



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## FARM PRODUCE

David Joseph Deacon of D.J. David & Company/Greengrocer displays produce during the Sunday morning Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market. See story on page 21.

# Pines budget keeps lid on assessments

### Aided by 'tailwinds,' OPA proposal forecasts year with good final results

**By Cindy Hoffman**  
Staff Writer

(Feb. 9, 2023) Ocean Pines residents had an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments during a Feb. 1 town hall meeting on the 2023 proposed budget.

Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola outlined the "headwinds" and "tailwinds" that are affecting this year's budget.

"Headwinds and tailwinds affect everything we do," said Viola. "We definitely have headwinds, no different than anyone else."

The headwinds he described included inflation, the increase in the minimum wage, market to market, labor pool, and an increase in insurance premiums.

At the same time, however, Ocean Pines is being aided by tailwinds that include improved performances at all of the amenities and departments.

Because of that, the proposed 2023 assessment for non-waterfront

lots is \$892, and \$1,507 for waterfront lots, \$4 less than last year.

Viola also expects more than \$1 million in surplus for the year. That's significant considering that in 2020, Ocean Pines was carrying a deficit.

"We paid off the deficit we inherited," said Viola. "Now we have an unprecedented surplus."

**"We paid off the deficit we inherited. Now we have an unprecedented surplus."**

Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola



Viola reminded board members and residents that the 2022 fiscal year is not yet closed out. Viola said, "This money is not realized for six to seven months after the 2023 budget is set." That surplus should be left touched until after the fiscal audit, he advised.

See VIOLA'S Page 4

# HDC: unauthorized work at bar must be removed

### Commission gives Tiki Tim's owner 10 days to comply

**By Jack Chavez**  
Staff Writer

(Feb. 9, 2023) The Berlin Historic District Commission left nothing unsaid on Feb. 1 when its members informed a representative for a local property owner of how it felt about unauthorized changes made in the last year to one of the town's most recognizable buildings.

Property owner Bryan Brushmiller now has 10 days to remove changes and 60 days to submit a new plan for Tiki Tim's, the bar behind The Globe on Broad Street. No plan will be submitted until fencing that was approved years ago is installed along the property.

Non-compliance could result in \$400 daily fines for every offending day.

Mark Burrier of Burley Oak Brewing Company, which Brushmiller

See UNAUTHORIZED Page 5

# AGH system lock continues

**By Mallory Panuska**  
Staff Writer

(Feb. 9, 2023) Most of Atlantic General Hospital's computer network is still out of commission this week following a ransomware attack discovered Jan. 29.

Toni Keiser, the hospital's vice president of public relations, said in an email Tuesday afternoon that

hospital staff are working diligently to get the system back online, but that no further public updates were available regarding the exact cause, or when the system may be fully restored

"Please know that we will make every effort to continue to communicate with our partners regarding  
See HOSPITAL Page 3

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# Hospital continues efforts to free hijacked computers

Continued from Page 1  
 the progress of our response to this event and will provide updates as they are available," the email said. "Because we are currently devoting all available resources to the restoration efforts and the investigation is ongoing, we do not have additional information at this time."

With that, some patients did receive a text message on Tuesday informing them that AGHRx RediScripts Pharmacy services, which were not in operation last week, have been restored.

Keiser said in an email last week that officials were investigating the source of what she called a "ransomware event," after discovering it early on Jan. 29. They were also working to confirm its impact and restore full functionality of the system, efforts which are ongoing.

A ransomware attack is when hackers plant encrypted files in a computer system that lock out the network's owner. The perpetrators then demand payment to unlock the encryptions.

With the attack on the AGH system, hospital personnel implemented "downtime procedures," meaning staff began using methods to handle information that are not dependent on the central computer system. Specifically, they have been forced to manually check patients in and out of appointments, and record all other information by hand instead of online.

Keiser also said last week that hospital personnel are doing everything they can to protect the privacy and security of all information within the system, which includes patient records. The efforts may be moot, though, as federal cybersecurity officials say a ransomware attack does not always involve a breach of sensitive data.

According to the Federal Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency, the goal of ransomware attacks is to strike quickly, take over a system, collect a ransom to re-open it and move on to the next target.

A data breach, however, can be a

separate event that takes more time because accessing the information in a system involves more than gaining entry. It means getting to files through more layers of security and, in the case of sensitive information, cracking the encryptions that protect them.

Even with the network down, the hospital's emergency room continued to treat patients, and perform elective surgeries and other outpatient services. The Atlantic General Health System offices also remained open over the last week, and patients were still reporting for treatment at the John H. "Jack" Burbage Regional Cancer Center, pulmonary function center, wound and endoscopy centers, and the facility's behavioral health crisis center.

The hospital outpatient walk-in laboratory has been closed since the cybersecurity attack, and patients set for imaging have been asked to reschedule their appointments until further notice.

The attack is similar to one that occurred a little over a year ago within the Maryland Department of Health network. Hackers took the system hostage, and it took weeks to bring it back online. That strike was one of more than 3,000 ransomware events that have occurred nationwide over the past two years, according to the Federal Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency.

Agency officials, members of the FBI and others have publicly said the threat of these attacks has grown considerably since the pandemic, as criminals deploy malicious software — "phishing" — in fake emails and spam, and gain access to systems through some less secure connections that many people use to get in to their office servers while working from home.

Hospital officials did not indicate whether a ransom demand has been made or whether they plan to pay if one exists.

According to numerous sources, 14 ransomware attacks have been made in the U.S. so far this year, with state and local governments the hardest hit.

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# Viola's budget forecast sees good year ahead for assoc.

Continued from Page 1

There was significant discussion about whether the money could be used before the audit is finalized, but ultimately, most board members voiced their support for Viola's recommendation.

"It would be unwise to spend money we don't have with the headwinds we are experiencing," Director Steve Jacobs said.

"Last year, we faced the largest inflation we have had in a generation. Good management means we are not having to raise assessments," said Board Member Frank Daly.

The conversation then turned to membership rates for the pools and possibly other amenities, as OPA President Doug Parks asked whether the board should consider "layers of membership."

Various options were discussed, including a couples membership, a homeowners rate, extended family rates and rates for grandchildren, as well as the sale of coupons.

"We cannot do this multi-level membership this year," Daly said. "We should consider setting up a work group to explore this and do an analysis."

Parks suggested that the Aquatics

Advisory Committee could look at the issue and have something concrete for next year's budget.

Director Stuart Lakernick, however, suggested trying a couples category for this year and working towards others later," but Jacobs countered that such a move would require developing a proposal that would have to be vetted by the staff and board.

Colette Horne agreed that more analysis and data would be needed before any steps in that direction could be taken.

The 2023 budget currently proposes that average membership dues for the numerous OP amenities go up approximately 3 percent.

The proposed individual annual membership dues for aquatics are at \$425. Tennis membership is at \$275 and pickleball membership is at \$187. Annual membership for the golf club is \$1,100.

Boat slips are proposed to also go up 3 percent and beach club parking is proposed to go up 7 percent, according to Viola.

Proposed boat slips fees at the Yacht Club range from \$2,125 to \$4,085 depending on the size of the boat. For slips at the swim and racquet club, the proposed cost is \$1,535 for the season.

The amenities, led by golf, continue to show growth in revenue because of increased use, but also because of price increases as recommended by the Strategic Planning Committee's guidance.

Within the assessment is a continued increase in infrastructure spending for roads, drainage, mailboxes, deferred maintenance, and new capital project(s) and initiatives such as the Pintail Park kayak launch.

It's anticipated that Ocean Pines will have healthy reserves to fund emergency projects of more than \$5.3 million for the end of this year.

