gov/asis/planyourvisit/osv.htm>



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Community Briefs

Student Award

Gideon Plamondon, of Berlin, was one of more than 40 SUNY Oneonta, students who received the Richard Siegfried Student Award this semester for earning a total GPA of 3.9 or higher.

In order to be eligible to receive the Richard Siegfried Student Award, a student of the New York school must be a full-time freshman or transfer student with a total GPA of 3.9 or higher.

The award is named in memory of Richard K. Siegfried, SUNY Oneonta Professor of Theatre from 1958 to 1995. Professor Siegfried (or Sieg as generations of students fondly called him) epitomized excellence in his academic life, through imagination, meticulous scholarship and discipline, and through his expectation of the same pursuit of excellence in his students and colleagues.

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FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Downtown Berlin pulsates with New Year's Eve revelers cheering in the opening seconds of 2020. After a two-year hiatus because of covid, the event returns this year.

Berlin's New Year's Eve bash back after two-year absence

By Gee Williams

Contributing Writer

(Dec. 22, 2022) After a two-year hiatus, Berlin's annual New Year's Eve celebration will return next weekend with two ball drops, live music and refreshments to entertain another expected large crowd downtown of citizens and visitors.

"People want to ring in the new year with the people they love," said Ivy Wells, Berlin's director of economic development. "We're expecting a big crowd and there's no charge to attend and it's also free to park."

Wells said that after two years of cancellations of the New Year's Eve celebration in Berlin because of covid, that she is expecting a large crowd to bring in the new year.

"Everything is weather-dependent but it looks like the weather won't be a factor this year," she said.

This New Year's Eve will again feature ball drops sponsored by the Berlin Chamber of Commerce.

The celebration begins at 5 p.m. with the first of two laser shows sponsored by Atlantic General Hospital. The first ball drop for kids will take

place on Main Street immediately after, around 6 p.m.

This ball drop will also be in sync with the annual ball drop that takes place at midnight in Berlin, Germany.

Here in "America's Coolest Small Town," live music sponsored by the Maryland State Arts Council will follow from 6:15-8:30 p.m. on Main Street and will be provided by two groups: the Callum Toner Band at 6:15 p.m. and The Rogue Citizens at 7:30 p.m.

Following the musical performances, local disc jockeys Big Al Reno and Schwab, will then spin popular recorded dance music up until the midnight ball drop, immediately across from the Atlantic Hotel.

Street Kitchen door truck will be serving food. The Berlin Chamber will also sell beer and malt wine downtown on Main Street between Broad Street and Pitts Street beginning at 8 p.m. until the peak of the celebration, the New Year's Eve ball drop at midnight, which will also mark the start of a second laser show.

It is free to attend the downtown Berlin New Year's Eve celebration.

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FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Nearly 900 penguins take a dip in the 48-degree ocean on mild, but rainy New Year's Day during the 28th annual Atlantic General Hospital Penguin Swim, held on 91st Street.

Penguin Swim back in Ocean City at Princess Royale Jan. 1

(Dec. 22, 2022) The 29th annual Penguin Swim is set for Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023, and will take place once again on the beach and in the ocean behind the Princess Royale at 91st Street.

Individuals and teams are invited to join in the fundraising. Penguin Swim short-sleeve T-shirts for participants who register after Dec. 10 will be available, while supplies last for a \$25 registration fee.

Individual participants who raise or donate \$100 or more will also be eligible to receive an official 2023 AGH Penguin Swim long-sleeve T-shirt, while supplies last.

Participants can register online now to start collecting donations. To view this year's shirts, or to register, visit www.aghpenguinswim.org.

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. Advance online registration is recommended.

Participants are encouraged to come to pre-registration and advance

check-in at the Princess Royale from 2-4 p.m. on New Year's Eve.

Avoid long lines on event day and pick up wristbands and shirts early. Participants will also receive an additional Penguin Swim item during advance check-in.

Event-day registration and check-in will begin at 9 a.m., ending promptly at 11:30 a.m., with the main event at noon on the beach at 91st Street.

The time in between will be chock full of fun activities the whole family will enjoy, including costume contests, face painting and mermaids.

The Bull on the Beach team will parade down the beach at 11:45 a.m. from 94th Street to the swim area in front of the Princess Royale. Spectators are welcome.

The awards ceremony will take place in the atrium immediately following the swim.

Special recognition awards will be given to oldest and youngest penguins, and the participant who traveled the furthest.

See PENGUIN Page 12

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Penguin Swim back for 29th year

Continued from Page 11

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

Penguin Swim Event Committee and Co-Chairs are Michael Cylc and Ryan Kirby.

After the swim, the 1 p.m. Ravens-Steelers game will be on a big screen in the atrium.

Food and drink specials at the

atrium bar may include beer, wine, soda, wings, chicken tenders, pizza, soups, and sandwiches. Enjoy complimentary coffee and hot chocolate.

Unable to attend? No problem. Register online for the Cyber Swim, then take an ice-cold dip wherever you are and post a photo or video of your personal virtual Penguin Swim on social media using #OCPenguinSwim.

Make sure the post is public so event organizers can see it. Find the Penguin Swim on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Participants can register for the

cyber swim on the event website and pay an additional \$10 fee per participant to cover costs to have their T-shirts shipped to them.

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

Proceeds from the event, gathered through corporate sponsorships and participant fundraising, support the strategic plans undertaken by Atlantic General Hospital to uphold their mission to improve individual and community health. Atlantic General Hospital is a 501(c)3 organization.

