



OPA wants ...

Leaf Relief

ANDY HARPER PHOTO

With thousands spent on cleanup, directors will consider having residents do more for themselves

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

While many Ocean Pines residents adore its canopy of pines, oak, tulip poplars, maple and gum trees, the community's heavily wooded landscape comes at a cost, especially in the fall, when these thousands of trees shed their tens of millions of leaves and needles.

Currently, residents can rake up and bag their leaves for Republic or Ocean Pines to pick up, but because of the rising cost of this collection work,

Ocean Pines officials are considering two changes in the process.

As outlined during the Budget and Finance Committee's budget review sessions last week, Republic Services will pick up four bags of leaves on each trash day. Ocean Pines also sends crews out twice a week to pick up bagged leaves from Thanksgiving to Christmas on the days Republic isn't doing collection.

In addition, Ocean Pines runs a vacuum truck

See DISPOSING Page 2

Berlin wants its casino share for police retention

Would use impact grants to help with cost of officers pension system

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Jan. 12, 2023) The Town of Berlin made its intentions known on Monday that it won't waste any time in trying to improve police officer recruitment and retention.

In a 4-1 vote, the Town Council approved a resolution to support the future use of Local Impact Grant funds — Ocean Downs Casino revenue — to cover the additional costs of funding the Law Enforcement Officers Pension System (LEOPS) starting on July 1, the first day of FY24.

Councilmember Jay Knerr opposed the motion.

Improving LEOPS has long been in the town's crosshairs as it determines how to address its woeful retention and hiring numbers for the Berlin Police Department. Time and again, former and current members of that police department, as well

See BERLIN Page 3

Contractors could see new fee in OP

Work requiring permit would also mean paying for business license

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(Jan. 12, 2023) General contractors could need to pay a business license fee of \$75 a year, and \$50 for subsequent years to work in Ocean Pines if the board of directors approves a proposal coming its way in the 2023 budget.

"We've had several issues with people saying they are licensed when they are not," Linda Martin, senior executive office manager for Ocean Pines said last week. This will ensure that contractors working in the Pines have the proper license.

"Any contractor doing work in Ocean Pines that requires a permit will have to get a business license fee," said Martin. This includes contractors for tree removal, constructing a dock or boat lift, fencing, handicap ramp, shed, porch, or any alterations to

See CONTRACTORS Page 2



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Disposing of tons of leaves costs OP tens of thousands

Continued from Page 1
through the neighborhood twice during the fall to remove leaves raked out of the ditches and that's when problems arise.

More than a few residents rake all of their leaves to the curb, expecting Ocean Pines to vacuum them all up. Eddie Wells, Public Works & CPI director, estimates that about 60 percent of residents who rake out leaves do this and it's getting expensive.

"The vacuum truck takes four people to operate. When residents put all their leaves in the ditch, they slow the truck down," he said.

OPA General Manager John Viola said the labor cost of this practice is about \$30,000-\$40,000. But that's only part of the problem, since contractors are dumping leaves and other yard debris at the public works yard for disposal, filling up the yard quickly and costing the community more money to dispose of those leaves as well.

To address these problems, Ocean Pines officials are thinking about eliminating the leaf pick up with the vacuum truck. That would make residents responsible for raking the leaves out of the ditches and bagging them along with the rest of their yard waste. The ditches must be maintained to allow stormwater to flow.

Also on the table is a proposal to require residents to purchase a sticker to use the public works yard, while contractors would not be permitted to use it.

"Last year we hauled a total of 109,720 lbs. of bagged leaves which equates to approximately 4,000

bags," said Wells. He guesses Ocean Pines generates about 80-100 tons of leaves a season, between bags, leaves dropped off at the yard and the vacuum truck.

It costs Ocean Pines \$40 a ton to remove these leaves. He said it cost Ocean Pines around \$75,000 last year for disposal, labor, fuel, truck rental and permits. Wells estimated that omitting contractors from the yard would save the association about \$25,000.

The proposal to reduce spending on leaves, however, must be approved by the board of directors during its budget deliberations this winter. If the measure survives, the changes would be put in place next fall.

County offices will be closed for MLK Day

(Jan. 12, 2023) Worcester County Government offices, including all five Branch Libraries and Recreation and Parks, will be closed Monday, Jan. 16, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Normal business hours will resume Tuesday, Jan. 17.

The Central Landfill and Homeowner Convenience Centers will be open Monday during standard hours of operation.

Contractors might see OP fee

Continued from Page 1
an existing house, or new home construction. It does not include landscapers, roofers, power washers or any other work that does not need a permit from Ocean Pines.

If this is approved by the board during the 2023 budget process, contractors will be notified through the website and the newsletter. Martin says association officials know most of the contractors, such as the tree removal

companies, who operate in the Pines and would notify them of any change.

A list of the licensed contractors also will be placed on the Ocean Pines website. Other contractors can be hired in the Pines, but they would have to pay the contractor's fee and any permitting fees before commencing work. If the board approves the change, the business license fee will go into effect on May 1, when the new fiscal year budget begins.

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Berlin hopes grants can help police hiring

Continued from Page 1

as town officials, have said that Berlin is far behind other municipalities when it comes to salary and retirement benefits. By improving LEOPS, the town hopes to stop losing recruits and seasoned veterans to the pursuit of greener pastures.

To use the casino funds for LEOPS, the town will need the cooperation of the Worcester County Local Development Council (LDC). The funds are meant to address public safety, an umbrella under which many different town projects could fall.

"The LDC has asked for more information and to see a study before considering the use of casino revenue funds for LEOPS itself," Mayor Zack Tyndall said. "With that being said, (this motion is) to send a message to the LDC that we are unified in our request for LEOPS."

Tyndall stressed that the motion does not attempt to direct the LDC to use the funds for LEOPS, only to say that it's a priority for upcoming discussions.

Though he ultimately voted in favor of the motion, Councilmember Jack Orris expressed wariness of committing so strongly at this stage.

"I kind of feel that this motion as it is right now is a little premature," he said.

Tyndall added that the urgency in supporting this motion now is compounded by the fact that the LDC may say that the decision warrants a public hearing or even a 45-day timeframe for the LDC to mull its decision or ask for more information.

"We're up against the timeline for our 2024 budget process, which doesn't seem like it's super far away but July 1 is going to be here before we know it and we need to make some determinations for our funding plan," Tyndall said.

Orris said, ideally, he'd like to see a work session between the mayor and Town Council before committing to anything.

"That is not an indication that I don't want to do this but I think that this particular step is premature," he reiterated.

Knerr, the only dissenting vote, agreed.

"(The LDC) indicated to me that they don't believe this funding can be used for LEOPS," Knerr said. "The reason for that or not, I agree — we should wait and see, get all the data, get the LEOPS study, work on a multi-use plan and go from there."

Tyndall claimed that a municipality elsewhere in Maryland has used identical funds to address law enforcement benefits, arguing that, thus, there is a precedent.

"There's no exclusion to pension systems or LEOPS, it is a public safety cost," he said. "All signs at the state level indicate that we can pursue it for this."

'No matter what decision we make at this meeting it'll require a meeting of the LDC!'
Councilmember Steve Green

Councilmember Dean Burrell said he sees the value in letting the LDC know the town's priorities.

"I don't see anything wrong with informing the LDC

that it is the intent of the Town of Berlin to use these funds for the safety aspect of that grant," he said. "It doesn't need to be as formal as a motion. It can be a letter reminding them that in their meeting of January 2022, that by motion, they recommended that the town submit their plan with the study."

"I'm just kind of hesitant about not having that study in hand. We can sit here and estimate and guesstimate but we need that study."

He added, that if there's a hangup on whether this counts as a public safety measure, there should be no

question that it does.

"An example I found online used for 'public safety' ... it is a system of rules, enforcement, infrastructure and services that reduce risk to life and quality of life. If anything fits this category exactly that is the ability of the Town of Berlin to (attract) and retain police officers."

Councilmember Steve Green reminded his colleagues, the motion before them today is ultimately symbolic.

"No matter what decision we make at this meeting it'll require a meeting of the LDC," he said.

Tyndall again emphasized — now is the time.

"(This process) has a defined period of when you enter into it," he explained. "It has a defined period for when you must say yes or no. It's not like we get another bite of the apple on July 2, 2023. We get a whole other year of waiting for another cycle for LEOPS. The thing is that I don't think it's wise to stay silent on this next meeting. I think we need to thank the LDC for its feedback, we need to say it's a unified front of this group to pursue LEOPS and we would like to use a portion of LDC funds to do so. We want to continue the conversation and that's consistent with what they've asked for."

The LDC will meet in person later this month.

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Pop's Kitchen is one of 13 restaurants in Berlin participating in Restaurant Week. Co-owner Bob Beck, who owns the eatery with his wife, Kelli, said the town has welcomed his family with open arms since they decided to close Denovo's Trattoria in Ocean Pines and focus exclusively on Pop's Kitchen.

JACK CHAVEZ/
 BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Berlin Restaurant Week going well during first couple days

By Jack Chavez
 Staff Writer

(Jan. 15, 2022) Berlin Restaurant Week is underway and with a few days left to descend on its participating restaurants to taste the best of the food the town offers, managers and staff are pleased with how the week is going.

"It's going fantastic," said Pop's Kitchen's Bob Beck, who owns the restaurant with his wife, Kelli.

The Becks had been running two restaurants, the other being Denovo's Trattoria in Ocean Pines, but now the focus is solely on Pop's Kitchen.

"It's been a really pleasant surprise (becoming a part of the Berlin restaurant community). We love the town. We're really happy to end up in a place like this, just a pleasant surprise the whole way around."

Over at Rayne's Beef, manager and head waitress Amanda Pagett said they're keeping it simple and pushing their marquee special — a cheeseburger with fries, a drink and a complimentary ice cream.

"It's been pretty decent (over the first two days)," Pagett said. "We've had a few (restaurant week goers) today."

It's not uncommon for some restaurants to be closed early in the week, which is the case over at Boxcar on Main, whose staff on Tuesday was ramping up to start its week on Wednesday.

PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS:

- 410 Social
- Atlantic Hotel Bistro Bar
- Baked Dessert Café
- Blacksmith Restaurant
- Boxcar on Main
- Burn Brick Oven Pizza
- Gilbert's Provisions
- Jun & Juice
- On What Grounds?
- Pop's Kitchen
- Rayne's Reef
- The Globe Gastro Theatre
- The Sterling Tavern

"We usually do very well," said owner and head chef Paul Suplee. "We're serving three courses for \$27. The chef is Chris Samsone."

"We're known for having great from-scratch food, amazing cocktails, chili. It's always fun to sit in front of the (Pompeii) oven."

During Berlin Restaurant Week, participants are encouraged to go to at least three restaurants, where they can also pick up a card to be stamped after patronizing one. Cards with three stamps can be entered into a raffle with the prize of \$20 gift cards from each restaurant plus \$100 donated by local Realtor and Berlin Restaurant Week founder Cam Bunting.

"I try to encourage everybody to try different things, see if they can get people to enjoy something different that they didn't know they'd be interested in," she said last week. "Others, smaller restaurants, usually try to do what (worked) the previous year."