Also discussed at the session was the proposal to require businesses to have licenses to do work in Ocean Pines that requires a permit. Horne said the Architectural Review Committee will provide a presentation on this in the February board meeting. She requested that the board consider the issue and vote on it.

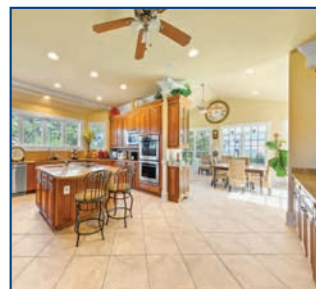
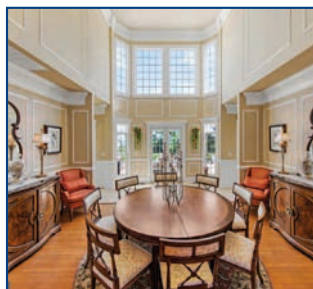
The final issue discussed was the use of the vacuum truck for leaf removal in the ditches. While the cost for this service is still in the proposed budget, the issue continues to be debated, as is the idea of requiring permits and coupons to access the Public Works yard for leaf disposal.



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JACK CHAVEZ/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The owner of Tiki Tim's, which sits behind The Globe and the Atlantic Hotel, will have to remove multiple add-ons after a ruling from the Berlin Historic District Commission. One commission member said the bar "looks like a shantytown."

# Unauthorized work to be removed

Continued from Page 1

owns, appeared before the commission ostensibly to gain approval for the changes that his boss had already made, which included a roof to connect the main building to Tiki Tim's and a new wall between The Globe and the Atlantic Hotel.

The roof was made of the same material as the roof of the main building and Burrier said they did not realize they needed approval if the material was the same and if it wasn't visible from "the main road."

"(I want to) apologize for any I guess misconstrued conception that we did anything just to do something without approval," he told the commission. "I take full responsibility for everything that's been done."

"I do apologize for that ... I'm here to be that olive branch to the town. I know things in the past have gone certain ways but I'm here to be that person that you guys can come to and talk about anything whenever."

Commission members stressed multiple times that their comments were directed at Brushmiller, not Burrier. But incensed over what member Carol Rose described as a pattern of poor communication, they were in no mood to make nice before issuing their decision.

"We approved the outside of Gay Street the fencing and so forth to cover up all that trash. It wasn't done. I don't know how many times I emailed you to please call me to discuss it and you never, ever, ever answer my email," Rose said.

"My comments are strictly for the owner. When you purchase a historic building, a huge responsibility goes along with that to preserve it

and we felt when we worked with the owners on that outside area ... we were confident, I think, that it was going to turn out to be a really pretty area.

"That whole thing and the street — it looks like a dump. That's very disrespectful to all the businesses and buildings around there."

Commission member Laurie Stearns said she's heard from people who said the property looks like a shantytown.

"I don't think it's attractive," she said. "And the Atlantic is historic. That's where people park when they come in."

Commission member Brian Robertson said the additions "fall short" of what is expected of an historic property owner.

Commission member Josh Holloway went a step further and said he felt that Brushmiller intentionally skipped the proper protocol for gaining approval.

"I don't appreciate it," he said. "I think we're all easy to get along with and if it was done the right way we could have worked through all this and had something done. But I think it looks horrible from the parking lot and Atlantic Hotel. It looks horrible. It doesn't do the building justice whatsoever."

While he had his own words of admonishment as well, commission Chair Norman Bunting said that, ultimately, he and his colleagues wish to see the property succeed, just under the proper procedure.

"There's got to be something else that can be done to make this (property) belong in this area," he said. "But what we are being presented

here ... I just don't know how this can stay."

Brushmiller could not be reached for comment.

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CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Plant litter is a great food source for birds, so keep some leaves in your garden for our feathered friends.

## Winter garden maintenance in Pines for foraging birds

By **Cindy Hoffman**  
Staff Writer

(Feb. 9, 2023) If you have not cleaned the leaves out of your garden yet, you might want to wait until March, said Kate Patton, executive director of the Lower Shore Land Trust.

Many people and especially homeowners associations, love a neat and tidy yard. Patton believes that is a mind shift people need to work on, because birds and other wildlife love and need a little mess.

"Leaves break down and become the most important fertilizer for the soil," said Patton. "And stalks with flower heads provide food for birds

all winter long."

Plant litter is a great food source for foraging birds, according to the trust. The insects living in the plant material can help them through the winter. The standing stems offer a great forage site too. Seeds from plants left behind can provide nutrition for over-wintering birds.

"Once you get to early March, you can start your cleanup. But you might find some areas where you can leave the leaves," said Patton.

One thing people should do now is clean out those nest boxes. Already, blue bird males are looking for nest sites. They won't use a nest site with See

GARDENING Page 7

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# Maryland casinos combine to bring in \$167K in January

(Feb. 9, 2023) Maryland's six casinos combined to generate \$167,270,398 in revenue from slot machines and table games during January.

The total represents an increase of \$13,516,284 (8.8 percent) compared to January 2022.

Casino gaming contributions to the state in January totaled \$70,728,168, an increase of \$8,237,990 (13.2 percent) compared to January 2022.

Contributions to the Education Trust Fund (ETF) in January 2023 were \$51,408,046, an increase of \$5,927,224 (13 percent) compared to January 2022.

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.

Maryland's six privately owned casinos offer both slot machines and table games: MGM National Harbor in Prince George's County; Live! Casino & Hotel in Anne Arundel County; Horseshoe Casino Baltimore in Baltimore City; Ocean Downs Casino in Worcester County; Hollywood Casino Perryville in Cecil County; and Rocky Gap Casino Re-

sort in Allegany County.

The gaming revenue totals for January 2023 are:

- MGM National Harbor (2,134 slot machines, 209 table games)

\$72,330,774 in January 2023, an increase of \$5,240,127 (7.8 percent) from January 2022

- Live! Casino & Hotel (3,853 slot machines, 179 table games)

\$58,237,817 in January 2023, an increase of \$3,606,765 (6.6 percent) from January 2022

- Horseshoe Casino (1,481 slot machines, 130 table games)

\$17,579,860 in January 2023, an increase of \$1,467,290 (9.1 percent) from January 2022

- Hollywood Casino (710 slot machines, 19 table games)

\$7,086,038 in January 2023, an increase of \$424,254 (6.5 percent) from January 2022

- Ocean Downs Casino (847 slot machines, 19 table games)

\$7,006,549 in January 2023, an increase of \$2,038,823 (41 percent) from January 2022

- Rocky Gap Casino (620 slot machines, 16 table games)

\$5,029,360 in January 2023, an increase of \$729,024 (17 percent) from January 2022

# Gardening in winter offseason

Continued from Page 6

last year's nest in it. And old nests may be inhabited by mites, bees or even mice. By cleaning out that nest box, local blue birds and other species can begin to nest in late March and early April.

For those gardeners who are eager to get their hands in the dirt now, Patton suggests trying winter sowing of cold-hardy plants. Last winter she conducted a little experiment. She recycled some old plastic clamshell food containers into little green houses. She punched holes on the top and filled them with soil and native seeds. She decided to start with cardinal flowers (*Lobelia cardinalis*), a native flower enjoyed by hummingbirds. Instead of keeping the little greenhouses inside, she put them outside. The process is called cold stratification and works for seeds that need cold to germinate. It can be used for trees, shrubs and perennials. Soon, she saw little seedlings coming up out of the dirt.

This year, she hosted a winter seed sowing day at the trust's office in Snow Hill. Her team is testing two containers, the clamshells and pots, to see which works best. Patton hopes this is a project she can scale up. The plants will be sold at the native plant sale May 5-6 and used at the various gardens they tend. "Even though it's

winter, you can still be planting," Patton said.