Atlantic General Hospital has been providing quality health care to the residents of Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset counties in Maryland, and Sussex County, Delaware, since May 1993.

Built by the commitment and generosity of a dedicated community, the hospital's state-of-the-art facility in Berlin combines compassion and expertise with the latest in technology and services.

Atlantic General Health System, its network of more than 25 primary care provider and specialist offices, cares for residents and visitors throughout the region.

For more information about Atlantic General Hospital, visit www.atlanticgeneral.org.

Arts council plans to award close to \$20K to program

(Dec. 22, 2022) The Worcester County Arts Council will award \$19,718 in the Community Arts Development Grants program for art projects and events to be presented by local nonprofit organizations during the six-month granting cycle beginning Jan. 1, 2023.

Grant projects are evaluated based on the quality of cultural excellence, community outreach and public impact, and financial/administrative merit.

In FY 2023, the Worcester County Arts Council awarded \$43,158 to local non-profit organizations through this program which is funded and supported by the Maryland State Arts Council.

The following is a list of organizations and their projects that are being awarded a Community Arts Development Grant for the current granting period:

Art League of Ocean City: Lecture Series

Berlin Heritage Foundation: 2023 Events

Julia A. Purnell Museum: Paintings and Techniques of Ann S. Hope

Lower Shore Performing Arts Company: Musical Review of Broadway Love Songs

Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra: See ARTS Page 14

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County's Rec. and Parks will offer variety of winter sports

(Dec. 22, 2022) Worcester County Recreation and Parks will offer a variety of activities this winter.

The Active Start Youth Sport Development Programs are for children of all skill levels.

These sport-specific programs prepare children for organized sports in a fun, non-threatening environment by teaching the fundamentals of play, while encouraging an appreciation for being physically fit and healthy.

Active Start Bowling will take place at Eastern Shore Lanes in Pocomoke City on Thursdays, Jan. 12 to Feb. 16, from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

The program is open to grades fourth to eighth. Participants will receive two games of bowling, shoe rental, and pizza, drink, and ice cream each day.

For more information, contact Tyler Keiser at 410-632-2144 x2505 or tkeiser@marylandscoast.org.

Active Start Track will take place at the Worcester County Recreation Center in Snow Hill on Thursdays, Jan. 12 to March 2, from 3:30-5 p.m.

The program is open to grades third through eighth. Students will learn to sprint, hurdle, long jump,

and more through drills and games.

For more information, contact Myro Small at 410-632-2144 x2512 or msmall@marylandscoast.org.

Active Start Volleyball will take place at Pocomoke Middle School on Fridays, Jan. 13 to Feb. 24, from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

The program, which is open to grades fourth through eighth, will help elevate each child's volleyball skills to the next level and inspire a love for the game.

Active Start Volleyball is sponsored by the Worcester County Recreation Boosters and available at the discounted price of \$10 per child.

For more information, contact Trudy Gebhardt at 410-632-2144 x2514 or tgebhardt@marylandscoast.org.

Transportation for all active start programs will be available from the school to the designated facility.

The price per child is \$35, and \$30 for each additional child for either bowling or track. Financial aid is available to those who show a demonstrated need. Proof of eligibility is required.

See REC Page 15



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The annual New Year's Day beach walk, a longstanding tradition for Assateague Coastal Trust, returns next Sunday at Assateague State Park.

New Year's Day beach walk at Assateague State Park

(Dec. 22, 2022) The annual New Year's Day beach walk, a longstanding tradition for Assateague Coastal Trust, returns next Sunday at Assateague State Park.

Begun in 1980, the cleanup became a family tradition and a community legacy. Members from the local community and afar have gathered with ACT to celebrate the new year with a walk on at National Seashore and State Park, Assateague Island.

Assateague Coastkeeper and staff at Assateague Coastal Trust are working with Assateague State Park for a guided beach walk and cleanup at the Assateague State Park Day use lot. There is no entrance fee.

Those planning on being involved with the cleanup should bring work

gloves.

During exploration, participants should look for winter waterfowl, raptors, sika deer and, of course, the wild horses. Participants should dress for the weather.

Participants may also stop by the Day-Use boardwalk for a fireside chat with the park staff, share stories, ask questions and make a connection. Hot chocolate will be provided by ACT.

The hike will start at 10 a.m. and the staff will be available until noon.

Tag photos taken during the event with #actforbays, #assateaguecoastkeeper, #assateaguecoastaltrust

No registration is required. For additional information, contact Debbi Dean, community engagement coordinator, at 443-856-9309 or outreach@actforbays.org.