Bunting said she got the idea for the annual culinary event while she and her daughter were in Bethesda, where they saw that city holding its own restaurant week.

"I thought that would be a great thing for Berlin to do because we have some great restaurants," she said. "It's a slower time of the year and people are looking for things to do so people can come here, try the restaurants we have."

Berlin Restaurant Week will end on Sunday. The raffle will be drawn on Monday.



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Town moves unassigned funds for renovation

Berlin Council agrees to transfer \$1.16 million for various existing projects

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Jan. 12, 2023) The Berlin Town Council unanimously agreed to transfer \$1.16 million from the unassigned general fund balance for FY22 to the assigned general fund balance for several projects.

The unassigned balance means the money in it has not been earmarked for a particular purpose, and the transfer of money will be effected by establishing how the money will be used.

Of the total, \$500,000 will be used for Town Hall renovations, \$400,000 will be used for a new Public Works facility, with another \$100,000 going to future general fund capital projects and \$166,000 being assigned to the stabilization reserve fund.

The first two items, totaling nearly 80 percent of the total ticket, address outdated, cramped and otherwise unpleasant working conditions for town employees.

The Town Hall renovations include the renovation of the old police department beneath where the Mayor and Council meet.

“There’s no AC or heat or ventilation. There are some things that are not aesthetically pleasing, things shouldn’t continue without making some changes,” Mayor Zack Tyndall said.

Tyndall said that the fund balances for the town are the highest they’ve been in six years, but now is the time for the town to start paying attention to its buildings and the conditions within which its employees work.

Town Administrator Mary Bohlen pointed out that some town facilities were funded way back when former U.S. Vice President Spiro Agnew was governor — more than 50 years ago — and they were never intended to last this long without major updates.

Town Finance Director Natalie Saleh said that all the move represents is assigning the spendable balance to these specific purposes.

“We’re not spending, we’re not budgeting at the moment,” she said. “We are changing the category.”

Councilmember Dean Burrell asked about the \$400,000 price tag on the Public Works facility and if that number was someone’s “best guess.”

Tyndall responded that it was associated with the draft capital plan.

“We don’t know if it’ll cover it but it’s probably a good estimate,” he said. “We might need more. For right now it’s sending a message to the Public Works group that we saw their draft capital requests ... and we’re going to set money off to the side. It’ll require further exploration but now starts the planning process.”
Former Historic District Commis-



The Berlin Town Council agreed on Monday to transfer \$1.16 million from the unassigned general fund balance for FY22 to the assigned general fund balance with its eye on renovating town hall and the Public Works facility as well as other projects.

JACK CHAVEZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

sion chair and resident Carol Rose attended the meeting and said she’d like to see the town focus budget items on employee and police pay.

“That’s just as important as the other things we were talking about with our police officers,” Rose said. “Five-hundred thousand is a lot and I know it needs to be done but I’m not so sure that now’s the time to do it. Especially without someone going in there and doing an estimate of what it would cost (to do the job).”

Tyndall stressed this was not an expenditure but a move to apportion money into an account “per se.”

He added that the town’s auditor’s determined that this was “good financial management.”

Rose brought up also the impact these moves can have on the town’s residents if they mean that there will be fewer financial means to help them.

“I’m telling you, employees need raises, our police department ... and you’re going to have to really get tearful about your tax rate. It’s coming to the point that there are a lot of people in town, older people, (if the taxes raise, they’ll have to leave.)”

Tyndall said this move sends a

message that the town values its employees.

“We value the historical significance of this building, the structural integrity and the ability to work in it,” he said.

Councilmember Jack Orris, while voting to support the measure, said some of what Rose said still rang true.

“We increased fees on our residents — there was the tax increase from 2 or 3 years ago — something

Ms. Rose said, that if things go higher, (some residents are) going to have to leave and that breaks my heart a little bit,” Orris said.

“When we go into budget, we’re looking at capital. I understand there’s only so much of the pie to go around ... (but) let’s keep an eye on our residents as well and see what we can do for them, even if it’s the homestead tax credit, just where can we find little things that help.”



CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Ocean Pines continues to struggle to hire lifeguards due to national shortage

OPA's struggles in recruiting lifeguards continue into '23

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(Jan. 12, 2023) The Ocean Pines Aquatics Department is starting early in its effort to recruit lifeguards for the 2023 season. The national lifeguard shortage is still an issue and the competition to fill the many lifeguard stands at the beaches and pools pits northern Worcester County against many other areas.

"A lot of people let their certification expire when COVID hit, and we lost a year of training," said Aquatics Director Kathleen Cook. "I don't see it being a one-year recovery."

Ocean Pines is advertising and reaching out to local high schools, colleges, swim clubs, and coaches to recruit lifeguards.

"We are putting money in the budget to chase lifeguards," said General Manager John Viola. "Who knows what is going to happen. It's going to turn around. We just don't know when. But we have certainly budgeted to try to solve the problem."

There is also an effort to recruit residents who love to swim and may have some time on their hands to become lifeguards and help keep the pools open.

"We can do more with veteran life-

guards," Cook said. Fortunately, two senior lifeguards answered the call. Both sixty-plus years old, Dave Blazer and Mike Castoro are guarding the Sports Core Pool.

"I work two days a week, I open the pool up, and then I'm done at 1 o'clock and I get the rest of the afternoon to do other things," Blazer said.

Castoro encouraged others to take the plunge and join the team at Ocean Pines Aquatics.

Ocean Pines has four outdoor pools and one indoor pool that is open all year. "We have a large investment in our pools. We want to use them," Cook said.

But last year, Cook could fill only 20 of the more than 40 lifeguard positions needed to be fully operational. It's especially difficult during the first three weeks of June and the last two weeks of summer, when many of the younger guard must return to school.

Even though the pools produce little revenue during this time, "we still need to be in compliance." Her goal is to staff the pools through the whole season. Last year, Cook says, "We were fully operational from the beginning of July until the middle of August."

"We are required by law to have one lifeguard per 50 people. But sometimes that does not address the safety issue," Cook said. "One lifeguard with 50 kids and 39 of them can't swim: it's not a safe situation."

We must always err on the side of safety."

Spring lifeguard certification classes are scheduled April 21-23 in Ocean Pines. The association will waive the class fee for anyone hired as an Ocean Pines lifeguard.

The association is also offering free recertification training for former lifeguards. The association is offering competitive higher wages and providing uniforms for the lifeguards.

Blood bank stays focused on mission despite shortage

(Jan. 12, 2023) Amid ongoing blood shortages, Blood Bank of Delmarva (BBD) remains committed in its mission to help save lives.

This month, BBD will honor donors, both old and new, during National Blood Donor Month.

The last few years have been challenging, as BBD faced multiple blood emergencies. This is part of a national trend, as blood donations have not returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Yet, demand for these lifesaving products is up.

See AREA Page 7

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Arts Council featuring local artists in oil painting exhibit

(Jan. 12, 2023) The Worcester County Arts Council's current Library Gallery exhibit features oil paintings by local artists Barbara Kern-Bush and Angela Pierce.

The exhibit will be on display in the Berlin branch of the public library until the beginning of April. Artwork is available for purchase and may be viewed during library business hours.

For more information about featured artists, visit www.worcester-countyartsCouncil.org.

Artists interested in exhibiting opportunities at the Library Gallery should contact the Worcester County Arts Council at 410-641-0809 or curator@worcestercountyartsCouncil.org.

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.

As designated by the Maryland State Arts Council County arts agency, the Worcester County Arts Council is committed to fostering the excellence, diversity, and vitality of arts, artists, and arts organizations and increasing access to the arts for all members of our community.

The Worcester County Arts Council is funded by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council and supported by memberships, donations, and local sponsorships.

Area blood bank facing shortage

Continued from Page 6

This month, the blood center is facing a new concern as the "triple-demic" of RSV, flu and covid-19 is threatening an already unstable blood supply.

There has been an uptick in cancellations and missed appointments due to donors who are or are concerned about getting sick.

"During these challenging times, it's important that new, current and lapsed donors consider making an appointment to donate," said Nicole Pineault, director of donor resources for Blood Bank of Delmarva. "Every two seconds, someone is in need of blood. Patients rely on volunteer donors to help in their lifesaving treatments."

Twenty-five percent of the blood supply is used by patients battling cancer and roughly 1,800 units of blood are used by pediatric patients across the country daily.

In the weeks following the holiday season, maintaining a stable blood

supply and building inventory is critical. One donation can save up to three lives in the community.

In celebration of National Blood Donor Month, all presenting donors from Jan. 5-31 will be entered into weekly drawings for a chance to win an Apple or Google Watch.

Sixty-two percent of the U.S population is eligible to donate, but just 3 percent of the population does so. It takes less than an hour of someone's time to save up to three lives. BBD especially needs O positive, O negative and B negative donors going into the New Year.

To make an appointment call 888-8-BLOOD-8 or visit delmarvablood.org. The annual Ocean City Blood Drive is scheduled for Jan. 23-25 at the Ocean City convention center on 40th Street.

To register for the Ocean City event, go to <https://donate.bbd.org/donor/schedules/city>.



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Vandalism causes OP skatepark to temporarily close

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(Jan. 12, 2023) The Ocean Pines skatepark was locked up last Thursday with signs posted: "No Trespassing Skate Park Closed Indefinitely."

The closure was the result of vandalism that took place at the park earlier in the week, according to Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks officials, who were notified of the vandalism on Wednesday, Jan. 4. Two days later, the skatepark reopened.

"The damage included a bench removed from the ground and broken, exposed screws and broken slats from the bench, profanity graffitied on the rules sign, a security camera broken and taken off the pole with exposed wires left, and the fence bent and clips holding the fence broken," Josh Davis, Marketing and Public Relations manager for Ocean Pines said Monday.

While the park was closed, Ocean Pines removed the damaged property, cleaned the area, and replaced the damaged security cameras. During the cleanup, Ocean Pines replaced the rules sign and sponsor sign, and added a sign announcing the hours and "no trespassing" dur-



Vandalism caused Ocean Pines to close the skatepark for repairs the first week of the year.

CINDY HOFFMAN/
BAYSIDE GAZETTE

ing off hours. Repairs cost about \$2,000.

Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue said the skate park is monitored by the Ocean Pines Police Department. She said if the vandalism continues, the Police Department will remove the parties involved and potentially ban them from the skatepark permanently. Police will also monitor the park for trespassers during the posted hours when the park is closed.

"Rec and Parks wants to be able to

have a nice facility for Ocean Pines members. However, with the continued behavior it does not make sense to upgrade the facility or spend the money needed to continue to replace damaged property," she said.

"Closing the park is not something we want to do," Donahue continued. "Let's work together to continue to have a nice facility, and to be able to add more items to the park and do any necessary upgrades."

General Manager John Viola said there is a cost involved in continued

upkeep of the skatepark, and that must be passed on to all association members.

"It's unfortunate, and you never want to see something like this," he said. "We also want to remind people that we have posted rules at the park, and those are for the safety of those using the park and the safety of those around them. We hope everyone will respect the rules of this facility, so we can continue to operate it for the benefit of our homeowners and residents."