The Lower Shore Land Trust has an extensive pollinators program. For those who love to garden, consider participating in the pollinator certification program. Visit their website for more information. [www.lower-shorelandtrust.org/pollinators](http://www.lower-shorelandtrust.org/pollinators).



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A humpback whale that washed up on Assateague Island last month has sparked much debate over whether wind energy activity in the ocean should stop.

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# Wind energy gets scrutiny following mammal deaths

By Jack Chavez  
Staff Writer

(Feb. 9, 2023) Politicians, citizens and some environmentalists are calling for a slow-down or complete halt of wind energy activity off the East Coast as officials examine the cause of a rash of marine animal deaths, but neither action nor an answer appears to be imminent.

In January, the debate landed on the shores of Worcester County with the body of a humpback whale, which immediately led to speculation regarding the cause of its death.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is examining samples taken from the whale, but representative Allison Ferreira said that it will take "weeks to months" to receive the necropsy report.

"Given that necropsy reports provide a comprehensive account of the stranding event, ranging from a description of external observations and internal examination findings to the diagnostic results of samples taken, they can take several weeks to months to complete and finalize," Ferreira said in an email.

A few days later, Ferreira added that preliminary findings from the necropsy indicate vessel strike as the cause of death.

"But we do not know (definitively) if it was struck before or after death," she said. "Results from samples taken from the whale may help inform this, but we may never know."

Ferreira added that no whale mortality has been attributed to offshore wind activities.

Regardless, politicians and watermen are sounding the alarm that wind farm activity must cease while more information is gathered.

"We've had nine whales and possibly a dolphin that have washed up (along the northern East Coast)," Worcester County Commissioner Joe Mitrecic said at the commissioner meeting on Tuesday. "The marine mammals are taking a beating and whether that's originating off whatever coast (it needs to be looked into)."

"This is something that could literally kill our fishing industry off our coast, which is a tremendous amount of money."

Mitrecic said that Gov. Wes Moore is "actually sympathetic" to Ocean City's wishes that windmills not be put off its shoreline.

Mitrecic and his colleagues voted to send weekly letters to Moore and his cabinet regarding their opinion that wind farm activity must be stopped. The commissioners decided each week the letters should highlight a different issue, such as marine life, industry and general concerns that wind

See MARINE Page 10

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# MCBP receives major new funding

(Feb. 9, 2023) The Maryland Coastal Bays Program will be the recipient of more than \$1.8 million through a federal funding stream created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law signed into law in November 2021.

The law provides \$132 million for the 28 longstanding National Estuary Programs — the Coastal Bays Program is one of them — for fiscal years 2022 through 2026. This funding will be evenly distributed by the Environmental Protection Agency to the local program, annually providing each with \$909,800. The first allocation for the Coastal Bays Program included two years of funding for (FY22 and FY23).

The funding locally is to help the program reach the restoration goals in its 10-year strategic plan.

The EPA wants this and similar estuary programs to invest a portion of

the funding to address how this area can respond to the affects climate change affects in their watersheds as well as ensuring that some benefits reach disadvantaged communities that may have been historically underserved by environmental programs.

“We are extremely grateful for the opportunity to significantly increase and enhance our investments in protecting and improving the environmental conditions in the coastal bays watershed,” said Kevin Smith the program’s executive director.

“[This] funding will allow us to initiate new projects that have been beyond our reach up ‘til now as well as enhance our capacity to continue our priority ongoing efforts.

“Climate resilience has already been an increasing focus of our work in recent years and more effectively reach-

ing underserved communities is a challenge we are eager to address. These[federal] funding priorities couldn’t come at a better time for us.”

The list of investments slated for the first installment of this funding range from shoreline restoration in Sinepuxent Bay to stormwater management in Berlin, and from enhancing the program’s inventory of water quality monitoring equipment to expanding an environmental education retreat targeting high school students from underserved communities.

Planning for the next allocation of the funding expected next fall has already begun. The Coastal Bays Program will be assessing its needs and interests, and conducting outreach to its local and state partners to identify priority challenges and opportunities to address in the watershed.

# Marine mammal deaths spark wind energy arguments

Continued from Page 9 energy isn’t as effective as more traditional energy forms.

In a phone interview, Del. Wayne Hartman said it is “hypocritical” of the federal government to push for lower boat speeds while allowing surveying and construction to continue despite the whale deaths that have occurred.

“I understand it may be a death from a boat strike (that killed the whale off Assateague Island) but what’s causing the boat strikes is the fact that the activity in the ocean is now damaging the hearing of the whales,” he said. “I really feel strongly that we need to be serious about going forward with this. We need to stop and find out what is causing this unprecedented number of not only whales but other sea life (lost) along the coast.”

Even some environmentalists, who have at times found themselves sparring with the fishing industry, are asking for a period to gather more information.

“I’m certainly no expert, but personally I feel there needs to be more research on the impact the wind turbines could have on our wildlife, as it doesn’t seem like there is a lot of solid information,” Sandi Smith, community outreach and marketing coordinator for the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, said in an email.

“It may appear to be a logical explanation that wind turbines caused these whale deaths; however, NOAA came out with the statement that there is no evidence supporting that wind turbines and these whale deaths are connected. Hopefully, they will be able to find some concrete evidence of what is going on.”

Smith also acknowledged that wind energy company Ørsted has stated its offshore work does not include sounds or actions that would disturb mammals, nor are they aware of any boat strikes caused by their surveying vessels.

She pointed to other factors as well, such as the humpback whale population concentrating more in the mid-Atlantic region as they follow menhaden, their primary food source, which often congregate in major shipping lanes.

“Either way you look at it, these whale fatalities are definitely linked to our impact on the environment,” Smith said.

According to a 2021 order posted by the Maryland Public Service Commission, wind energy company US Wind has pledged \$100,000 to the coastal bay program and was planning additional research efforts for estuary programs. It has also pledged \$50,000 to support the Assateague Coastal Trust’s Coast for Kids environmental program.

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## Business Briefs

### Joins board

James "Ken" Church was recently elected to join the Bank of Ocean City Board of Directors.

Church is a lifelong Worcester County resident and business owner.

As a real estate broker with Bud Church Realty, he has consistently been in the top 1 percent of both commercial and residential sales over the last several years.

He has personally completed the sales of many historic properties in Worcester County.

Church is a graduate of Stephen Decatur High School, and holds a degree in government and finance from East Carolina University.

In the community, Church and his family have spent many years of active participation in local youth



Ken Church

sports. They have contributed in many ways, to the community, and look forward to continuing that tradition for many years to come.

"I would like to personally welcome Ken to the Board of Directors for Bank of Ocean City," said Reid Tingle, president and CEO of Bank of Ocean City. "His knowledge of the local real estate market, business experience and commitment to our community continues the tradition of BOC directors being part of the fabric of the communities we serve."

Bank of Ocean City is a locally-owned, independent community bank. Established in 1916 and headquartered in West Ocean City, the bank has five offices; two in Ocean City, one in Ocean Pines, one in Berlin and one in Fenwick Island, Delaware.

Its sixth office is scheduled to open in Selbyville this spring.

For more information, contact Tingle at the 59th Street office at 410-524-6144.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The American Pickers television show is returning to Maryland in March to film episodes of The History Channel television series.

## American Pickers returning to Maryland to film in March

(Feb. 9, 2023) The American Pickers television show is returning to Maryland in March to film episodes of The History Channel television series.

“American Pickers” is a documentary series that explores the world of antique “picking” on The History Channel.

The show follows skilled pickers in the business, as they hunt for America’s most valuable antiques. Invariably, they find sizable, unique collections and learn the interesting stories behind them.