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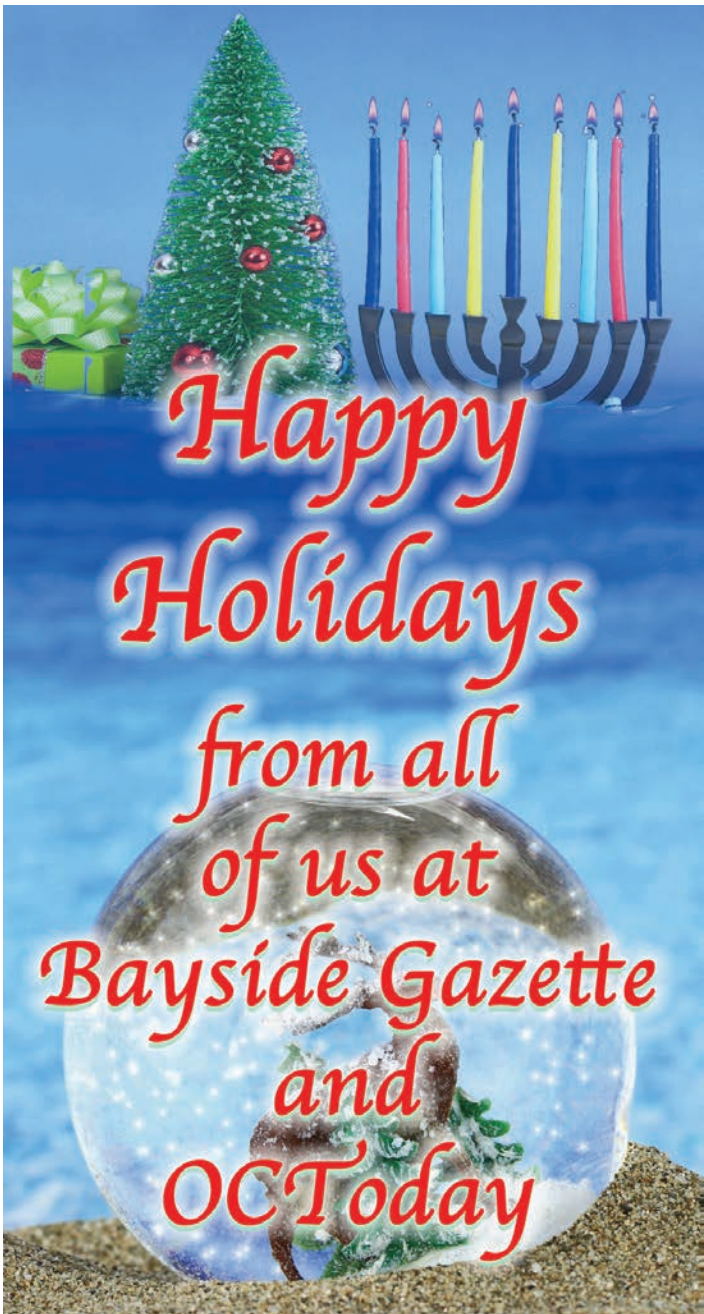
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Opinion

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



Children's theater performing 'Moana'

Adaptation of Disney movie to take stage in Jan. in Ocean City

(Dec. 22, 2022) The Ocean Pines Children's Theater will present "Disney's Moana, Jr., The Musical" in January.

The production will take place in the Performing Arts Center, located in the Ocean City convention center on 40th Street, Friday, Jan. 6 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 7 at 3 p.m.

This musical adaptation of

the 2016 Disney animated film is a coming-of-age story following Moana as she sets sail to save her village.

It features the beloved songs, "How Far I'll Go," "Shiny," and "You're Welcome," composed by Lin-Manuel Miranda, Opetia Foa'i, and Mark Mancina.

Tickets cost \$15 and can be purchased online at <https://ocmdperformingartscenter.com/upcoming-events> or at the Ocean City Convention Center Welcome

Center, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Children's Theater acknowledges and is grateful for the special funding awarded by the Maryland State Arts Council and the Worcester County Arts Council.

"Disney's Moana, Jr." is presented through special arrangements with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Arts Council announces large donation

Continued from Page 12
2023 Spring Concerts

Ocean Pines Children's Theater: Disney's Moana, Jr. Musical

Pocomoke High School Drama Club: Into the Woods Musical

Pine Tones Chorus: Spring Concert and Sing Outs

Snow Hill Elementary School: Free Little Art Gallery
Town of Berlin/Berlin Main Street: Live Music at Farmers' Market

Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art: Wildfowl Carving Competition & Art Festival

Applications are currently accepted for art projects through the Mini-Grant program.

The Mini-Grant program is intended to provide funds (up to \$500) for new projects facing an emergency need that emerge between grant periods and deserve immediate Arts Council support.

Visit www.worcester-countyartsCouncil.org for more information.

The next deadline to receive grant applications for the Community Arts Development Grant Program for July 1 - Dec. 31, 2023, is April 15, 2023.

The Worcester County Arts Council is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to support, promote, and encourage visual, performing, and literary arts in Worcester County.

Your Online Community: www.baysideoc.com



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Pine'eer Craft Club of Ocean Pines has chosen Terry Devine as the December Crafter of the Month.

Terry Devine named crafter of month by Pine'eer Club

(Dec. 22, 2022) The Pine'eer Craft Club of Ocean Pines has chosen Terry Devine as the December Crafter of the Month.

Devine shares her time between her hometown of Philadelphia and Ocean Pines, where she has owned a home for nine years.

In March of 2020, she retired from her job as a director in the Philadelphia Health Care System, just as the covid-19 pandemic was starting to cause lockdowns.

When the pandemic forced her to spend more time at home, Devine joined an online class and started making art from acrylic paint and glass.

The glass she primarily uses is the

same chunky glass used in decorative gas fireplaces. She also breaks and cuts glass from colorful vases she finds in thrift stores.

Along with making crafts, Devine also enjoys traveling, photography, gardening and spending time with family and friends.

View Devine's projects and other handmade items at the Artisan Gift Shop in White Horse Park, on 239 Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines.

The shop is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, visit <https://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/artisan-gift-shop>.

Rec. and Parks winter activities

Continued from Page 12

To register online for any youth programs and view a full calendar of events, visit www.playmaryland-scoast.org.