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Planning Commission Briefs

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Jan. 12, 2023) The Worcester County Planning Commission discussed the following during its Jan. 5 meeting:

Sea Oaks Village

The commission approved a preliminary plat review of phase two of the construction of Sea Oaks Village, a 76-townhome community with active recreation courts located along Stephen Decatur Highway in Berlin.

Attorney Hugh Cropper told the commission that the site has already met and exceeded the standards it set for the site.

"There are some minor wetlands permits for crossings and that sort of thing but 95 percent of the non-tidal wetlands are protected," Cropper said. "Every permit pretty much is in place."

Cropper added that the Worcester County Commissioners have allocated all 135 EDUs requested for the property, both water and sewer. Amenities are also in good standing.

"There is a commercial component that's encouraged by the RPC that has mixed-use development that's encouraged by the comp plan," Cropper said.

"Much of (the commercial component is) built and some of it is occupied, and again the project is far along and this exact site plan was approved originally when we were going to do all 135 at once. Then we dropped back and did 59. Now we're doing the rest."

Refuge at Windmill Creek

The commission postponed step one of a concept plan review for the Refuge at Windmill Creek after no representative for the developers appeared.

"The site is under construction," said an associate of the developers. "They're installing the utilities — sewer and stormwater — and of course, they've been fighting the weather."

The associate added that they're about two weeks behind.

"I think what happened was this project ... somehow they let the approval lapse," he continued. "They've been to the board, everything before it (the board) today is almost (the same) but not quite."

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Without a representative present, commission chair Jerry Barbierrri suggested it might not be appropriate to proceed, with other commission members agreeing.

"And this is no disrespect to you," commission member Ken Church told the associate. "You know what you're talking about. But you didn't even know you would be put in the hot seat and that's not fair to either you or us or anybody else involved."

Beech Tree Place

The commission approved preliminary plans for Beech Tree Place, a major subdivision to consist of nine single-family homes at the intersection of Stephen Decatur Highway and Snug Harbor Road.

"My family is working on this subdivision and we've presented the plans to you," said developer Mitchell Parker. "It's a pretty straightforward piece of property"

Parker said that the original plan called for the project to be called Magnolia Court but since then, they've been busy saving specimens of beech trees and decided to switch names.

The original name, after the magnolia tree, was intended to honor Parker's late cousin.

"We're still thinking of how to honor him," he said.

When asked who the customer for these properties would be, Parker said he envisioned it would attract buyers looking for "middle-of-the-road-type pricing."

The approval is contingent on the developers meeting eight items as outlined by Department of Development, Review and Permitting specialist Cathy Zirkle, which include identifying rights-of-way and easements, cooperating if sidewalks or other pathways are eventually required and approval of the cul-de-sac design by the Planning Commission.

Hartman, Carrozza prepare for legislature to convene

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(Jan. 12, 2023) The 2023 session of the Maryland General Assembly kicked off yesterday and the Worcester County delegation of Del. Wayne Hartman and Sen. Mary Beth Carrozza has its sights set on legislation they believe will improve the county's economy, safety and accessibility.



Mary B. Carrozza



Wayne Hartman

It's also a session of change. Incoming governor Wes Moore (D) will surely differ from his republican predecessor, Gov. Larry Hogan (R), requiring Republicans Hartman and Carrozza to begin game-planning now for what's to come.

"It's going to be interesting. We'll have many new members," Hartman said. "The new governor is still picking his cabinet so we don't know for sure what committee assignments we'll have. There are still many unknowns because of the election year. It takes time to figure out how we'll be working with other

folks, the challenges we're going to have, getting to know a lot of new people."

Carrozza said she envisions having to work "even harder" for the interests of the Eastern Shore with Moore in office.

She also praised the job Hogan did over his eight years as governor.

"Gov. Hogan and his administration have been very supportive of our (Eastern Shore) priorities, and I plan to use my position in the senate to educate, advocate and fight for local priorities," she said.

Some of the goals on Hartman's to-do list include helping Diakonia fund its new campus off Stephen Decatur Highway in Berlin and the Salisbury School fund a new amphitheater.

Atlantic General Hospital is also looking for money since inflation has raised construction costs for its new campus on Route 589 beyond what it budgeted.

And American Legion Synepuxent Post 166 on 23rd Street wants to improve its facility, too.

"We'll look at all their needs and see how we can help," Hartman said.

Carrozza said in an email that she won't stray from the approach that

See CAROZZA Page 10

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Carroza, Hartman start session in Annapolis

Continued from Page 9
 she's employed in previous sessions — advocating for the counties (Worcester, Somerset and Wicomico) she represents above all.

"To prepare for session, I have been meeting with local elected officials in all three counties, major employers like Atlantic General Hospital, all three higher education institutions — Wor-Wic Community College, Salisbury University, and University of Maryland Eastern Shore — small businesses including several members of the Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association, public safety including law enforcement, fire, and EMS, and those involved with our farming, fishing and forestry industries," Carroza said.

Her priorities list includes addressing the workforce shortage "across the board," working with

Hartman to write legislation to give Ocean City promoters alcohol licenses for the duration of their events and continuing the push for a bill to raise the room tax cap from 5 percent to 6 percent.

"Once Worcester County has secured the support of the other code counties, Del. Hartman and I would cross-file the bill," Carroza said. "In addition, we will be monitoring any special event zone vehicle bills to ensure that any new bills do not jeopardize our local prohibition on exhibition driving and special events zone enforcement."

Speaking of the temporary liquor licenses, Hartman said the legislation will clean up the process of handing out these liquor licenses for both the town and the promoters.

On exhibition driving, Hartman added that legislation meant to curb

it was vetoed last year because it affected legislation passed a few years prior that offsets reckless behavior from Ocean City events.

"I'm working with sponsors of the legislation to make it effective for them but not undermine what we accomplished here," he said.

In addressing the workforce shortage, Carroza said she's advocating for more apprenticeship programs and that she keeps in touch with the Maryland State Firemen's Association and the Maryland Association of Counties and each's recommendations to retain and recruit volunteers.

Carroza said she is also working with local hospitals and medical leaders to attract more healthcare personnel. She plans to introduce a bill that would increase collaboration between physician assistants and physicians

to help increase medical services.

Hartman will also be taking up again a bill that is somewhat of a passion project for him — making playgrounds in the state more accessible to nonverbal children.

The idea came from his daughter, a local schoolteacher.

"It's an idea based out of need," Hartman said. "My son when he was younger had a hard time communicating. We do all these things for access to playgrounds, but to have someone there who can't communicate, this board allows them to point to a picture (that reflects) their needs. It doesn't need to be expensive or elaborate. Just to help that child express what it is that they want. Not a big ask."

The 2023 session of the Maryland General Assembly runs from Jan. 11 to April 10.

Commissioners looking to budget challenges

By Jack Chavez
 Staff Writer

(Jan. 12, 2023) There's plenty of work ahead for the Worcester County Commissioners in 2023 that's sure to feature plenty of change.

Big price tags are on the horizon, in-

cluding the Kirwan Commission's imminent and unfunded Blueprint for Maryland's Future education plan.

There are also calls to figure out "economic drivers," as Commissioner Joe Mitrecic put it, in lieu of the now-defunct athletic complex project.

All the while, Democrat Wes Moore is set to assume the governorship in Annapolis this month.



Chip Bertino

"We're going to have to keep an eye on that," said Commissioner President Chip Bertino. "We have a change in administration at the governor level and so the county, we don't know what the new governor's objectives

and priorities are going to be as they relate to Worcester County. It's certainly an unknown."

Bertino stressed that he is nonetheless optimistic about dealing with all the change, pointing to the two "new, energetic and engaged" commissioners, Eric Fiori and Caryn Abbott.

"We have, I think, really good leadership with our Chief Administrative Officer Weston (Young) and Candace (Savage) as deputy. I think we have a good team in place to face these issues in a succinct and cogent way."

But Bertino also said the county will have to keep an eye on other new members of the General Assembly.



Eric Fiori

"As I think, we're always concerned about mandates, decisions promulgated by state legislature," he said. "This coming term, there are additional progressive legislators who will be coming to the state legislature.

Who knows ... what legislation would come down here that will negatively impact our county? We always seem to be at the bottom of the hill as things roll down. We're having to find ways to fund some of the more, what I would consider, unnecessary mandates and decisions foisted upon us. We continue to be concerned about that."

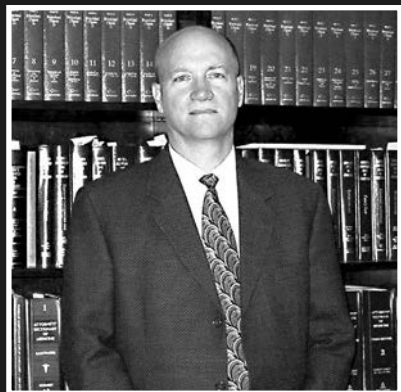
Speaking of the Kirwan Commission, Fiori said the mandate will be a "huge ask" for the county.

"The expose and the bearing it'll have
 See BUDGET Page 11

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Budget, revenue streams county focus in '23

Continued from Page 10
 on our budget (is a concern),” Fiori said. “We don’t have a number yet, but it’ll be a substantial burden on the budget ... As a more rural county that funds our schools significantly on the backs of our local taxpayers and state dollars, it’s a large concern and a one-size-fits-all package (for all counties and) is a large concern (for a smaller one).”



Joe Mitrecic

Mitrecic said that the county school system will need a “tremendous amount of money” to meet the mandate.

“That’s my main focus, the budget this year, being able to give raises and keep employees,” he said. “We have a tremendous turnover of employees. Seems every (commissioners) meeting we have employees leaving and we’re trying to hire employees in other areas. It’s a revolving door almost with the employees due to the fact that everything is so good out in the public sector. The money is flowing so much more freely out there.”

Mitrecic noted that inflation has negated much of the raises employees were given last year, thus it’s on the commissioners to figure out a way to once again provide financial relief for the people who keep the county’s lights on.

“Hopefully we can bring them up closer to where we are as far as inflation goes and at last they’re on a level playing field,” he said.

The commissioners are also focusing on the continued pursuit of other projects, including broadband connectivity and funding solution for EMS and Fire services.

“These are priorities we established and continue to move on those fronts,” Bertino said. “Those are strong issues that are top of mind for the commissioners looking forward. We’re looking to continue ensuring that the services we provide our residents are the best they can be and that they’re consumer-friendly. We have to continue moving along those lines. We certainly have the budget process beginning in the next six

weeks or so. That’ll occupy a lot of our time for the first part of the year.”

Mitrecic said that he continues to work with a committee that includes Fire and EMS officials from around the county to brainstorm new ideas.

One of the challenges they’ve identified is the diminishing incentive to pursue volunteer positions.

“The cost of emergency services throughout the county continues to rise as our volunteer groups start to diminish,” Mitrecic said. “There’s less interest in being a volunteer now. People are busy with life and they don’t have the time. The training is so much more (involved) now and there are a lot of things working against us there. So we need to find a funding source for the EMS emergency medical response throughout the county.”

An effective solution could free up a considerable amount of the budget, Mitrecic added.



Jim Bunting

Commissioner Jim Bunting said that he’s looking forward to determining where revenues will stand.