As they hit the back roads from coast to coast, the Pickers are on a mission to recycle and rescue forgotten relics.

Along the way, they want to meet characters with remarkable and exceptional items. They hope to give historically significant objects a new lease on life while learning a thing or two about America’s past along the way.

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

Nevertheless, show organizers say they are excited to continue reaching the many collectors in the area to discuss their years of picking and are eager to hear their memorable stories.

The “American Pickers” TV Show is looking for leads and would love to explore your hidden treasure.

Anyone who has or knows someone who has a large, private collection or accumulation of antiques that the Pickers can spend the better part of the day looking through should let the show’s producers know.

The Pickers do not pick stores, flea markets, malls, auction businesses, museums, or anything open to the public.

Interested parties should send the Pickers their name, phone number, location, and description of the collection with photos to: americanpickers@cineflix.com or call (646) 493-2184 facebook: @GotAPick

“American Pickers” is produced by Cineflix Productions for The History Channel. New episodes air Mondays at 9 p.m. EST on History.

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- YOUR NAME, TOWN & STATE
- PHONE NUMBER
- WHERE YOUR COLLECTION IS LOCATED
- A DESCRIPTION OF YOUR ITEMS



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The "American Pickers" TV show is looking for leads and would love to explore hidden treasures in the Maryland area.

## OP Women's Club to award scholarships to local youth

(Feb. 9, 2023) The Women's Club of Ocean Pines will be awarding scholarships in June to promising students who are full-time residents of Ocean Pines.

These students must graduate from high school in good standing with a minimum grade point average of 2.5 and plan to attend an accredited institution for further education.

These awards may be used by the recipient to help defray post-high school expenses at any approved degree, certificate-granting college or university, technical or vocational school.

The WCOP Scholarship committee

will consider the applicant's needs, goals, citizenship, community service, extra-curricular activities and motivation.

The club adheres to a non-discrimination policy on the basis of race, gender, religion, national origin or family status.

Applications for these scholarships may be found on the Naviance website. All completed applications must be returned to a senior counselor at Stephen Decatur High School by March 22.

Qualifying applicants who do not attend Stephen Decatur High School are asked to call 410-641-8046 for information and/or an application.

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## Community Briefs

### Officers

Worcester County NAACP Branch #7029 held its 2023-2024 elections with Josh Nordstrom, NAACP member, officiating.

Ivory Smith, president; Dr. Roxie Dennis-Acholonu, vice president; Christine Clark, treasurer; and Linda Hilliard, secretary were elected.

Executive board officers include: Larry Ryan, Environmental Justice; Dr. Jacques Conaway, Health Committee chair; and Ernest Leatherbury, Criminal Justice chair.

Visit Worcester County NAACP Facebook page for information.

### Dean's List

Ben Forbes was named to the dean's list at Miami University for the 2022-23 fall semester.

Miami University students who are ranked in the top 20 percent of undergraduate students within their division for the fall semester were recognized for their academic performance.

Continued on Page 14

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## Community Briefs

Continued from Page 13

Forbes, from Berlin, is earning a B.S. in Business in Finance.

Kai McGovern was named to the dean's list for the fall semester at the University of Vermont.

McGovern is from Berlin and is majoring in Forestry.

To be named to the dean's list, students must have a grade-point average of 3.0 or better and rank in the top 20 percent of their class in their respective college or school.

The University of Tampa honored 2,044 students who were named to the dean's list for the fall semester, including Madison Van Orden, of Berlin, majoring in Accounting BS, and Kennedy Duke, of Ocean City, majoring in Accounting BS.

Students must maintain a GPA of 3.75 or higher to be eligible for the dean's list.

Ridge Watson, of Berlin, was honored for academic achievement by being named to the dean's list at Delaware Valley University for the fall semester.

Ashley Laws of Berlin, and Cooper Richins of Ocean Pines, were included on Furman University's dean's list for the fall semester.

The Greenville, South Carolina

school's dean's list is composed of full-time undergraduate students who earn a grade point average of 3.4 or higher on a four-point system.

Gavin Hentschel, of Berlin, earned a spot on The Citadel's dean's list for the fall semester.

The dean's list for the Charleston, South Carolina school is a recognition given to cadets and students who are registered for 12 or more semester hours and whose grade point average is 3.20 or higher, with no grade of I (Incomplete) and no grade below C for work in a semester.

### Graduates

University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) graduated more than 7,600 students worldwide in fall 2022.

Students from all 50 states, five U.S. territories, and 18 countries earned UMGC degrees including Worcester County residents Josephine Sidleck (Bachelor of Science in Psychology) and Gavin Joseph Dembeck (Bachelor of Science in Marketing), both of Ocean City, and Sherry Weller of Bishopville (Bachelor of Science in Health Services Management).

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# State Highway Administration replacing underground pipe

(Feb. 9, 2023) The State Highway Administration (SHA) will replace an underground pipe this weekend on Route 12 (Snow Hill Road) just north of Old Furnace Road in Snow Hill.

The project will start at 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10, and is expected to be complete by 5 a.m. Monday, Feb. 13, weather permitting. As part of the project, crews will implement a single-lane closure and flagging operation on Route 12 for the duration of the project.

Temporary traffic signs, reflective barrels and electronic signs will guide motorists through the work zone. SHA contractor Covington Machine and

Welding Inc., of Annapolis, will perform the work.

The Move Over Law in Maryland requires motorists to make a lane change or slow down when approaching any stopped, standing, or parked vehicle displaying hazard warning lights, road flares or other caution signals. The expanded law is in place to protect emergency responders and motorists who encounter a roadside emergency.

For a list of all major MDOT SHA projects, go to Project Portal or visit [www.roads.maryland.gov](http://www.roads.maryland.gov). For a look at real-time traffic conditions, go to [md511.maryland.gov](http://md511.maryland.gov).

# Snow Hill HOCC opens again after closing for renovations

(Feb. 9, 2023) The Snow Hill Home Owner Convenience Center (HOCC) has reopened to the public after being closed for 90 days for repairs.

The renovated center includes new concrete bulkheads and a ramp for ease of access.

Worcester County operates four HOCCs. The Berlin, Pocomoke and

Snow Hill HOCCs operate during the following hours:

- 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday

- 1-5 p.m. on Sunday
- Closed on Wednesday

The HOCC located at the Central See HOCC Page 17

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Authorities recovered nearly two pounds of marijuana and firearms from an Ocean Pines residence last week. PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

# Ocean Pines resident busted on drug and weapon charges

(Feb. 9, 2023) An extended investigation by the Worcester County Criminal Enforcement Team ended with the arrest of an Ocean Pines man last Friday on drug and firearms offenses.

A statement issued by the Worcester County Sheriff's Office Tuesday said Tomaine Dontae Briddell, 43, taken into custody after investigators searched his Ocean Parkway residence and a local storage unit.



T. Briddell

Members of the Sheriff's Office's Criminal Enforcement Team, with assistance from allied agencies, seized approximately one and two-thirds pounds of marijuana, nine regulated firearms (three of which converted to fully automatic), several loaded high-capacity magazines, and items of paraphernalia for the processing of cocaine.

Because of his prior convictions in Maryland, Briddell is prohibited from possessing any firearms or ammunition in the state, the sheriff's office said.

Briddell was taken into custody and charged with various firearm and controlled dangerous substance offenses, where he was subsequently

committed to the Worcester County Jail without bond.

The Worcester County Sheriff's Office Criminal Enforcement Team was assisted by the Worcester County Sheriff's Tactical Armed Response Team, Wicomico County Sheriff's Emergency Response Team, Maryland State Police's Pro-Active Criminal Enforcement Team, Ocean City Police Department's Narcotics/Vice Unit, Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force, Worcester County Sheriff's Office Patrol/K9, Maryland Gun Center, Worcester County States Attorney's Office, Eastern Shore Information Center, and Washington-Baltimore HIDTA.