Worcester County Recreation Parks is also offering co-ed and women's volleyball leagues at the Worcester County Recreation Center in Snow Hill this January.

Co-ed volleyball will take place Sundays from 1-3 p.m. beginning Jan. 8. The registration deadline is Jan. 5.

The coaches meeting will take place Jan. 5 at the WCRC at 7 p.m.

This league will be made up of teams with two women playing at all times.

Women's volleyball will take place Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. beginning Jan. 10. The registration deadline is Jan. 5. The coaches meeting will take place Jan. 5 at the WCRC at 6:30 p.m.

All women 14 years and older are welcome in this competitive volleyball league.

The team cost per league is \$220. Form teams and register online at www.playmaryland-scoast.org.

For more information, contact Gebhardt.

Registration is open for Worcester County Recreation & Parks' youth sports leagues at the Worcester County Recreation Center, providing

participants with plenty of opportunities to get active and have fun this winter season.

The Youth Basketball League will take place on Saturday mornings, Jan. 7 to March 11.

The program schedule is as follows: grades 6-8 from 9-10 a.m., grades 4-5 from 10:15-11:15 a.m., and grades 1-3 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The registration deadline is Jan. 6. An additional \$5 will be applied to those who register after the deadline.

For more info, contact Small.

The Indoor Archery Tag League will meet on Thursdays, Jan. 5 to Feb. 23, from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

This program combines archery and laser tag.

Participants will learn to shoot the specialized bow and arrows, and there will be a variety of tactical game play in a league format.

There is no registration deadline.

For more info, contact Hunter Nelson at 410-632-2144 x2506 or hnelson@maryland-scoast.org.

The cost for each program is \$35 per player (\$30 for each additional child). Financial aid is available for those who have demonstrated need. Proof of eligibility is required.

Learn more about other youth programs and winter happenings at www.playmaryland-scoast.org.

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Cuisine

Add Chicago icebox cake to holiday menu

As you may well have gathered, I like my cakes and baked goods in the wintertime.

The holidays are a time of splurging, indulging, being frivolous and otherwise making unsound dietary choices.

Perhaps this is why so many people choose health as a new year's resolution and may very

well be why so many people get their gym memberships then.

"I'm going to get in the best shape of my life. 2023 is going to be my year!"

"No it's not, Carol, but you go right ahead and get that gym membership that you'll use for a month, and then ... nothing."

And, this coming from a guy who has done that more than a couple times in his miserable, middle-aged life. I was smarter this year, as I purchased my gym membership a month ago.

Just try to stop me, 2023. Just try. Ah yes, the cleverness of me, as Mr. Pan was known to proclaim.

Already feeling the decline in gym attendance, I am at least pleased that I'm averaging four days a week for now.

Who knows? Maybe this time it will stick. The thing is, I enjoy going to the gym, as long as it's not in a group setting. That, I finally did figure out for myself.

I am much better off just going solo and working my way through the various workouts. No timer, no one pressuring me to do this exercise or that, and otherwise just going through the well-calculated motions.

And hey, it's been a month and I haven't pulled a muscle or damaged a joint yet, so I have that going for me. Is there a piece of wood around here that I can knock on?

I digress and we once again must circle around to baked goods at Christmastime. I'm a sucker for Swedish Heirlooms, Yule logs, Rosettes, Cristoli, you name it. And a good cake certainly has its place at my table.

The kids and I have not made a New York or Chicago trip in a few years, but both cities are well-regaled in their Christmas splendor as part of their effort to spread Christmas joy (and to encourage retail shopping, let's be honest here) this time of year.



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3



Of course, as much as it saddens me, New York has become a bit of a trash mountain over recent years, even more so than in years past. Hopefully, they find a happy medium in waste removal.

But Chicago... oh, Chicago... with her cleanliness and incredibly unique infrastructure, is a city all in its own, with a subterranean world where most of the trash resides before being relocated to the dump.

Walking around Chicago this time of year is amazing, with the German Christmas Market, plenty of fantastic restaurants to choose from, and, of course, the bakeries. And I have to go on a tangent here, because there is something so special about big cities and small European towns alike, when it comes to bakeries.

There is nothing quite like walking into a bakery at 7 a.m. and rejoicing in the sights and smells. At once, our senses are bombarded with the sweet and savory offerings of the day, our eyes tantalized by these bake goods in the typically brightly lit room.

It is a feeling that I have gotten since I was much younger when I would walk into the Donut Shack in Severna

Park. That was always a treat for us after church or on a random Saturday helping Dad do chores. There is just a certain feeling that one gets from such an experience.

I felt this a few years ago at the Magnolia Bakery in Chicago, as my daughter introduced us all to their famous icebox cake. It is a deceptively simple recipe to make, and quite frankly, it can be one that doesn't make any sense to you until you try it.

You may want to call this "soggy cookie cake," but once you make this and let it sit long enough, I think you'll appreciate the introduction. Oh, and have a cot handy for the sugar crash.

You will need it, and you will need your rest as you get ready to start up at the gym, again.

Chicago Icebox Cake

makes one large cake

3-4 boxes Nabisco Famous Chocolate Wafers

1 qt. Heavy whipping cream

1/4 c. Granulated sugar

1 tsp. Pure vanilla extract

For whipped cream, combine cream, sugar and vanilla and whip

until soft peaks. You do not want stiff peaks here, but just enough so it holds its form and is nice and creamy.