“Last year’s budget we had an increase of revenues of quite a bit, (around) \$5 million or \$6 million. We wound up spending that on top of the previous budget plus taking another X-amount of millions out of the general fund and funding a pretty big budget. I’m hoping we can all work together with whatever increase of revenue we have and limit our spending to that.”

One possible economic driver is the continued pursuit of a room tax cap increase legislation at the state level.

Last year, the bill stalled when it became clear that the Worcester County delegation needed the approval of its fellow code counties, or counties with commissioners, on the Eastern Shore — Kent, Caroline and Queen Anne’s — and thus would require more time.

“We never stopped doing that,” Mitrecic said. “Weston has been working with (the other counties) to get them to sign on with us so we can go ahead and get the ability to raise the room tax

a penny. That’s just what Ocean City has requested. This is what I support and if OC decides to raise the room tax a penny in the future, I would support that also, as long as they ask for it.”

Would he have the support of his fellow commissioners?

“That’s up for discussion,” said Fiori.

A lot of the legwork on room tax legislation, while in the purview of the county, must be handled by Del. Wayne Hartman (R-38C) and State Sen. Mary Beth Carozza (R-38) in Annapolis.

Hartman pointed out that the decision from the county commissioners will need to be unanimous to advance legislation.

“Bertino expressed some interest in talking more about it with his colleagues because of needs we’re seeing in our county for different things,” Hartman said.

“This is not a tax increase for my constituents at all. This allows the county and city to increase room tax so our tourists are paying for the expenses — public safety, law enforcement, public works, keeping things clean, maintaining government property. This is a way to allow our tourists to pay for the expenses related to tourism. I think it’s a win for our constituents if we get this done.”

Both Hartman and Mitrecic stressed that legislation would not mandate the code counties to raise their room tax

thresholds, but allow them the possibility to raise it a penny in the future if inclined.

It all comes back to the budget, Bunting said.

“The budget is the biggest thing, making sure we treat our employees, the (Worcester County) Board of Education right,” he said. “That is a big one and it’s going to be a difficult one to do possibly if the economy takes any worse dives.”

Looking at the county’s economic growth, Bunting said he’s satisfied with the northern end’s output, but he’d like to see more in the southern half.

“Ocean City can’t really stand any more people. You can’t get in there now with areas around it tied up so badly. Ocean City and the northern end are doing well and I would hope we could have some type of good business growth in the southern end (to offset it).”

So many challenges lay ahead, but Bunting said it’s not time to sound the alarm.

“I think it’s going to be a difficult year balancing everything out,” he said. “I think we will do well — we’ll work together well. I don’t think it’s doom and gloom for us. We’re going to have to be a little more fiscally responsible with our money, make sure we spend our taxpayers’ money right.”

Commissioners Ted Elder, Diana Purnell and Caryn Abbott did not return requests for comment on this story.

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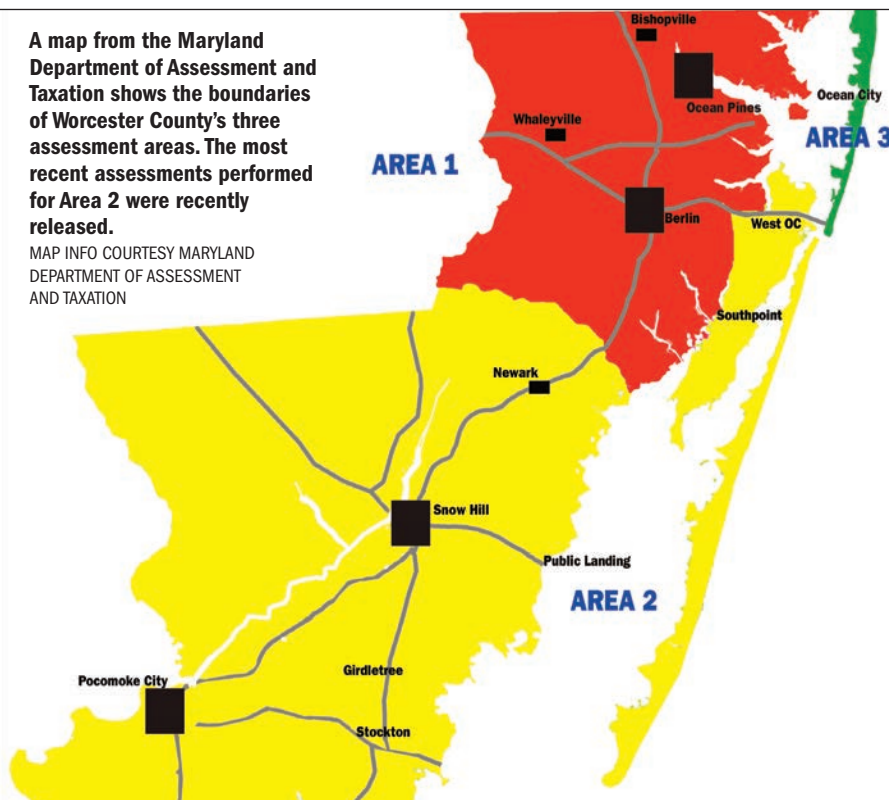
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A map from the Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation shows the boundaries of Worcester County's three assessment areas. The most recent assessments performed for Area 2 were recently released.

MAP INFO COURTESY MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION



Assessment shows property values up in state, county

By Mallory Panuska
Staff Writer

(Jan. 12, 2023) Worcester County could end up raking in roughly \$6 million more in tax revenues this year following a record more than 30 percent increase in property assessments.

The Maryland Department of Taxation recently released the annual assessment results for residential and commercial properties in Area 2, which in Worcester encompasses the entire southern region of Pocomoke City, Snow Hill and Newark, and West Ocean City.

The numbers shot up over the last three years not only locally, but across the state with a 20.6 percent increase overall on the assessment of more than two million properties, and jumps of 22.2 percent for residential and 15.8 percent for commercial properties.

A news release from the state department said the numbers reflect the largest property increase "in several years" and a rise in values.

"All 23 counties and Baltimore City experienced an increase in residential property values for the fifth consecutive year, while commercial property values also increased in all

23 counties and Baltimore City," Department Director Michael Higgs said in the release. "This is a good indicator that the market remains strong and growth is steady here in Maryland."

The numbers further show that this is the highest increase for properties in any group statewide since 2014. Before that, from 2010 to 2014, the rates were going down.

In Worcester County, the data showed a 30.8 percent total increase in assessments this year, and rises of 35.3 percent for residential and 14.2 percent for commercial properties compared to the last assessment in 2020.

According to the numbers, Worcester saw the fourth highest increase in assessed value behind Garrett, Somerset and Washington counties.

Local real estate numbers showed a hot seller's market mixed with a decline in inventory over the pandemic years, a trend that is just now starting to level off.

Worcester's Supervisor of Assessments, Amy Smith, said the jumps in assessments could result in higher tax bills for property owners in Area 2

See TAX Page 13



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Applications available online for nonprofit grants in county

(Jan. 12, 2023) Worcester County Government is accepting grant applications from area nonprofit agencies through Monday, Feb. 6.

Applications are available to download as a PDF at www.co.worcester.md.us. Once there, the link to the Non-Profit Grant Application can be found under "Important Links" on the right hand side of the web page.

Completed grant applications should be mailed to the following ad-

dress: Worcester County Government, One West Market Street, Room 1103, Snow Hill Maryland, 21863, Attention: Budget Officer Kim Reynolds.

Applications received after the deadline will not be considered, and applying for a nonprofit grant is not a guarantee of funding approval from WCG.

Grant awards will be announced by mail following the adoption of the FY24 WCG Operating Budget in June.

Tax rates could go up within southern portion of Wor. Co.

Continued from Page 12

However, the size of the bill will not be determined until the commissioners and municipal officials set the rate at which they will tax the assessed values during budget talks.

Jessica Wilson, the deputy finance director for Worcester County, said in an email last week that a report released in November showed that county revenues are expected to increase by roughly \$6 million based on the new assessments. She said the number accounts for the homestead tax credit, which limits the increase in assessments for primary resident owned homes to 3 percent over the taxable assessment of the prior year.

Smith said a total of 15,000 properties in the group were reassessed for this year.

Snow Hill Town Manager Rick

Pollitt said in an email last week that town officials had not yet been informed of the new assessments and that speculation on the tax rate was "premature." He said the elected officials will begin discussing the rates in late winter when Mayor Jennifer Jewell presents the proposed fiscal 2024 budget.

"Obviously, if the assessable base increases as a result of the state's annual review, there is an associated connection to the tax rate the town will consider," Pollitt said. "However, all of those considerations are very premature at this point."

Fir 2024, state officials will assess properties in Area 3, which encompasses all of Ocean City, while properties in Area 1, made up of Ocean Pines, Berlin, Bishopville and Whaleyville, are up for review in 2025.



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Assateague Coastal Trust announced the addition of four new members to its board of directors. Pictured, from left, are Peter Gibson, Chris Seymour, Jon Bulkeley and Susan Emond.

Four new directors added to Assateague Coastal board

(Jan. 12, 2023) Assateague Coastal Trust announced the addition of four new members to its board of directors: Jon Bulkeley, Susan Emond, Pete Gibson and Chris Seymour.

The induction ceremony took place at Burn Wood Fired Pizza in Berlin. Elected at the November Board meeting, these individuals begin their three-year terms and can serve a maximum of two terms.

“The directors and ACT staff are honored to welcome these incredible leaders as new colleagues on the Assateague Coastal Trust Board,” said Brenda Davis, ACT’s executive director.

“We have worked diligently to ensure ACT board and leadership represents a variety of experts from higher education, state leadership, and advocacy groups, and the newest board members are no exception. We’re looking forward to working

with this talented group of community leaders to protect and improve our environment,” Davis said.

As the new strategic plan unfolds and is implemented, it is important that ACT’s board membership reflects the communities it serves to help support the nonprofit’s work.

Each of the new board members brings with them a unique perspective and the same unyielding drive to inspire a greater awareness of the importance of clean water and how it can affect all of us in different aspects.

“We’re excited to welcome the new board members to regroup and make revisions along the way,” said ACT Board President Eric Vinson. “To include outreach into the community with an educational component, along with additional fundraising opportunities. Quite frankly, the road is

See TRUST Page 15

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AGH secures \$193K from federal program

(Jan. 12, 2023) Atlantic General Hospital recently secured \$193,050 from a federal program that allows not-for-profit healthcare organizations serving rural areas to apply for a 65 percent discount on eligible broadband services.

The reimbursement, which comes from a Federal Communications Commission fund via the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), is made possible by telecommunications service providers — like those who are members of the Maryland Broadband Cooperative — that pay into the fund to support rural healthcare facilities in bringing world-class healthcare to their patients and families through increased connectivity.

The cooperative has provided both fiber internet and dark fiber (fiber-optic infrastructure not yet in use) to Atlantic General, which allows for the expansion of existing services and telehealth opportunities.

The cooperative began the process to construct fiber-optic backbones in strategic locations across the Eastern Shore in 2007 through the support of the Tri-Council of the Lower Eastern Shore in conjunction with the Mid-Shore Regional Council. The first to be completed was on Route 113, from Pocomoke to Berlin and continuing to the Delaware border.