This investigation was also supported through the Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network (MCIN) - Worcester County Initiative which is through the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services that provides grant funding and strategic support to MCIN member sites to identify, disrupt, and dismantle criminal organizations through interagency collaboration.

"I want to commend the exemplary efforts by all those involved in keeping Worcester County safe from individuals who are involved in this type of criminal activity," Sheriff Matt Crisafulli said.

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# State Highway Administration replacing pipe in Bishopville

(Feb. 9, 2023) The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) will conduct a pipe replacement project on Route 568 (Hatchery Road) in Bishopville beginning Monday, Feb. 13, and concluding by Monday, Feb. 20, weather permitting.

As part of this project, crews will detour traffic around the project limits using Maryland and Delaware roadways. The detour will be in effect beginning 9 a.m. Monday, Feb. 13, and will use the following routes:

Route 367 (Bishopville Road) north into Delaware (becomes Hudson Road), continue straight past Lynch

Road, left onto DE SR 54 (Lighthouse Road), continue on DE SR 54 past Lynch Road to Bishopville Road, and left onto Bishopville Road.

At each location, temporary traffic signs, reflective barrels and signs will alert and guide motorists through the detour. SHA contractor Covington Machine and Welding Inc., of Annapolis, will perform the work.

The SHA reminded motorists that the side of the road is a dangerous place.

Cold winter months can take a toll on vehicle performance and operating systems, causing mechanical breakdown. Prevent breakdowns by ensuring all critical systems are in proper working order.

# HOCC opens up after renovation

Continued from Page 15

Landfill in Newark operates from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday and is closed on Sundays.

All four HOCCs may be utilized by Worcester County homeowners and rental tenants by permit only. No commercial haulers are allowed.

HOCC permits are \$100 for the first two vehicles in the same household. Additional permits are \$100 each. Per-

mits must be affixed to each vehicle and match the tag number. Convenience station permits allow the holder to dispose of household trash, yard waste (no stumps), and recyclables.

For more information about Worcester County Solid Waste facilities or to download a permit application, call 410-632-3177 or visit <https://www.co.worcester.md.us/departments/publicworks/waste>.



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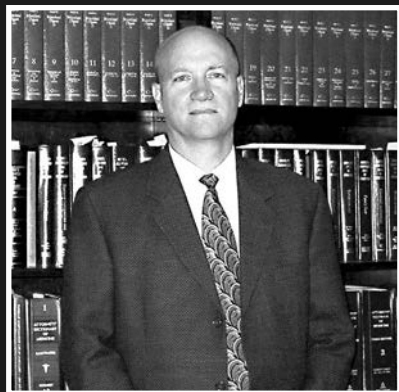
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# Snapshots



### GROUP TRIP

Members of the General Levin Winder Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) recently took a trip to the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park in Church Creek. Pictured, from left, are Sara Pugh, Barbara Rusko, Diane Lorton, Carol Mongelli, Sharon Moak, Jane Bunting, Pat Arata, Betty Whitehead, Gail Weldin, Chapter Regent Talley Hann, with Park Ranger Melissa Lupus. SUBMITTED PHOTO/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE

### OFFICERS INSTALLED

The Ocean Pines Garden Club installed its 2023 officers at their Jan. 12 meeting and luncheon. Pictured, from left, are Ann Shockley, co-president; Patti Lookner, co-president; Laura Stearman, corresponding secretary; Anita Roberts, recording secretary; Maria Brown, treasurer; Sandy Gaffigan, co-vice president; and Sandy Kelley, co-vice president. The OPGC meets the second Thursday of the month, at 10 a.m. in the Ocean Pines Community Center.

PHOTO COURTESY GAIL PHILLIPPI



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

### DONATION

During the week of Jan. 16-21, in honor of Betty White's birthday, Berlin Auto Wash donated \$5 from every car wash to Worcester County Humane Society. A total of \$5,000 was donated to the no-kill Berlin shelter. Pictured, from left, are Jason Simms, WCHS Board Member Sandy Summers, and John Simms.



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID J. LANDIS, SR.

### GUEST SPEAKER

Local gardener Carol Cross was the guest speaker at the weekly Wednesday meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City on Jan. 4. She and her husband, Shawn, own Cross Farms LLC in Berlin, which does hydroponic and conventional ground farming. She is pictured with Kiwanis Club President Bob Wolfing.

# Snapshots



## TREATS FOR STUDENTS

Margaret Mudron, president, and Jennifer Bodnar, secretary/treasurer of the Ocean City-Berlin Rotary Club, visited Jessica Grimes' kindergarten class at Buckingham Elementary School and presented them with cookies, a book and popsicles. The Club "adopted" the class this school year.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/  
BAYSIDE GAZETTE



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## WELCOMED GUESTS

The Republican Women of Worcester County held their January general meeting and luncheon at the Ocean City Golf Course on Jan. 12. New Worcester County Commissioners Caryn Abbott and Eric Fiori introduced themselves and spoke about their ideas, plans and challenges for the county. Pictured, from left, are Liz Mumford, RWWC first vice president; Fiori; Abbott; Commissioner President Chip Bertino; and Sandy Zitzer, RWWC president.



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID J. LANDIS, SR.

## GUEST SPEAKER

Rosenfeld's Jewish Deli owner Warren Rosenfeld, right, was the guest speaker during the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City's Jan 25 weekly meeting. He is pictured with Kiwanis Club President Bob Wolfing.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## DONATION

Dr. Amy Gallagher, principal of Berlin Intermediate School, presents the Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club with a T-shirt from the "Seahawks on the Move" program. Optimist Vice President George Solyak, center, gives a check for \$2,000 to Dr. David Gell, assistant principal of BIS, in support of this program.

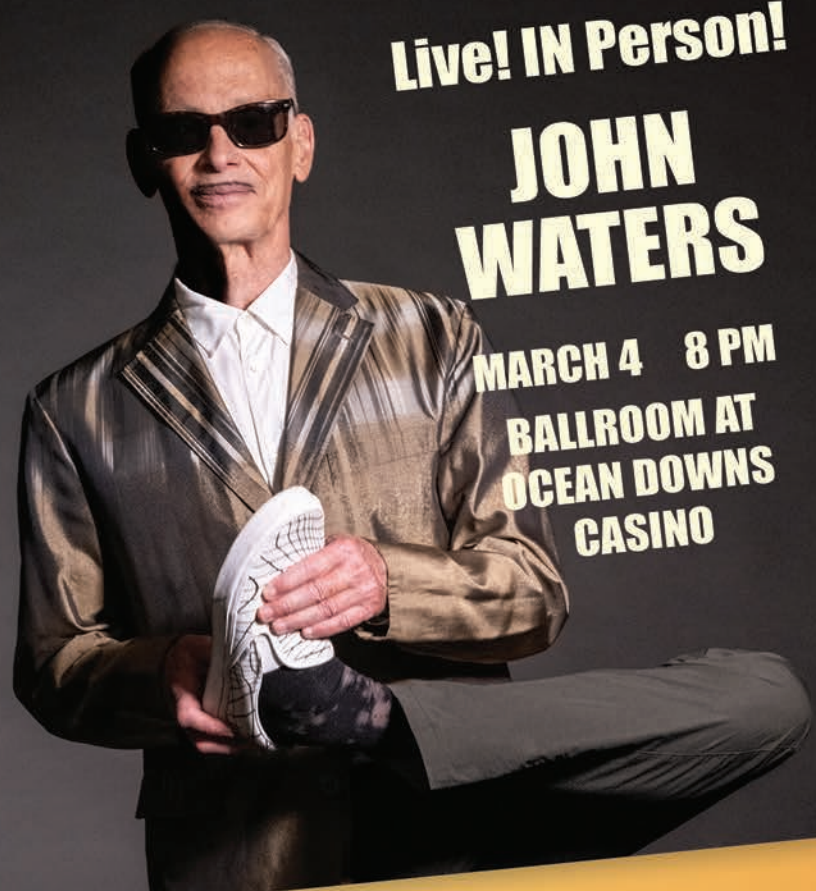


SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## PROGRAM SUPPORT

Cheryl Brown, center, accepts a \$2,000 check from the Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club in support of the Kindness 365 program at Stephen Decatur Middle School. She is pictured with Club member Roger Pacella and Vice President George Solyak, right.