Grab a large round mold for our cake, ensuring that it has a flat bottom.

Smear a small amount of cream on the bottom of the mold.

Line the bottom with wafers, and then cover any gaps with more wafers on top.

Top with a thin layer of the whipped cream.

Repeat the process until the wafers and cream are gone.

Loosely wrap and place in refrigerator for at least overnight. This is where the science happens. In case you hadn't guessed yet, the moisture from the whipped cream will make the wafers – dare I say it – soggy as they seep up the cream's liquid, and it becomes one of the most unique cakes you'll ever have. And yes, this is a bit on the sweet side, but what 20-minute, no-bake cake wouldn't be?

— Paul Suplee is the owner of *boxcar40*, *boxcar on main*, *boxcar crafted events* and *sportfish catering*.
www.boxcarrestaurants.com

Obituary

WILLIAM ZIFCHAK

Ocean Pines

On the evening of Dec. 7, 2022, William (Bill) Zifchak died surrounded by his family in Ocean Pines, Maryland, at the age of 79.

Bill was born in Astoria, New York on Dec. 17, 1942 to Anne and George Zifchak.

He graduated in 1964 from St. Anselm's College in Manchester, New Hampshire where he was a member of its nationally-ranked intercollegiate debate team.

After attending a springtime debate tournament in Washington D.C., Bill decided that he would study law at Georgetown University Law Center.

Two years after beginning law school



William Zifchak

he joined the U.S. Army and completed a one-year tour of duty with the 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam, where he reached the rank of E-5, was awarded a Bronze Star Medal, and was honorably discharged.

Bill then returned to Georgetown, obtained his Juris Doctor and passed the Maryland Bar Exam.

In 1976 he joined the firm of Sasscer, Clagett, Channing and Powers - later Sasscer, Clagett & Bucher - where he practiced litigation, mostly insurance defense, up until his death.

Bill married the love of his life, Virginia (Ginny), in 1968 and raised a son, Jon, and a daughter, Kara (Davis).

Bill and Ginny were married for 54 years and raised their family in Riva, Maryland, where Bill was a community leader.

Later, they moved to Ocean Pines,

where Bill and Ginny made many new friends.

Bill was a smart, capable and widely respected trial lawyer who had many friends and admirers in the legal profession.

His advice and counsel was widely sought after by his contemporaries and colleagues. He was a particularly effective advocate before juries, and judges trusted his extensive knowledge of insurance and personal injury law.

Bill was devoted to his family, loved the Chesapeake Bay and spent many hours fishing on his boat, the "Lady G," named after his wife.

He frequently traveled with friends

and family to the Caribbean where he enjoyed snorkeling, body surfing and contributing to the well-being of local casinos.

Bill read extensively, enjoyed an occasional gin and tonic, and had a sharp and irreverent sense of humor. He never took himself too seriously.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Bill's name to the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department. Arrangements will be announced at a later date.

Letters of condolence can be sent to the family via www.burbagefuneral-home.com. Arrangements are in the care of The Burbage Funeral Home.

MSP Cyber Task Force warns online shopping consumers

(Dec. 22, 2022) The Maryland State Police Cyber Task Force is warning consumers to continue to proceed with caution while shopping online to avoid potential scams this holiday season.

According to the Internet Crime Complaint Center's (IC3) 2021 report, non-payment or non-delivery scams cost people more than \$337 million annually. Credit card fraud accounted for another \$173 million in losses. Consumers can take simple steps to avoid becoming a victim of an online scam.

This includes:

- Never click any questionable links or attachments in emails, on websites, or on social media.

- Only purchase items from reputable businesses and people you know and

- Make sure any website you visit is legitimate and secure. A site you're buying from should have https in the web address. If it doesn't, don't enter your information on that site.

- Never wire money directly to a seller.

- Use a credit card, not a prepaid gift card, when shopping online.

- Check your credit card/bank statement regularly. Dispute any suspicious charges.

Here are some tips to protect yourself from scams in general:

- Do not give out your personal information to someone you do not know.

- Store personal information in a safe place.

- Do not carry your social security card in your wallet.

- Collect mail every day and put a hold on it during extended travel.

- Use security features on your smartphone and computer.

- Use complex passwords.

- Trust your instincts. If you think it

might be a scam, it probably is one.

- Do not wait to report any potential scam. Contact your banking institutions immediately. Also contact your local law enforcement agency and file a complaint on IC3.gov.