“If not for the vision and effort of the Tri-County Councils, it would not have been possible for us to reach Atlantic General Hospital and to have fostered this great service partnership we’ve had for most of the last decade,” said Drew Van Dopp, president & CEO of the cooperative.

Installing broadband fiber in Worcester County allowed Atlantic General to implement its first elec-



Maryland Broadband Cooperative presents a USAC reimbursement check for \$193,050 to Atlantic General Hospital as part of a federal program to offset high speed internet expenses for rural not-for-profit hospitals. Pictured, from left, are Jonathan Bauer, AGH vice president of information services; Don Owrey, president and CEO of Atlantic General Hospital; Charlotte Cathell, chair of the AGH Board of Trustees; Chip Bertino, president of the Worcester County Commissioners; Jeremy Sweeney, IT manager at Atlantic General Hospital; Drew Van Dopp, president and CEO of the Maryland Broadband Cooperative; and Tim Hayes, Maryland Broadband Cooperative's vice president of finance.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

tronic medical records system in the provider practices in 2008 and execute subsequent upgrades connecting all of its facilities, which requires the secure exchange of large amounts of data at high speeds to function properly.

“We cannot stress enough the incredible impact the efforts of the Tri-County Councils and the Maryland Broadband Cooperative have had on clinical practice and patient care,” said Jonathan Bauer, vice president of information services at Atlantic General. “This reimbursement from USAC helps make broadband internet service more affordable for our organization, thereby reducing the cost of patient care.”

Atlantic General Hospital worked with Network Better, a network and telecommunications professional management company, through

2022 to identify and successfully apply for the USAC dollars.

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.

Trust adds four to director board

Continued from Page 14
endless of what they will bring to the table. They all serve as environmental stewards to our coastal bays which can only be a win-win for Assateague Coastal Trust and the community.”

Assateague Coastal Trust is the Waterkeeper Alliance program for the coastal watershed of lower Delmarva. It is part of a global network

of non-profit organizations fighting for every community’s right to water that is fishable and swimmable.

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Snapshots



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AWARD PRESENTED

The Beach to Bay Heritage Area was presented with a "Best New Product Award" during the Maryland Tourism & Travel Summit Awards Banquet in November. Pictured, from left, are Nora Campbell, Kristen Goller, Mindie Burgoyne, Ivy Wells, Lisa Challenger and Chris Riehl.



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GUEST SPEAKER

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City welcomed member Jackie Dubin as the guest speaker on Dec. 7. She is pictured with Kiwanis Club President Bob Wolfing.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

NEW MEMBERS

Andrea Adams and Brad Van de Meulebroecke were recently installed into the Ocean City-Berlin Rotary Club. Pictured, from left, are Arlan Kinney, who sponsored Van de Meulebroecke; Van de Meulebroecke, District 7630 Governor Cliff Berg; Adams and her sponsor, Margaret Mudron. The club meets every other Wednesday at The Sterling Tavern on Main Street, Berlin. For meeting dates and time, email ocerberlinrotary@gmail.com.



MEDAL AWARDED

The General Levin Winder Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) presented a Distinguished Citizen Medal to Morris Semiatin at Gull Creek Senior Living Community in Berlin. Emergency first responders and health responders, active-duty military and veterans of the United States Armed Forces, and citizens who have contributed to the defense, security, or freedom of the community, state, or nation in an exceptional manner are eligible for the award. Semiatin was nominated for his military service and heroism during World War II. Regent Talley Hann presented the certificate and "General George Washington," also known as Major Gen. (Retired) James Adkins, pinned the medal on Semiatin. Vice Regent Sara Pugh also presented Semiatin with an inscribed brick sponsored by the chapter in his honor that will be installed at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial on a later date.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



PHOTO COURTESY U.S. NAVY PHOTO SPC1 BENJAMIN LEWIS

MUSIC PRACTICE

Musician 3rd Class Daniel Caton of Berlin (in uniform), assigned to U.S. Fleet Forces Band, attached to hospital ship USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) for Continuing Promise 2022, practices on his acoustic guitar at the Mauricio Baez Cultural Center with students from the National Conservatory of Music and the National System of Free Schools in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Comfort is deployed to U.S. 4th Fleet in support of Continuing Promise 2022, a humanitarian assistance and goodwill mission conducting direct medical care, expeditionary veterinary care, and subject matter expert exchanges with five partner nations in the Caribbean, Central and South America.



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID J. LANDIS, SR.

BREAKFAST

Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks had a very well attended "Breakfast with the Grinch" on Dec. 3. The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City always makes the pancakes and sausages. Pictured, from left, are former Kiwanian Barbara Peletier, Dave Landis, The Grinch and Mike Castoro.

Snapshots



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FIELD TRIP

Worcester Preparatory School's first grade class learned about local agriculture and wildlife while on a field trip recently to Groundworks Farm in Pittsville, and Trap Pond State Park in Laurel, Delaware. The students picked and tasted snap peas and harvested carrots at the farm. At the park, they visited the nature center and participated in "Tracks and Trace" program. Pictured is Carly McCallum.



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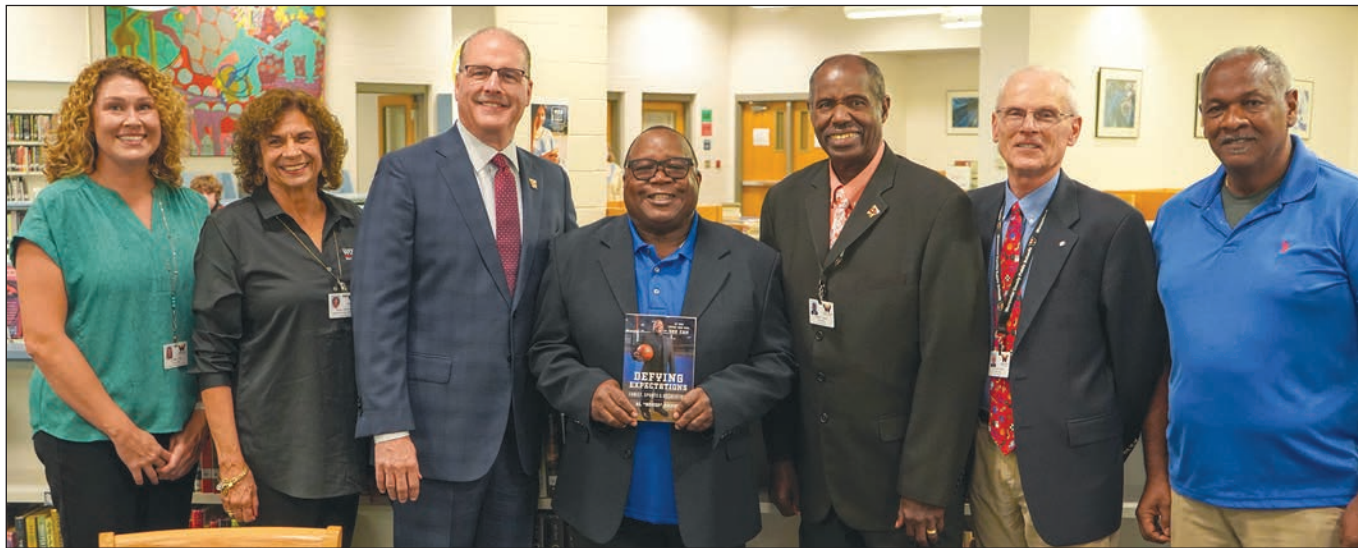
RECOGNITION

Atlantic General Hospital has earned the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives' 2022 Digital Health Most Wired recognition as a certified Level 8 institution, receiving awards for both acute care and ambulatory settings. This year's recognition is the seventh Atlantic General has received in eight years.



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Camden Haley shows off picked carrots.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

BOOK DONATION

Stephen Decatur High School alumnus Al "Hondo" Handy donated copies of his book, "Defying Expectations: Family, Sports & Recreation," to every media center in the Worcester County Public School system. Pictured, from left, are Coordinator of Instruction Jennifer Sills, Board of Education President Elena McComas, Superintendent of Schools Lou Taylor, Handy, Board of Education members Donald Smack and Jon Andes, and artist/Decatur alumnus Patrick L. Henry.



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Eleanor Brown and Avery Anderson check out a turtle shell.



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First grade teacher Angie Bunting is pictured with Blakely Absher.

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December 2022 Casino Revenue Worksheet – **SLOT MACHINES**

Maryland Casino Slot Machine Revenue	# OF SLOTS	WIN PER UNIT (WPU)	TOTAL	EDUCATION TRUST FUND	HORSE RACING	LOCAL IMPACT GRANTS	ML&G OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	Small, Minority, Women Business /Commerce	CASINO SHARE
Total December 2022			\$110,513,280.50	\$42,459,136.77	\$7,552,447.85	\$6,012,021.25	\$1,102,846.19	\$1,627,690.55	\$51,759,137.89
TOTAL FY2023 TO DATE			\$672,657,973.33	\$257,524,336.67	\$45,830,848.28	\$36,532,672.19	\$6,715,637.12	\$9,883,403.49	\$316,171,075.58
				41%	7%	5.5%	1%	1.5%	44%
MGM National Harbor December 2022	2,130	\$624.19	\$41,323,133.59	\$16,980,795.64	\$2,897,475.67	\$2,277,089.07	\$412,152.17	\$620,926.18	\$18,134,694.86
MGM National Harbor FY2023 to date			\$246,106,975.07	\$101,041,594.67	\$17,244,947.65	\$13,551,403.09	\$2,457,189.94	\$3,695,484.50	\$108,116,355.22
				36%	7%	5.5%	1%	1.5%	49%
Live! Casino & Hotel December 2022	3,855	\$343.47	\$41,108,931.08	\$14,824,642.60	\$2,880,450.44	\$2,263,502.56	\$410,461.47	\$617,261.80	\$20,112,612.21
Live! Casino & Hotel FY2023 to date				\$246,758,191.71	\$89,038,937.74	\$17,295,961.07	\$13,592,045.11	\$2,462,495.72	\$3,706,459.00
				39%	7%	5.5%	1%	1.5%	46%
Horseshoe Casino December 2022	1,466	\$241.73	\$11,004,897.05	\$4,299,165.51	\$771,213.48	\$606,043.27	\$109,855.49	\$165,266.94	\$5,053,352.36
Horseshoe Casino FY2023 to date				\$67,117,303.93	\$26,202,223.10	\$4,701,388.25	\$3,694,275.66	\$670,467.03	\$1,007,465.52
				46%	7%	5.5%	1%	1.5%	39%
Hollywood Casino December 2022	699	\$287.75	\$6,239,832.66	\$2,871,733.26	\$436,996.36	\$343,375.74	\$62,352.09	\$93,643.72	\$2,431,731.49
Hollywood Casino FY2023 to date				\$36,659,329.43	\$16,870,759.53	\$2,567,254.90	\$2,017,242.52	\$366,348.42	\$550,134.77
				32%	7%	5.5%	1%	1.5%	53%
Ocean Downs Casino December 2022	842	\$248.89	\$6,524,872.62	\$2,100,600.72	\$458,019.44	\$360,004.30	\$64,964.64	\$98,157.17	\$3,443,126.35
Ocean Downs Casino FY2023 to date				\$46,988,754.19	\$15,064,423.53	\$3,292,046.52	\$2,586,900.32	\$469,257.88	\$705,460.99
				32%	2.5%	3.75%	1%	0.75%	60%
Rocky Gap Casino Resort December 2022	614	\$226.23	\$4,311,613.50	\$1,382,199.04	\$108,292.46	\$162,006.31	\$43,060.33	\$32,434.74	\$2,583,620.62
Rocky Gap Casino Resort FY2023 to date				\$29,027,419.00	\$9,306,398.10	\$729,249.89	\$1,090,805.49	\$289,878.13	\$218,398.71

Percentages are base statutory amounts. Dollar totals include additional contributions to state accounts from expired tickets, due to changes to statutes. Therefore, dollar amounts may differ from statutory percentages.