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Live performance by John Waters Saturday, March 4, 8 PM Ballroom at Ocean Downs Casino *(Limited number of tickets available)*



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# Community Legacy Grant to open Feb. 14 in Snow Hill

(Feb. 9, 2023) The 2023 “Community Legacy Grant” will be opened during the monthly mayor and Town Council meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. in the Old Fire Hall in Snow Hill.

This year’s grant will be available to commercial applicants for improvements to business properties, developing mixed-use projects, streetscape improvements, or the acquisition or improvement of vacant buildings.

A statement from the town said the application scoring process gives the highest ranking to projects that improve the value as well as the aesthetic and historical character of a business structure. Projects that improve accessibility, health and safety, or business development will also receive high consideration.

Properties that lie within the town’s “Sustainable Community Boundary” are eligible to apply. This area includes nearly all of the properties within town limits. A color map of the sustainable community boundaries will be distributed during the meeting.

Town officials said commercial property owners and business tenants should attend the meeting to hear a grant information presentation. An application guidance document and grant applications will be distributed.

These documents will also be available at Town Hall beginning Feb.15. Questions about the grant and inquiries for more information may be emailed to the Town’s Grants Administrator, John Rankin, at jrankin@snowhillmd.gov.

# Ocean Pines farmers and artisans braving elements

(Feb. 9, 2023) Winters in Ocean Pines can be chilly, but Saturday mornings are warm and welcoming at the Ocean Pines Farmers &Artisans Market, according to market manager David Bean, who said many people make it a habit to bundle up and gather with family and friends at the market each week.

“Winter market warrior’ is a title the market shares with its shoppers and merchants, and the number of those who brave the elements of a winter morning have grown significantly over the years,” Bean said. “We have a steady and growing winter artisan participation that is beginning to match the number of participating green market merchants.”

The marketplace will celebrate its 12th anniversary this year, and the 11th year for the offseason market.

“It’s rewarding to see the embrace of the community supporting all those who participate. Our merchants saw the desire for a year-

round marketplace, and we are hoping this love for the offseason market will only continue to grow stronger over the coming years,” Bean said.

For Ocean Pines shoppers, the winter marketplace provides a source for locally grown winter crops and other products from area producers.

Story Hill Farm from Frankford, Delaware brings their grass-fed beef, pork and poultry, while Brightman Farm sells fresh eggs by the dozen.

Bean said shoppers visit the winter market to stock up on local ingredients, such as locally grown carrots, potatoes, and winter radishes.

This year, customers of produce merchant D. J. David can find locally grown winter varieties of radishes, along with Brussel sprouts and cabbages. Brandon Brady at Stag Run Farm helps fill customers’ salad bowls with artisan lettuces grown at his farm’s greenhouses.

Many treat themselves to hand-

See OP Page 23

# Kiwanis Club dedicated to helping area kids, families

(Feb. 9, 2023) The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City, is a volunteer organization dedicated to helping children and families in Worcester County.

It has a nonprofit fund known as the foundation from which annual scholarships are awarded in early June. Unfortunately, as with all organizations, members pass away. Many of those who pass away are also members of other organizations and have family and friends who wish to donate in their memory.

In 2021, contributions funded a five-year memorial scholarship for member Ralph Chinn who passed that year. Historically, the Kiwanis Club has made the public aware, in the event anyone would care to donate to the Kiwanis Club of Ocean Pines-Ocean City Foundation, a 501-(c)(3) account.

Persons can designate the donation, qualified as tax deductible for which a receipt will be issued.

It will be used for a scholarship named to honor their choice of the former member, unless not specified, therefore, going to the fund for any scholarships.

Scholarships are awarded to deserving qualified graduating senior students in Worcester County to further their education.

four members. Scholarships could be given in their names in June:

James B. Wheatley, died March 12, 2022

Suzanne M. Foley, died Oct. 16, 2022

Roy M. Foreman, died Nov. 3, 2022

Charles S. Warner, died Jan. 5, 2023

Anyone who wants to contribute to five-year scholarships should make a check payable to Kiwanis Club of OP Foundation and send it to: Sarah Walker, Kiwanis Club of OP Foundation Chair, 174 Sandyhook Rd., Ocean Pines, Maryland 21811.



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**Our Calendar Pages**  
In the  
**OCToday and Bayside Gazette**

# Opinion

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

## Internet full of villains out to do you harm

The computer on which this opinion is being written was attacked eight times last month by malicious emails that got through its first line of anti-virus defense. They were discovered by followup scans and were destroyed before they could be opened.

In the past 12 months, this computer's security programs caught 87 malicious emails and deleted them, while anti-virus logs show that hundreds of attempts have been made since 2019 to deposit malware and other harmful code in the computer's operating system. Thankfully, they did not succeed through a combination of a good anti-virus program, dumb luck and operator paranoia.

These attacks on this single device should give readers an idea of what they and their workplaces are up against in the internet universe and that doesn't count any of the too-good-to-be-true scams that appear in the inbox every day.

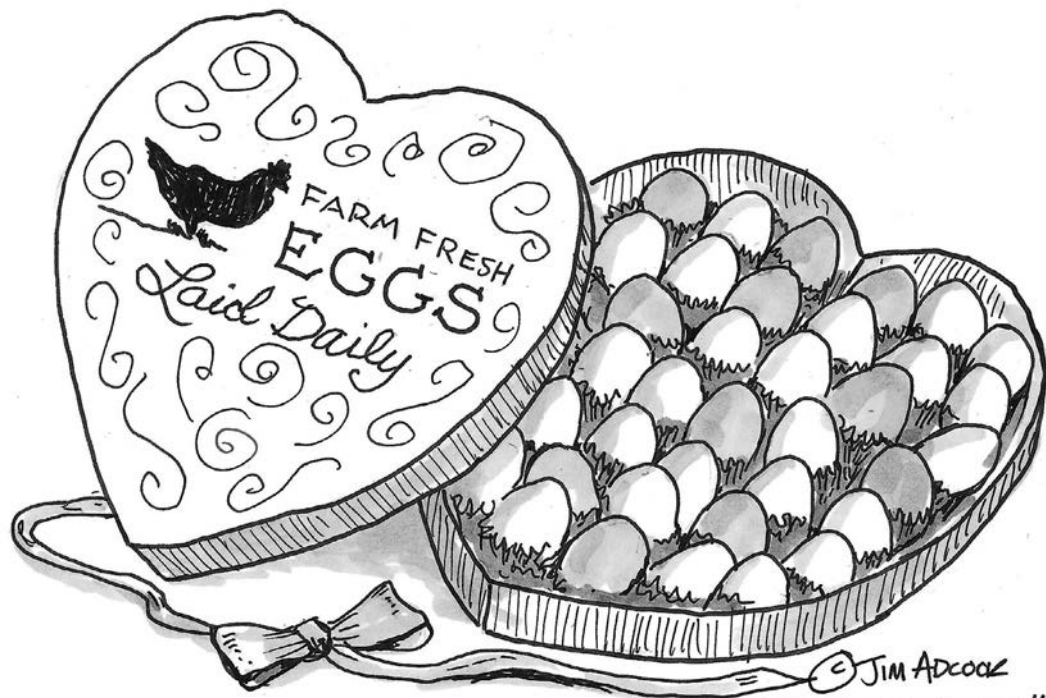
As Atlantic General Hospital suffers through its second week of system lockdown because of a ransomware attack, it's evident that even organizations with topnotch online security protocols are susceptible to tricks and workaround methods of entering computer systems without detection.