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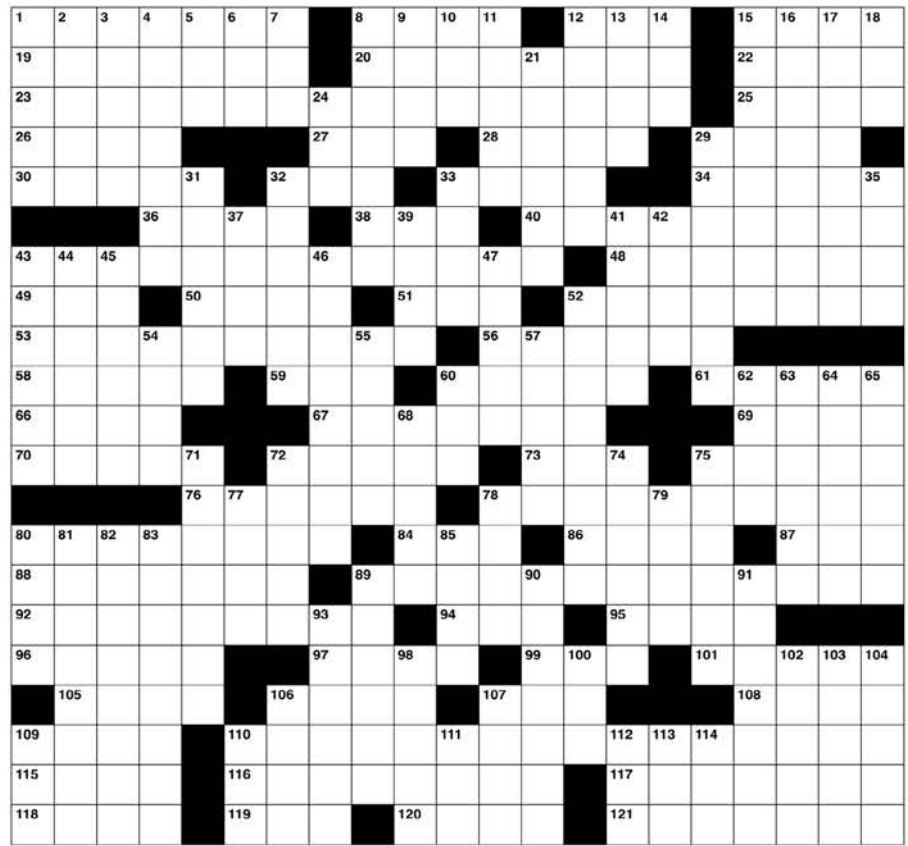
Puzzles

STEP ON IT!

BY LAURA TAYLOR KINNEL / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Laura Taylor Kinnel, of Newtown, Pa., teaches math and is the director of studies at a Friends boarding school near Philadelphia. This is her sixth crossword for The Times, most of them Sundays. Laura's son and his fiancée asked her to construct a crossword for their outdoor wedding reception last June. The result was printed on a large foam board, and guests worked on it with dry erase markers. The completed puzzle now hangs in the newlyweds' living room. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Letting up
 - 8 35mm. options
 - 12 Rotter
 - 15 What a cafeteria tray can be used as
 - 19 Creative, as thinking
 - 20 Tug of war or capture the flag
 - 22 Le Pew of Looney Tunes
 - 23 Hypotenuse-finding formula
 - 25 Opposed to, in dialect
 - 26 Frost
 - 27 Prefix with pronoun
 - 28 "No ifs, ___ or buts"
 - 29 Asia's vanishing ___ Sea
 - 30 Ethereal glows
 - 32 Young Henry V, to Falstaff
 - 33 Eins + zwei
 - 34 A-lister
 - 36 Evening, informally
 - 38 Pharmaceutical pioneer Lilly
 - 40 Having an impeccable reputation, say
 - 43 One drinking soft drinks at a party, perhaps
 - 48 "Le Bonheur de Vivre" painter
 - 49 "Dust Tracks ___ Road" (Zora Neale Hurston memoir)
 - 50 Egg on
- DOWN**
- 51 Implement at a regatta
 - 52 Doesn't comply with
 - 53 A Kool-Aid flavor
 - 56 Serve
 - 58 Ham it up
 - 59 Member of the fam
 - 60 Eliot's "___ Marner"
 - 61 Cause of class struggle?
 - 66 Boor
 - 67 Symbol of Irish heritage
 - 69 Garnish on a Moscow mule
 - 70 Some young ladies abroad: Abbr.
 - 72 Things frequently stolen
 - 73 Pierre ou Marie
 - 75 Auditioners' goals
 - 76 Like some lips
 - 78 Common frequency for college classes
 - 80 Bum
 - 84 Non reversal?
 - 86 Langston Hughes classic
 - 87 Insta blurb
 - 88 Invertebrate with a floral eponym
 - 89 "The Pink Panther" character
 - 92 Having successfully made it, slangily
 - 94 Top-level foreign policy grp.
 - 95 Avant-garde
 - 96 ___ de leche
 - 97 Internet star Majimbo known for her comedy videos
 - 99 Prince, but not a princess
 - 101 "Go jump in a lake!"
 - 105 Oil alternative, in baking
 - 106 Durable furniture material
 - 107 Texter's transition
 - 108 ___ Antipova ("Doctor Zhivago" character)
 - 109 Gallic greeting
 - 110 Composer who studied under Joseph Haydn
 - 115 Bit by a bit
 - 116 Tournament favorites
 - 117 Group of tonal languages
 - 118 Day originally marked by a full moon in the early Roman calendar
 - 119 Hunk
 - 120 Like some forecasts and complexions
 - 121 Wish otherwise
 - 12 Rapper with the 2018 No. 1 album "Invasion of Privacy"
 - 13 Midwest college town
 - 14 Biden or Harris, for short
 - 15 One on a rack
 - 16 "In witness whereof," "as hereinbefore mentioned," etc.
 - 17 Disorder from which Dostoyevsky and many characters in his novels suffered
 - 18 Cozy spot
 - 21 Approach
 - 24 Protein-mimicking molecule
 - 29 Compound at a nail salon
 - 31 Ink on a contract
 - 32 Beats around the bush ... or bushes
 - 33 Sublime soprano
 - 35 Brings up, as a subject
 - 37 39+ weeks, for a pregnancy
 - 39 Mane character in "The Wizard of Oz"?
 - 41 Leaves out
 - 42 Prefix with constriction
 - 43 Wedding-cake supports
 - 44 Charm
 - 45 Didn't participate
 - 46 Big cheese's place?
 - 47 Physicist Schrödinger
 - 52 Like carbon monoxide
 - 54 James who sang "A Sunday Kind of Love"
 - 55 Like sumo wrestlers, medically speaking
 - 57 Single-handedly
 - 60 Adheres
 - 62 Blackthorn fruit
 - 63 Shiny top
 - 64 Voting rights matriarch ___ Boynton Robinson
 - 65 "Who, me?" response
 - 68 Deceived, in a way
 - 71 Like one who's seen a ghost
 - 72 In a few words
 - 74 Hand warmer
 - 75 Post-merger overhauls, informally
 - 77 Digital digest with the motto "Cure ignorance"
 - 78 Tastes
 - 79 Something to knock on
 - 80 Remunerated
 - 81 Made invalid
 - 82 Prevaricate
 - 83 Preceders of pis
 - 85 Pres. Carter's alma mater
 - 89 Post-merger acquisitions?
 - 90 Cloud nine feeling
 - 91 Swirling storm
 - 93 Essential
 - 98 Many a Winter Olympian
 - 100 ___ goal (soccer blunder)
 - 102 Cousin of a crow
 - 103 Childish retort
 - 104 Painter Édouard often confused with painter Claude
 - 106 Fancy Feast flavor
 - 107 Some boxers
 - 109 Name found in "Variety"
 - 110 Setting for simmering
 - 111 Onetime auto make with the Metro and Prizm models
 - 112 Stately shade tree
 - 113 Howe'er
 - 114 Ball-and-socket joint