Maryland casinos generate \$165.2 million

(Jan. 12, 2023) Maryland's six casinos combined to generate \$165,175,099 in revenue from slot machines and table games during December.

The total represents a decrease of \$7,726,403 compared to December 2021. Casino gaming contributions to the state in December totaled al-

most \$69.7 million, a decrease of \$1.4 million compared to December 2021. Contributions to the Education Trust Fund (ETF) in December 2022 were \$50.6 million, a decrease of about \$1 million compared to December 2021.

Casino gaming revenues also support the communities and jurisdictions where the casinos are located, Maryland's horse racing industry, and small, minority- and women-owned businesses.

The gaming revenue totals for December 2022 are as follows:

- MGM National Harbor (2,130 slot machines, 209 table games) \$69,371,972, down \$5,141,369 from December 2021.

- Live! Casino & Hotel (3,855 slot machines, 179 table games) \$59,665,153 a decrease of \$2,752,833 from December 2021.

- Horseshoe Casino (1,466 slot machines, 130 table games) \$16,809,892 a decrease of \$244,903 from December 2021.

- Hollywood Casino (699 slot machines, 19 table games) \$7,301,853, an increase of \$106,419 over December 2021

- Ocean Downs Casino (842 slot machines, 19 table games) \$7,202,656, an increase of \$489,811 (7.3 percent) from December 2021.

- Rocky Gap Casino (614 slot machines, 16 table games) \$4,823,573, a decrease of \$183,529 (-3.7 percent) from December 2021.

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Obituaries

EDGAR NORMAN JONES JR. Ocean Pines

Edgar Norman Jones Jr., age 71, of Ocean Pines, Maryland, slipped away on Jan. 3, 2023 at UMMC in Baltimore.



These last years of Norm's life were challenging, but he met them head-on with the gusto and spirit for life by which he was known.

Born in Annapolis, Maryland, and raised in Eastport, he is the baby brother of the remarkable Jones team. With his devastated wife, Diana, he is survived by his son, Edgar N. Jones III (Shannon), and his grandchildren, Macie E. Jones and Edgar N. Jones IV, all of whom he deeply cherished and adored.

Norm was predeceased by his parents, Edgar N. Jones Sr. "Wimpy" and Marybelle "Mutt," and he is also survived by his sister, Geral Parks-Lisi (Richard); and brothers, James Michael Jones (Bobbi) and John Frank Jones (Mary Ann).

Norm served proudly in the US Navy on the USS Coral Sea during the Vietnam War.

From a long fire service family line, he followed his father and brothers into and retired from the Annapolis City Fire Department as a firefighter and paramedic during the early development years of Maryland's Emergency Medical System (Shock Trauma).

Having lived in Maryland, Florida and Tennessee, he finally settled in his beloved Ocean Pines, working hard and playing hard at Berlin's GlenRiddle Golf Course until he no longer could.

Norm was positively thrilled with an ocean fishing trip with his son this last birthday, a dream fulfilled.

His enthusiasm was infectious; he never met a stranger, and he loved his family, friends, children and animals as they loved him.

Jokester and trickster that he was, he was also funny, impulsive, honest, smart, intuitive, thoughtful, creative, kind and generous. He treasured great fun, good food, and a helluva house party.

Norm lived life thoroughly and never missed an opportunity to take you on that ride with him. His soulmate, Diana, was his rock; and Norm was her rocket.

A celebration of his life will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 20, 2023, at The Links at Lighthouse Sound Golf Course, 12723 St. Martin's Neck Road, Bishopville, Maryland 21813, with a lite fare reception following.

In lieu of flowers, gifts and donations in Norm's memory may be made to The Church Mouse, a thrift shop and local outreach, P.O. Box 429, Berlin, Maryland 21811.

Your "Stormin' Norm" stories and memories may be shared using the Memories tab on the page: <https://kalasfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Edgar-Jones,Jr.-9263>.

KATHRYN LOUISE BARTZ Berlin

Kathryn Bartz, age 74, from Berlin, Maryland, previously Baltimore, fought a hard battle these past few years. She passed away peacefully at Atlantic General Hospital on Jan. 8, 2023.



Kathryn Bartz

Kathryn was born Jan. 7, 1949 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Kathryn leaves behind to cherish her memories by her brother, James Bartz and his wife, Rose Bartz; and sister, Lee Harper and her husband, Frank Harper.

Kathryn is preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Leona Bartz; and sister, Linda Radke, who is survived by her husband, Kenneth Radke.

Kathryn enjoyed spending time with her family and friends. She loved to go to the casino and watching football. Most of all she loved living the legend.

A memorial service will be held at Evans Funeral Home, 8800 Harford Road, Parkville, Maryland, on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023, at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation would be greatly appreciated. Donate to Susan G. Komen to help fight breast cancer.



The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City ran its annual coat and toy drives in November. Pictured are Worcester County GOLD's Program Coordinator Taylor Carly and Executive Director Nicholas Cranford holding some of the toys.
PHOTO COURTESY DAVID LANDIS SR.

Toy drive successful again

(Jan. 12, 2023) The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City ran its annual coat and toy drives in November.

Donations were collected from club members and the community.

More than 350 coats were donated and distributed by co-chairs Kitty Wrench and Sue Wineke to local organizations. Coats were also delivered to Village of Hope, Joseph House, Diakonia, Samaritan in Selbyville

and St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Ocean City.

Three SUV loads of toys were collected and delivered to Worcester GOLD for distribution in conjunction with the Department of Social Services, which vets the recipients to be sure that as many children as possible get toys for the holidays.

The Toy Drive was chaired by Dave Landis who delivered them to Worcester GOLD's facility in Snow Hill.

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Opinion

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

Gambling grant's use should be Berlin's call

The Berlin mayor and council's decision this week to apply its annual share of Ocean Downs' gambling money to a Law Enforcement Officer Pension System should not generate much argument from anyone.

It's not controversial and there's no reason why the county's Local Development Council (LDC) should do anything other than endorse it when the time comes.

The LDC, a public body that came into existence when gambling became legal in Maryland 16 years ago, is an advisory body that helps recipients of gambling impact grants develop plans for their use. It doesn't tell them what to do. It can recommend or oppose a plan and require a public hearing on it, but it can't reject it out of hand.

All the state law says is that recipients should "make their best effort" to abide by the LDC's recommendations. In other words, the LDC can strongly encourage Berlin to conduct a study of how the grant money would be applied to a pension system, but it can't force them to do it ... not that any town, county or other jurisdiction ever produced a study that didn't support its position.

Besides, the town's desire to use its share of the gambling proceeds to improve its ability to retain quality police officers certainly falls directly into the wide open "Public Safety" category the 2007 gambling law established as one of the areas where the money could be applied.

Of course, arguments can be made for and against how these impact grants should be handled because of a law that's short on specifics in some areas. Its authors purposely wrote it that way so it would pass legislature and earn the support of certain anti-gambling jurisdictions — Ocean City being a major one — by giving them a cut of the take and lots of latitude on how to use it.

The bottom line is that this impact grant belongs to Berlin and it should be able to spend it however it wants within the approved categories. A hearing should be required, but a study? That would be a waste of time and money.



Snow Hill adopts locally-made logo

Rich history of town represented in insignia designed by Allinder

(Jan. 12, 2023) After a rigorous design process, the Town of Snow Hill has adopted a new logo.

With a goal to represent the multifaceted aspects of Snow Hill's character to its residents and visitors, an extended amount of time was spent weighing options from design companies as well as local artist submissions.

The Mayor and Council endorsed a design by Snow Hill resident Julia Allinder, which speaks to the rich history and natural assets of Snow Hill.

Allinder is a Salisbury University graduate, with a degree in graphic design, who loves the small-town feel of Snow Hill and the beauty and tranquility of the nearby waters.

She entered the logo contest because it is a rare opportunity to be able to design a town's logo.

"I thought it would be pretty neat to design something that could potentially be around for a lifetime, especially the mark of the town that I live in," she said. "I think that's pretty special."

The logo depicts the Pocomoke River and iconic cypress trees, while paying homage to its history and status as the Worcester County seat with a prominent display of the Worcester County Circuit Court cupola in the center.

After researching other town logos, she sketched many iterations highlighting the most iconic features of Snow Hill until the right design was formulated.

Allinder describes the opportunity as being "humbling and a blessing to be a small part of the history of Snow Hill - the town that seems to be coming more and more alive each day."



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Snow Hill resident Julia Allinder designed the town's new logo.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Pocomoke River, iconic cypress trees, Worcester County Circuit Court cupola featured in new Snow Hill logo.

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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The Bayside Gazette is published weekly by FLAG Publications, Inc.
11934 Ocean Gateway, Suite 6, Ocean City, Md. 21842.
The Bayside Gazette is available by subscription at \$75/year or \$40/6 mos.
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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., Jan. 12

FREE KNITTING/CROCHET GROUP

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., Ocean City, 10 a.m.-noon. Free knitting/crochet group. Make items to support Coastal Hospice including twiddle muffs and blankets. Donated yarn will be used. Led by Maggie Miller. 410-524-9433

STEM THURSDAYS

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Use your creativity and build using one of the library's STEM building kits. For ages 4 years and older. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

PLAY TIME

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Featuring a variety of activities and toys. Play and socialize with other families. For ages 2-5 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

MUSIC & MOVEMENT: WALKING IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Time to get warm and share those sillies out. Music and movement program for children ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

REPUBLICAN WOMEN OF WORCESTER COUNTY LUNCHEON MEETING

Ocean City Golf Club, 11401 Country Club Drive, Berlin. Doors open at 10:30 a.m., meeting begins at 11 a.m. Guest speakers will be new Worcester County Commissioners Caryn Abbott and Eric Fiori. Reservations: gopwomenofwc@gmail.com.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 3-4:30 p.m. Many neighbors are providing care and seek to share their experiences and ideas for assistance. The meetings are private and confidential. Margaret White, 410-742-0505 - 128, mwhite@macinc.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. Registration required: 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org.