Even then, as if you weren't worried enough already, it turns out that the company that produced the security suite this computer had been using was outed three years ago for secretly selling its subscribers' browsing information to a third party. That practice was stopped, they say, but still ...

Feeling paranoid yet? You should be when it comes to your computer and email.

Criminals, con artists and just plain nasty people really are out to get you and the only way to stop them is to be extra vigilant and to protect yourself with a reputable anti-virus program. Add a large helping of user skepticism for good measure.

It's true that internet is a wonderful thing, but it's also a jungle — full of marvels to be seen and enjoyed safely, as long as you remember there are things in the jungle that will eat you.



For your Valentine ... when money is no object.

## 'Four Old Broads' March performance

(Feb. 9, 2023) Riding the wave of a sold-out hit performance of Rodgers & Hammerstein's "A Grand Night for Singing" last November, the Ocean Pines Players is poised to get audience members rolling in the aisles with laughter at its upcoming show.

The next production, "Four Old Broads" by Leslie Kimbell and directed by Ed Guinan, is a hysterical mystery. Only a few weeks into rehearsal, the cast itself is still laughing from the quips and hijinks of these ladies.

A mystery unfolds with laughter as the denizens of

Magnolia Place Assisted Living try to outsmart the evil Nurse Jones and make it to the Sassy Seniors Caribbean Cruise.

Performances are March 10, 11, 17, 18 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 10301 Coastal Highway, in Ocean City.

Tickets are available at <https://oceanpinesplayers.org>. All tickets are reserved seating.

The 2022-2023 season is somewhat of a comeback for the Players.

Like many community groups, the recent pandemic limited any face-to-face re-

hearsals and canceled more than one event.

Recovery has been slow but steadfast, and the current board of directors and roster of new members are energized and focused with a three-year strategic plan.

Ocean Pines Players is a local all-volunteer 501-(c)(3) charitable organization. For general information about the group, visit [oceanpinesplayers.org](http://oceanpinesplayers.org) or follow oceanpinesplayers on Facebook.

"Four Old Broads" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc., [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com).

## BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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## Male mentors sought for local youth

(Feb. 9, 2023) Worcester Connects, a program of Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Services Inc., is seeking male mentors for the large number of male students ranging from age six to 16 who need a positive male presence in their lives.

Students are typically referred to counseling service's program because they are struggling with the challenge at home, school, or in the community.  
The male students on our

waitlist are great kids, a statement from the program said, who simply need a male mentor to believe in them.

While being a mentor may seem like a big task, it is easier and more enjoyable than you may think, organization officials said.

"We train and support all mentors throughout the one-year process and carefully match mentors to students to increase the chance for success. We ask all mentors to see their mentee at least twice

per month and offer free monthly group activities," the statement continued.

Mentors must be 18 years and older, have a valid driver's license, pass the screening process and criminal background check, and complete online training.

Any adult males who are interested in giving back to a child/teen from the community should contact Kayla Figueroa at [kaylaf@gowoyo.org](mailto:kaylaf@gowoyo.org) or call 410-641-4598 to learn more.



Samantha Kent of Willow Grove Knitting Co. sells hats and ear warmers as well as other items during the Sunday morning Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market. SUBMITTED PHOTO/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## OP market trucks through winter

Continued from Page 21  
 crafted pastries and baked goods from the market's bakers. John DelVecchio, owner and baker at DelVecchio's Bakery, works through the night to bring fresh baked goods to his Saturday morning customers. His bread selections are popular with his customers, and few can pass on his Danishes, cookies and scones.

"The winter market also features several other bakeries, including those that specialize in gluten free and plant-based baked goods, as well as homestyle baked goods like grandma made," Bean said.

Other items found at the winter market include spices, honey, jams and jellies, spirits, seafood, and kettle corn.

Bean said the winter merchants also have more time to deal directly with their customers.

"The offseason market gives many shoppers the opportunity to really get to know the merchants, since the merchants have more time to stop and chat during the colder, slower months," he said.

That's also true for the many community organizations and groups that participate.

"We are so lucky to have such stellar businesses and organizations that help make our winter market season a success and a joy for the community," Bean said. "Bundle up and enjoy your market this winter!"

The market will celebrate Valentine's Day with a sweetheart market on Saturday, Feb. 11, featuring special activities and all the necessary ingredients for a special Valentine's dinner.

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market is open Saturdays from

9 a.m. to noon in White Horse Park. In-season hours return on March 4, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market](http://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market).

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# Cuisine

## 'Beauty of bisque is two-fold,' Suplee says

Man, I am on a serious soup kick lately, proof positive that I am getting old.



By Paul Suplee,  
MBA, CEC, PC-3

I never was a "soup guy" until a few years ago, but what can I say about soup that hasn't already been said?

It's delicious? Most of the time, it's hot? Unless the cook really screws the

pooch, it's flavorful?

I don't know, I just like soup, especially in the wintertime. I guess as we age our blood thins a little and we're always mimicking Eddie Murphy's grandmother in asking for another blanket for our knees.

Oh, to be young again, knowing what I know now.

The skill of a good cook can be summed up in their soup-making capabilities.

One of the great uses of a soup is the use of leftovers and scraps, be it at home or in a restaurant.

The utilization of every ounce possible is key in preserving our precious, yet seemingly limited, funds. And this is the true mark of a good cook and chef.

The beauty of bisque is two-fold.

The primary lust factor of this mighty soup is its richness. It is unctuous, creamy and satiating, almost making a complete meal in and of itself.

The secondary attraction for this soup is the flavor.

Traditionally (as I did in this recipe) the shells of the crustacean, whether it be shrimp or lobster, are included in the finished product.

They are pulverized and pureed in the blender or food mill. The concoction is then strained through a sieve and any larger chunks will be removed.

However, the tiny and imperceptible bits of shell in the finished product act as a shrimp base of sorts, their flavor only adding to the finished product.

I was sharing this with my students last night, and at first, they were disgusted.

Then, I shared my story of Infantry School at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina in 1988.

Located in the Carolinas, I was ecstatic at the choice of food in the chow hall; steamed shrimp, rabbit,



frog legs and other country-folk vintiles were readily at hand, and I loved it.

What I noticed, though, was that all of the Carolina boys never peeled their steamed shrimp. They simply ate them, shell and all.

I still peeled mine, but I remember sitting there and thinking about making bisques at Johnson & Wales the year prior, using the shells to enhance and fortify the flavor of the bisque.

And then I shared another story about where crab base comes from.

One student audibly groaned and said "Chef, please don't ruin it for me."

Well, Student, it is my job to ruin things for you in the name of education, so away we go.

Apparently, and I did not know this until I watch an episode of "Dirty Jobs" with Mike Rowe, once the crabs are picked, the shells and remains of said crabs plus the seasonings in which they are cooked are run through a pulverizing machine.

This homogenizes them into a well-seasoned base that is then sold to distributors for their self-labeled crab base. And now you know as well. You are more than welcome.

Either way, a good soup is a good soup.

Enjoy this while the weather is still chilly and practice it until it is second

nature. Soon, you won't even need a recipe.