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

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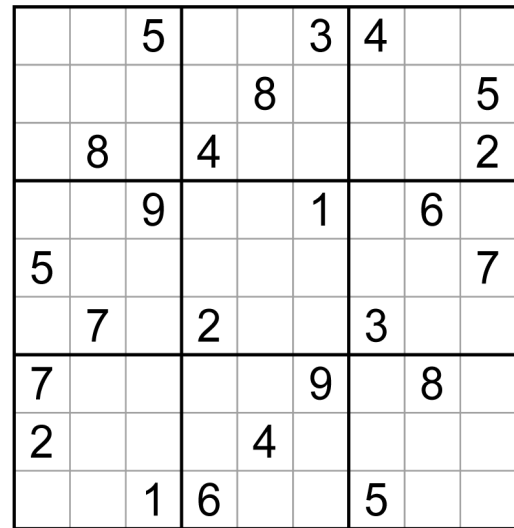
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HARD - 11

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.



Answers to last week's puzzles

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



Pedestrian injured in Ocean Pines accident

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Dec. 22, 2022) One person was transferred via helicopter to a shock trauma center following an accident at the Village Square Shopping Center in Ocean Pines on Saturday.

According to a post on its Facebook account, the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department and the Showell Volunteer Fire Department responded to the shopping center at 12:22 p.m. for the report of a vehicle accident, being advised that a pedestrian had been run over and was subsequently pinned under the vehicle.

“With combined efforts from personnel from the OPVFD and (SVFD), crews were able to employ their training and experience to lift the vehicle off the patient utilizing high-pressure air lifting bags,” the post read.

“Once the patient was freed, para-

medics from both departments quickly worked to assess the patient’s injuries and prepared them for transport via (Maryland State Police) Trooper 4 (helicopter) to shock trauma. We would like to thank the bystanders who rushed to the aid of the injured pedestrian while the fire departments responded.”

The department added in its post that proper training was a great aid in working through what is “not an everyday occurrence.”

“(This incident) does provide justification for the endless hours our volunteer and career firefighters invest in training. Over the last two months (and every year), the OPVFD and SVFD have participated in joint vehicle extrication training where we have practiced this exact scenario utilizing high-pressure air lifting bags. Our line officers stay attuned with



JACK CHAVEZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Village Square Shopping Center was site to an accident that left one pedestrian pinned under the vehicle that struck them. The victim was transported via helicopter to a shock trauma center.

emergency situations from around the country and implement training to replicate these incidents.”

As of Tuesday, Ocean Pines Police Chief Leo Ehrisman, the only point of

contact for this incident within the agency, was out with an illness and thus unable to answer questions regarding a police report, investigation or possible charges.

Driver dies in single-car accident in Stockton

(Dec. 22, 2022) Rodney Dale Lambertson, 45, of Greenbackville, Virginia was killed in a single-car crash Saturday near Stockton.

The Worcester County Sheriff’s Office said Lambertson was the operator and

sole occupant of a 2002 Ford Mustang traveling on Greenbackville Road near Rabbit Knaw Road in Stockton at about 12:40 a.m.

While negotiating a left curve, the vehicle left the roadway, struck a ditch then

utility pole before overturning and coming to rest on its roof, the sheriff’s office said.

Lambertson was extricated from the vehicle and determined to be deceased. He was transported to the office of chief medical examiner in Baltimore for au-

topsy. Anyone with information related to the crash should contact Sgt. Larmore of the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office — Crash Reconstruction Unit at (410) 632-1111.