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., Jan. 13

HOBBIES CLUB: BEHIND THE SCENES DETECTIVES

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1 p.m. Join Mr. Jake and some special guests to get the inside scoop. Recommended for ages 7 years and older. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-208-4014

BABY TIME

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 1:30 p.m. Stories, rhymes, finger plays and more. For ages up to 2 years and their caregivers. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

OCEAN PINES BOOK OF THE MONTH: 'LIGHT YEARS FROM HOME' BY MIKE CHEN

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Books are available at the Ocean Pines circulation desk. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-208-4014

MARYLAND CRAB CAKE DINNER

Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main St., Berlin, 4-6 p.m. Cost is \$14 for a one-crab cake platter, \$24 for a two-crab cake platter or \$10 for a crab cake sandwich. Platters include green beans, baked potato and Cole slaw. Bake Table and carryout available.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #9053 'BINGO FOR BABIES'

Knights of Columbus - Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City. Doors open at 5 p.m., games begin at 6:30 p.m. Cash prizes. Play every game for \$25. Refreshments offered for sale. Proceeds benefit the Grace Center for Maternal and Women's Health. 410-524-7994.

MLK WEEKEND DREAMFEST 2023 - THE B.B. KING EXPERIENCE

Ocean City Performing Arts Center - Ocean City Convention & Visitors Bureau, 4001 Coastal Highway, 8 p.m. Featuring Claudette King. The daughter of the blues legend will take the audience back to the '50s while bringing her enthusiasm inspired by her father. Tickets: <https://ocmdperformingartscenter.com>.

Sat., Jan. 14

ALOC TO HOST TINDLEY CELEBRATION

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 3-5 p.m. Free party honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rev. Dr. Charles Tindley. The Arts Center party will include live music, original artwork, films, videos and refreshments. Bryan Russo will perform with the Tindley Family Choir, made up of Tindley's actual descendants. Artwork with the theme "I Have a Dream" created by the students of Most Blessed Sacrament School will be on display. A Salis-

bury women, who in the 1950's dated a young MLK and studied voice with Coretta Scott King, will be on hand to comment and field questions after the screening of a film based on their relationship, "The Boston Photograph," at 3:30 p.m. Attendees will receive a 2-for-1 coupon for tickets to the R&B concerts at the convention center. Ocart.org, 410-524-9433

OCEAN PINES ANGLERS CLUB MEETING

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:30 a.m. Featuring a photo review of the kids programs sponsored by the club, including Teach A Kid To Fish, Youth Fishing Contest and Believe in Tomorrow. Also updates on winter charter trips. All welcome. 401-641-7662

DELMARVA ART EXPO

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Juried vendor show for all mediums. Admission cost is \$3. www.delmarvaartexpo.com, 443-235-2926

PROJECT T(W)EEN: TABLE TOP TOURNAMENT

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 12 p.m. Join the group for some classic board games and some new ones. Bring some of your own to add to the tournament. For ages 11 years and older. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-208-4014

MLK WEEKEND DREAMFEST 2023 - THOMAS MCCLARY'S COMMODORES EXPERIENCE

Ocean City Performing Arts Center - Ocean City Convention & Visitors Bureau, 4001 Coastal Highway, 8 p.m. Groove with the R&B funk of Thomas McClary's The Commodores. McClary has been known to provide a performance that is unparalleled with anything else today. Tickets: ocmdperformingartscenter.com.

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

Saturdays until Feb. 25 - White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 9 a.m. to noon. Shop for everything from fresh local produce to unique handmade artisan goods. Open to the public.

Sun., Jan. 15

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

DELMARVA ART EXPO

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Juried vendor show for all mediums. Admission cost is \$3.

www.delmarvaartexpo.com, 443-235-2926

MLK WEEKEND DREAMFEST 2023 - THE SPINNERS

Ocean City Performing Arts Center - Ocean City Convention & Visitors Bureau, 4001 Coastal Highway, 8 p.m. Decades later, this multi-Grammy Winning soul group will have audience members singing and dancing all night long. Tickets: ocmdperformingartscenter.com.

Mon., Jan. 16

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB OF WORCESTER COUNTY GENERAL MEETING

Ocean Pines Community Center - Assateague Room, 235 Ocean Parkway, 10 a.m.-noon. Guest speaker will be Reverend J. Jones, African-American Leaders of the Eastern Shore. All are welcome.

T.O.P.S. OF BERLIN - GROUP #169

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5-6:30 p.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly is a weekly support and educational group promoting weight loss and living a healthy lifestyle. Rose Campion, 410-641-0157

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., Jan. 17

WINTER SEA GLASS ART

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Learn how to make a winter-themed sea glass art. All supplies included. Limit 15. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-208-4014

STORY TIME 'MARCHING PENGUINS'

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

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Join the group for silly songs, rhythm instruments and dancing. For ages 2-5 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

CHAIR YOGA

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Join yoga instructor Nicole Long as she stretches and de-stresses using a safe and gentle method. Limit 20. Registration required: 410-524-1818. www.worcesterlibrary.org

Cuisine

Mikey T's Boom Boom Sammich recipe

This year is starting out right, or at least as right as it should be.

With a quick trip to Key West to hang out with some friends, and now another quick trip for a niece's wedding in Austin, it thus becomes time to gear up for the semester and make this one something special.



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3

I'm now teaching full-time at University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and the resources and support for building out the program are second to none.

It has been wonderful to become a welcomed faculty member on the campus. In fact, I honestly can't remember a warmer welcome. I love the place.

This semester promises to be a good one, as I get to teach my favorite class: Garde Manger.

French for 'to keep what we eat' (loosely), it is a class about preservation, sauces, smoked meats, pickled foods and a sundry assortment of my favorite foods.

Not only are they my favorites, but they are incredibly relevant in today's market.

A close second class for me to teach is Asian Cuisine, followed up by Latin America; the flavors, smells and colors in each remind me daily of how much I'm grateful that I get to teach this stuff. But I digress.

Today, I'm going to talk to you about a great little sandwich that we've had at boxcar40 for years, and I don't think that I've ever written about it. Somehow, I'm not sure how I haven't written about it. Oh well, no time like the present.

I've been known to be a bit capricious in my earlier days, and I was steadfast in "do not ... Ever ... mess with (perhaps not the language that I used) my staple items."

So, I was a bit surprised when my "little guy" in Pittsville suggested this masterpiece. It truly is the Mona Lisa of smoked meat grilled cheeses. As I've identified other foods in the past, it's stupid, it's so good.

It was created by a then-17-year-old named Michael, and it seemed only natural to name it after him (I believe that his middle name is Thomas).

This was a bold move by young Mikey T, as he dared to bastardize



our lovely and popular brisket grilled cheese, still one of my absolute favorites.

And while there is the addition of other ingredients, what really sets this sandwich off is the Alabama White Sauce, a ubiquitous if not controversial sauce from, you guessed it, Alabama.

Created by one of the most racist people I've ever read about (that breaks my heart, because honestly, it's like a horsey sauce with a little mustard and vinegar added to it ... and incredibly simple).

I serve it with smoked prime rib, most of the smoked dishes, notably the brisket, and of course Mikey T's Boom Boom. It just makes it a different sandwich, completely. It is almost transformative, as silly as that may sound.

I will let you look up the article in the "New Yorker" about the racist nature of the sauce, and I will leave it at that.

I will master a little redundancy in trying to give you its flavor: It's just like the horseradish sauce you might get with your prime rib at the Chart House or Gallagher's, but only with the addition of a little vinegar and mustard.

Oh, it sings to the heart of this sandwich. Well done, Mikey. Pretty work.

There are a few things that make this sandwich an exemplary of culi-

nary exploration, to be sure.

First, the bread is critical. My God, you simply can't ignore the quality of the bread! We always use Crack of Dawn in Berlin, and for some reason, their sourdough is absolutely magnificent in a grilled cheese.

You may have to call them to find out when they are open for retail business, because that is limited, but, good lord, is it delicious.

The second, third and fourth items that make this sandwich are the meat, so get off your lazy duff and smoke some damn meat, the cheese (I prefer sharp cheddar, personally) and the sauce. Of course, the sauce.

Isn't that why we're here in the first place?

And if I didn't need to call it Alabama White Sauce I wouldn't, and maybe I'll start that soon.

It's just Horsey Sauce with vinegar and mustard. That is a long bit of descriptive copy on a menu, but it might be worth it.

Mikey T's Boom Boom Sammich

makes 4 sandwiches

Butter, as needed
8 slices fresh bread
4 slices cheddar cheese
1# Smoked brisket, sliced and warm
8 slices cooked bacon
2 jalapenos, roasted, seeded and

diced

4 oz. Alabama White BBQ Sauce (recipe follows)

1. Melt the butter in a fry pan and add 4 slices of bread.

2. Top with the cheddar cheese.

3. Immediately top with the brisket, bacon and cook until cheese is melted.

4. Add the jalapenos and some Alabama White BBQ.

5. Assemble the sandwich and give it a press to bring it all together.

6. Cut on the diagonal and serve hot.

Alabama White BBQ Sauce

makes 3 quarts (cut it down as needed)

1/2 Gal. Duke's Mayonnaise

1 c. Crème fraiche

1 c. White vinegar

3 Tbsp. Granulated garlic

2 Tbsp. Ground black pepper

1 c. Coarse mustard

2 Tbsp. Sugar, granulated

2 tsp. Kosher salt

1 c. Grated horseradish

Combine with a whisk and store in large container.

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

Calendar

Continued from Page 21

OC KNITTING GROUP

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Bring whatever project you happen to be working on. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BLOCK PARTY

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 11 a.m. Babies, toddlers and preschoolers play with blocks and other toys while socializing with other families. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 p.m. The discussion will focus on the play "Six Characters in Search of an Author" by Luigi Pirandello. www.worcesterlibrary.org, 410-208-4014

SHARED VISIONS READING

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 6-8 p.m. Meet the artists and writers of this year's "Shared Visions" collaboration. Hear readings of the poetry and prose inspired by the artwork on display. Free and open to the public. 410-524-9433

SUSTAINABLE LIVING

Held virtually, 6:30 p.m. Heather Poultry studies sustainable living and how it affects our world and future. Registration required: 443-783-6164, www.worcesterlibrary.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

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.

OC KNITTING CLUB

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

Wed., Jan. 18

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

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

EASTERN SHORE SEWISTS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10 a.m. Join the group as they promote the needle arts through sewing education, activities and textile crafts. For artisans of all skill levels. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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 to go. Most supplies included. For ages 4 years and older. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

JUNK JOURNALING WITH VICTORIA

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Learn how to create "vintage" pages from copier paper, embellish junk-mail envelopes, sew signatures into book covers and more. Registration required: 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org.

PAGE TO SCREEN BOOK CLUB (MOVIE SHOWING)

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1 p.m. Time to wrap up the book. Come watch the movie and have some snacks. For children of all ages. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

John H. "Jack" Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center, 9707 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 1-2 p.m. For survivors and current patients battling breast cancer. Women Supporting Women, 410-548-7880

ACRYLIC PAINT POUR

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. This introductory class will use two different methods to create brilliant canvases. Supplies included, but bring your apron if you so choose. Limit 10. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

CHEMISTRY: ATOMS AND MOLECULES

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 4 p.m. Learn about the basic building blocks of chemistry and participate in a few science experiments. For ages 8-12 years. Registration required: 410-957-0878,

www.worcesterlibrary.org.