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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. 22

STEM THURSDAYS

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Drop in any time during the day to use your creativity and build using one of the STEM building kits. For ages 4 years and older. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME 'SEASONS'

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and rhymes. For ages 2-5 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ZUMBA FOR ALL

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." 410-641-0650

BEACH SINGLES-55 PLUS

Thursdays - Harpoon Hanna's, 39064 Harpoon Road, Fenwick Island, DE, 4-6 p.m. Info: 302-436-9577 or BeachSingles.org

Fri., Dec. 23

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines. 9 a.m.-noon. Shop for everything from fresh local produce to unique handmade artisan goods. Open to the public. <https://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market>

Sat., Dec. 24

25TH ANNUAL N.O.E.L. (NOTHING OTHER THAN EATING AND LOVING) COMMUNITY DINNER

St. Paul's by-the Sea Episcopal Church, 302 Baltimore Ave., Ocean City, 9 a.m.-noon. Providing hot breakfast food along with sweet treats and festive Christmas music. Volunteers will distribute bags of non-perishable foods to prepare at home. 410-289-3453

MERRY MARKETPLACE IN BRRRLIN

The Buzz Meadery, 21 Jefferson St., Berlin, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sip and shop. Many of the Berlin Farmers Market vendors will be participating in Merry Marketplace at The Berlin Commons Buzz Meadery on Jefferson Street.

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

St. Martin's Church, 11413 Worcester Highway, Showell, 3 p.m. Experience

Christmas Eve at the historic St. Martin's Church in Showell. Built in 1756 and 1763.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 3 Church St., Berlin. Musical prelude by Evonne Lee at 6:30 p.m. followed by Holy Eucharist Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 25

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 3 Church St., Berlin. Holy Eucharist Christmas Day service at 9:30 a.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, Berlin, 10 a.m. Christmas Day worship. 410-641-2186

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

Sundays - Berlin Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 10 a.m. www.jw.org

Mon., Dec. 26

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 psychological well-being. Group uses exercises to stimulate creative expression. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

DELMARVA WOMEN'S A CAPELLA CHORUS

Mondays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 6:00-8:00 p.m. All ladies who love to sing invited. Mary, 410-629-9383 or Carol, 302-242-7062.

Tues., Dec. 27

STORY TIME "TRAINS"

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. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

CLAY AND PLAY

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Featuring a variety of clay and toys. Play and socialize with other families. For ages 2-5 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

OC KNITTING GROUP

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Bring whatever project you are working on. The group welcomes drop-ins and new members. They are making winter accessories that are avail-

able at the library for those in need. www.worcesterlibrary.org

OPEN SKATE

Sturgis Park, 200 River St., Snow Hill, 12-7 p.m. Children under 14 years must be accompanied by an adult. Children 6 years and younger must have an adult on the ice with them. Free and open to all ages. 410-632-2144-2505, tkeiser@marylandscoast.org

BEACH HEROES-OC

Tuesdays - Volunteer beach clean-up group meets from 9-10 a.m., year-round. Trash bags, grippers and gloves provided. Check the Facebook page "Beach Heroes-OC" for weekly meeting locations. All are welcome.

DELMARVA DANCING

Tuesdays - Selbyville Elks Lodge 2173, 13324 Worcester Highway, Bishopville, 5:30-9 p.m. Dance to the sounds of the '50s, '60s, '70s and more. A \$5 donation benefits Veterans and local charities. All are 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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

Tuesdays - Worcester County Health Department, 9730 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3:30-4:30 p.m. TOPS is a weekly support and education group promoting weight loss and a healthy lifestyle. 410-289-4725

OC KNITTING CLUB

Tuesdays - Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m.

ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE

Tuesdays - Experienced dancers and others interested in watching or learning more are welcome, 7-9:30 p.m. No partner required. Info: TangobytheBeach.com.

Wed., Dec. 28

BIARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

Held via Zoom, on the third and fourth Wednesdays of each month, for surgical patients. Atlantic General Bariatrics Center, 410-641-9568.

CREATIVE KIDS CORNER

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Come create a winter craft at the library or take it with you. Most supplies included. For ages 4 years and older. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

LUNCHTIME W/LUKE!

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Pack

a lunch and join the group to learn all about Luke, the library's diamondback terrapin. For ages 6 years and older. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

OPEN SKATE

Sturgis Park, 200 River St., Snow Hill, 12-7 p.m. Children under 14 years must be accompanied by an adult. Children 6 years and younger must have an adult on the ice with them. Free and open to all ages. 410-632-2144-2505, tkeiser@marylandscoast.org

CUPCAKES AND.. A CUPCAKE PAIRING EVENT

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Choose a cupcake (chocolate or vanilla) then add additions to create a treat. Pair with hot chocolate or tea. Gluten-free and vegan options available. Registrations required: 410-208-4014.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5:30-7 p.m. The goal of the support group is to provide participants with hope for the future. Gail Mansell, 410-641-9725, gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org

ONGOING EVENTS

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WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, through Dec. 31. An expanded walking tour through thousands of sparkling holiday lights. Also featuring hot chocolate, photos with Santa, gift shop and a 50-foot Christmas tree. Hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 5:30-9:30 p.m. Admission cost is \$6 for adults and free to children 11 years and younger. Event is weather permitting. Pets are welcome on Wednesdays. 410-250-0125, 800-626-2326

WINTER TRAIN GARDEN

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, through Jan. 15, 2023. Interact with buttons that activate accessories and sounds and participate in a scavenger hunt. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ART EXHIBIT

Ocean Pines library, 11107 Cathell Road, until Jan. 31, 2023. Featuring 3-D framed pictures created mostly from vintage jewelry plus picture of crabs, birds and seascapes produced from products of the sea. 410-208-4014

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