STROKE SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Neurology, 314 Franklin Ave., Berlin, 3-4 p.m. For stroke survivors, family and friends. 410-641-4766, bglime@atlanticgeneral.org

CD COASTERS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 3:30 p.m. Use felt, scrap materials and CDs to make coasters. For ages 8 years and older. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ONGOING EVENTS

'FORCE OF NATURE' EXHIBIT

Ocean City Center for the Arts, Ocean City convention center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Jan. 6-28. The "Force of Na-

ture" exhibit seeks to highlight the effect of climate change through weather. Featuring artwork from more than 50 artists. Admission is free and open until 4 p.m. daily. OCart.org, 410-524-9433

TOWN OF BERLIN RESTAURANT WEEK

Held Jan. 9-15. Dine 3 times at participating restaurants for a chance to win restaurant gift cards and \$100. Pick up an entry card at The Berlin Welcome Center, get it stamped each time you dine (at least 3 times), then drop it in the Entry Box. Random drawing for the winner.

https://www.facebook.com/events/3480149592206136/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A%5B%7B%22mechanism%22%3A%22calendar_tab_event%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22bookmark_calendar%22%7D%5D%2C%22ref_notif_type%22%3A%22%7D

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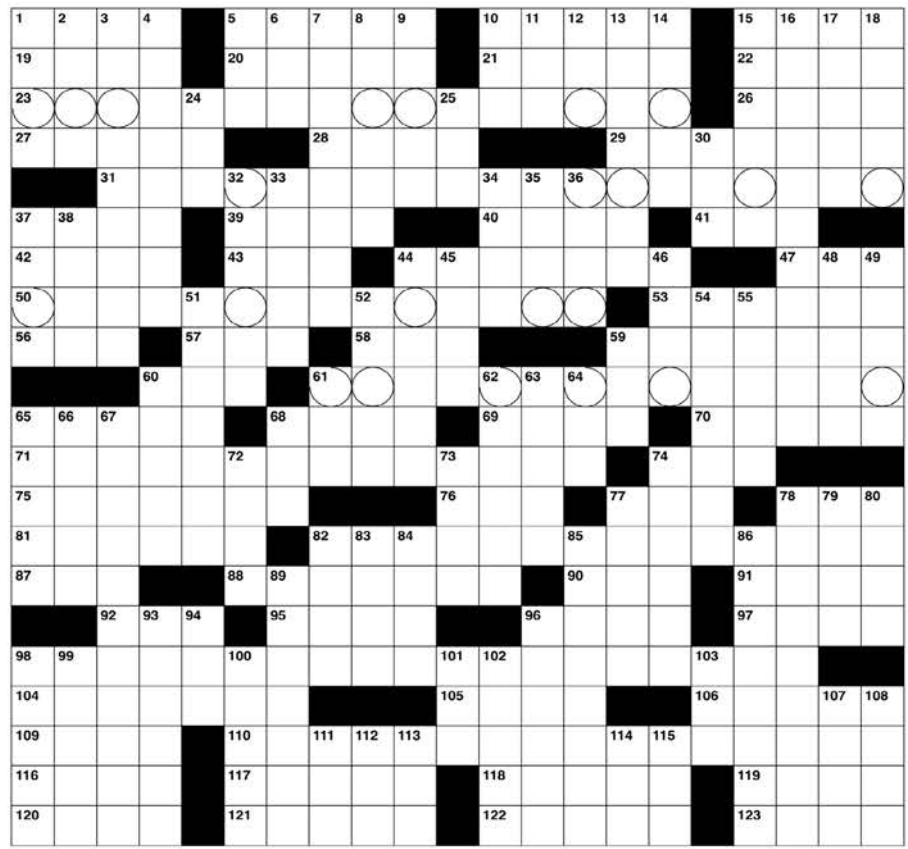
Puzzles

IN PLAY

BY MICHAEL LIEBERMAN, ADAM WAGNER AND RAFAEL MUSA / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Adam Wagner, of Oakland, Calif., is a creative lead at Patreon, the crowdfunding site for content creators. Michael Lieberman is an attorney in Washington, D.C. Rafael Musa, of San Francisco, is a software engineer at Airbnb. They met through crossword posts on Twitter and now play on the same team in a weekly trivia night over Zoom. The idea for this puzzle was Michael's. Rafael and Adam added to the theme. They all collaborated on the grid and clues. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Image on the flag of Oakland, Calif., appropriately
 - 5 Country whose capital is an anagram of its former capital
 - 10 Sends 10 texts in a row to, say
 - 15 Stage partitions?
 - 19 Achings
 - 20 Basic Mediterranean sauce
 - 21 Eagles' home
 - 22 Pork cut
 - 23 Stick of butter, geometrically
 - 26 Sesame Street resident who refers to himself in the third person
 - 27 Attentive
 - 28 Change of scenery, in real estate lingo
 - 29 Less involved
 - 31 Seminal 1980 hit by Joy Division
 - 37 Attire for some queens
 - 39 Subtle flavor, to a wine taster
 - 40 Accomplishes
 - 41 Barbecue discard
 - 42 White House staffer
 - 43 What a V-sign might indicate
 - 44 Try to hit, as a piñata
 - 47 ___-Locka, Fla.
- DOWN**
- 50 Colorado, Idaho and Wyoming, among others
 - 53 Lap, maybe
 - 56 Visitors from afar, in brief
 - 57 Hurry, quaintly
 - 58 A matter of course?
 - 59 Works in a gallery
 - 60 ___ Aviv
 - 61 Hit 1998 Eddie Murphy comedy based on books by Hugh Lofting
 - 65 "An empty set exists," e.g.
 - 68 Stole
 - 69 It lacks value
 - 70 Leafy salad green
 - 71 Recommit to one's fitness ... or what 23-Across depicts literally
 - 74 State south of Mumbai
 - 75 Perception
 - 76 Goof
 - 77 South, in much of South America
 - 78 Light touch
 - 81 Nickname that's an anagram of ONLINE
 - 82 What characters in musicals often do ... or what 31-Across depicts literally
 - 87 "Discreet Music" musician Brian
 - 88 Cars with clutches
 - 90 Photographer Goldin
 - 91 Prosecco cousin
 - 92 Big shots they are not
 - 95 Secular
 - 96 It's just under a foot
 - 97 Explorer Ericson
 - 98 Useful people to know ... or what 50-Across depicts literally
 - 104 What an economy seat is usually short on
 - 105 "Oh, why not?!"
 - 106 Kuwaiti currency
 - 109 Beseech
 - 110 Screen feature that facilitates multitasking ... or what 61-Across depicts literally
 - 116 Food that's easy to get hooked on?
 - 117 Group character
 - 118 Mocking smile
 - 119 The "garden" in Bosch's "The Garden of Earthly Delights"
 - 120 Old video game console inits.
 - 121 Excel
 - 122 Swamp plant
 - 123 Lamb, for one



- 10 Part of a woodpecker's diet
- 11 /
- 12 Perfume line by pop star Grande
- 13 Beauty pageant since 1952
- 14 Precursors to finals
- 15 Mideast city with an eponymous pepper
- 16 Share a byline, maybe
- 17 Part of a stove
- 18 [That is so funny!]
- 24 Off-road option, for short
- 25 Spoil
- 30 ___ Pro (tech product)
- 32 Require
- 33 "Holy moly!"
- 34 Button added to Twitter in 2022
- 35 Primo
- 36 Govt. agency rules
- 37 Title for food writer Mary Berry
- 38 Hilarious sort
- 44 Library section
- 45 Imperfection, metaphorically
- 46 Labor
- 48 Makes certain knitting stitches
- 49 Before: Sp.
- 51 Group of gift-givers
- 52 Cuddle amorously, in a way
- 54 Magical creature associated with rainbows
- 55 Tri- one more time?
- 59 Rock's ___ Fighters
- 60 Soccer star ___ Heath
- 61 Enthusiastic affirmative
- 62 Region encompassing most of the Arkansas/Missouri border
- 63 Copy, in brief
- 64 Rap mogul, familiarly
- 65 Quick and nimble
- 66 Noble gas used in some lasers
- 67 "All good"
- 68 B'way purchase
- 72 STEM subject that rhymes with "stem"
- 73 Recover
- 74 ___ pig
- 77 Buy time
- 78 Barely sits still?
- 79 No pro
- 80 "Weekend, here I come!"
- 82 ___ mitzvah (Jewish ceremony for multiple people)
- 83 Flatten, say
- 84 A pop
- 85 Having an intact tamper seal, say
- 86 One might move fast in stores
- 89 Loser to Herbert Hoover in 1928
- 93 Parts of some military uniforms
- 94 ___-Caps (candy)
- 96 Holy place
- 98 Goofs
- 99 Aired anew
- 100 Uses performance-enhancing drugs
- 101 Egypt neighbor: Abbr.
- 102 Say "..., say," say
- 103 Agcy. that advises against eating raw cookie dough
- 107 ___ man (frequent subject in The Onion)
- 108 Monopoly payment
- 111 Home of more than one M.L.B. team
- 112 Whole lot
- 113 Bring into play
- 114 Cribbage marker
- 115 Anger

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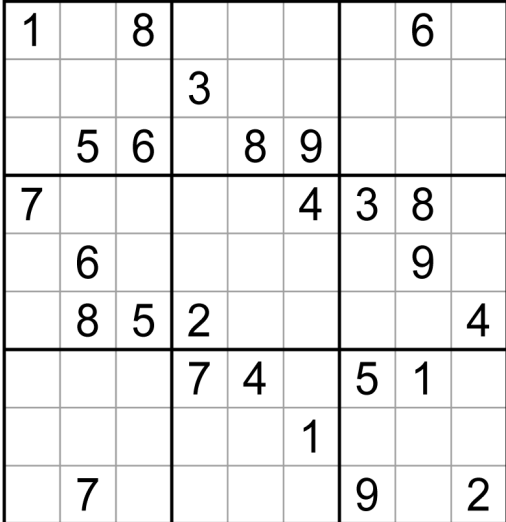
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HARD - 8

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

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

BUGS	SATAT	URDU	CRAB
OTOE	SPLASH	GOES	HALT
NATE	SALUTE	HOME	PAGES
GHOST	WRITING	ARE	PA
PIA	TEL	ASSN	SEMIS
PINK	LADY	FLUID	VOLUME
PRE	TEEN	TRAIN	NEES
SE	COND	STORY	TEDX
AGE	OMA	PEW	POISE
SOSA	KETAN	JANI	ONION
PRISON	SENTENCES		
ASSURE	IN	POWER	ETNA
CRUET	PAT	ADE	BON
SIBS	STEM	ADDRESS	BOOK
PAS	LOOT	BAGS	RIHANNA
ANIMAL	PRINT	BARCODES	
NADAL	FATE	AMAR	CVS
ITALO	WORKING	TITLE	
BUZZ	WORDS	CIENTO	BEEP
OREO	ATOP	HAROLD	LEAVE
OLDS	NYNY	SASSY	SKYE

CLASSIFIED Marketplace

Call **410-723-6397**
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Classifieds appear in Ocean City Today & Bayside Gazette each week and online at oceancitytoday.com & baysideoc.com

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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

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