### Shrimp Bisque

*makes about 1 gallon*

2# Shrimp, shell on  
2 qt. Chicken stock (optional: If you want only seafood, use 1 gallon seafood stock)  
Butter as needed  
2 qt. Shrimp or seafood stock  
1/2 ea. White onion, roughly chopped  
1 piece celery, roughly chopped  
1 med. Carrot, peeled and chopped  
1 leek, washed and roughly chopped  
2 Tbsp. Garlic cloves, smashed  
1/4 tsp. Cayenne pepper  
1/4 c. Dry sherry  
1/4 c. Brandy  
6 Tbsp. Tomato paste  
12 oz. Blonde roux  
2 c. Heavy cream  
Salt & Pepper to taste

- Peel the shrimp, placing the shells in the stock and simmering for 30 minutes.

- In a large pan, heat the butter and get a decent sauté on the onions, celery, leeks, carrot and garlic.

- Add cayenne and deglaze the pan carefully with brandy and sherry.

- When you have extracted as much shrimp essence as possible (and honestly this isn't all that critical and you will see why in a moment),

add this to the vegetables.

- Add the tomato paste and pull off the stove for now.

- Place contents in batches in a good blender (Vitamix is my go-to) and blend ever so carefully until smooth.

- Once it is pureed, run it through a sieve or fine food mill to remove any little bits that may not have gotten pulverized.

- Return this to the stovetop and bring to a simmer. Whisk in the roux and allow it to heat up so that the thickening properties can do their magic.

- Add cream, continuing to simmer. This will allow it to reduce ever so slightly, fortifying the flavors that you have combined in your cauldron.

- Season to taste and keep warm.

- For garnish, cook the peeled shrimp using a seasoning of your choice. I stay away from Seafood Seasoning as that tends to overpower this already rich and succulent bisque, but you do whatever makes your heart happy. Top the bisque with cooked shrimp and greens of your choosing and enjoy this mid-winter liquid gold.

— Paul Suplee is the owner of *boxcar40*, *boxcar on main*, *boxcar crafted events* and *sportfish catering*.  
[www.boxcarrestaurants.com](http://www.boxcarrestaurants.com)



# Calendar

Please send calendar items to [editor@baysidegazette.com](mailto:editor@baysidegazette.com) by 5 p.m. Monday. All community-related activities will be published at no charge.

## Thurs., Feb. 9

### OCEAN PINES GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 10 a.m. Ginny Rosenkranz, from the UMD Extension Program, will speak on Plant Propagation by Seeds & Cuttings. New members and guests welcome.

### 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](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### PLAY TIME

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Join the group for a variety of activities and toys. Play and socialize with other families. For ages 2-5 years. 410-632-3495, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### MUSIC & MOVEMENT: JAMMIN' W/MR. JAKE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Time to jam out with Mr. Jake and his guitar. Come dance, sing and shake out all those sillies. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### ZUMBA FOR ALL

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4:30-5:30 p.m. Join certified Zumba instructor Joyce Landsman for an hour of movement. These classes uplift and improve mood. Registration required: 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://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](http://BeachSingles.org)

## Fri., Feb. 10

### BABY TIME

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 1:30 p.m. Stories, rhymes and finger plays. For children aged 2 years and older and their caregivers. 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### OCEAN PINES BOOK OF THE MONTH: 'THE WATER DANCER' BY TA-NEHISI COATES

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

### MARYLAND CRAB CAKE DINNER CARRYOUT

Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main St., Berlin. 4-6 p.m. Cost is

\$14 for one-crab cake sandwich platter, \$24 for two-sandwich platter and \$10 for sandwich only. Platters include green beans, baked potato and cole slaw. Eat in and bake sale available.

## Sat., Feb. 11

### OCEAN PINES ANGLERS CLUB MEETING

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:30 a.m. Commercial fisherman, Captain Sonny Gwin, will share the good and the bad about the life of a waterman as well as fishing industry issues. All are welcome. Jack Barnes, 410-641-7662

### FAMILY LIBRARY DAY: VALENTINE'S CARDS

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10 a.m.-noon. Card making supplies available for all ages. 410-957-0878, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### CRAFTY SATURDAY: VALENTINE'S DAY!

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Join the group to make some fun handmade crafts. Be prepared for a bit of a mess. For children 4 years and older. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### GRIEF SUPPORT PROGRAM

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 12:30-2:30 p.m. Meets 13 weeks, beginning Feb. 11. Sponsored by Fathom Church. Register: Carole, 301-509-2022.

### VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER

American Legion Synepuxent Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 4 p.m. Steak, shrimp, baked potato, salad and cake. Choice of one complimentary beer or wine. Four seatings: 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person. Tickets available at Post.

### SPAGHETTI DINNER

Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company Headquarters, 1409 Philadelphia Ave., 5-7 p.m. Tickets \$10. Spaghetti dinner includes salad, garlic bread and beverage. Desserts will be available ala carte. Dine in or carry out. Walk-ins welcomed. Cost is \$10. Accepting Venmo OCVFC\_Ladies. Pay at the door. 443-235-7696

### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 9 p.m. VA personnel will provide one-on-one assistance. For those unable to attend, register for phone appointments by accessing the Visitor Engagement Reporting Application (VERA) at <https://vets.force.com>. 410-641-0650

### 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., Feb. 12

### SUPER BOWL SCRAMBLE

Eagle's Landing Golf Course, 12367 Eagles Nest Road, Berlin. Featuring 9 a.m. tailgate party and 18-hole scramble tournament with 10 a.m. shotgun start. Gross and net prizes. Cost is \$60. Sign up: 410-213-7277, [RCroll@oceancitymd.gov](mailto:RCroll@oceancitymd.gov). [www.eagleslandinggolf.com](http://www.eagleslandinggolf.com)

### JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

Sundays - Berlin Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 10 a.m. [www.jw.org](http://www.jw.org)

## Mon., Feb. 13

### STORY TIME 'LOVE'

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and a craft about all thing love and hearts. For ages 2-5 years. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### WRITING FOR WELLNESS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:30 p.m. Writing about stressful experiences like illness may boost health and psychological well-being. Group uses exercises to stimulate creative expression. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### 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

### GALENTINE'S DAY

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5:30 p.m. Celebrating friendship. There will be waffles and whipped cream, a tradition, and stations for DIY foot and face scrubs and face masks. Registration required: 410-632-3495. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### DELMARVA WOMEN'S A CAPELLA CHORUS

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

## Tues., Feb. 14

### OCEAN CITY AARP CHAPTER 1917 MEETING

Ocean City 50plus Center, 104 41st St.,

10 a.m. Refreshments served at 9:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be the Citizen Police Academy in Ocean City. New members welcome. Bob McCluskey, 410-250-0980

### STORY TIME 'VALENTINE'S STORIES'

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](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### STORY TIME 'HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY'

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and crafts about Valentine's Day. For ages 2-5 years. 410-957-0878, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### 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](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### DOO WOP ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2-4 p.m. Enjoy ice cream sundaes as WEES-FM's "Dean of Doo Top" plays 1950s hits. Singles and couples welcome. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Neurology, 314 Franklin Ave., Berlin, 3:15-4 p.m. Group provides education on exercise, nutrition, coping techniques, medications and developments in treatment. Kay Kinnikin, 410-641-4765, [kkinnikin@atlanticgeneral.org](mailto:kkinnikin@atlanticgeneral.org)

### TILE ART

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 5 p.m. Color subway tiles and then spray them with alcohol to let the creativity flow. Registration required: 410-641-0650. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### ATLANTIC COAST SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION MEETING

American Legion Synepuxent Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker will be Kevin Smith, Executive Director, Maryland Coastal Bays Program. Food and refreshments available after 6:30 p.m. The public is cordially invited.

### BEACH HEROES-OC

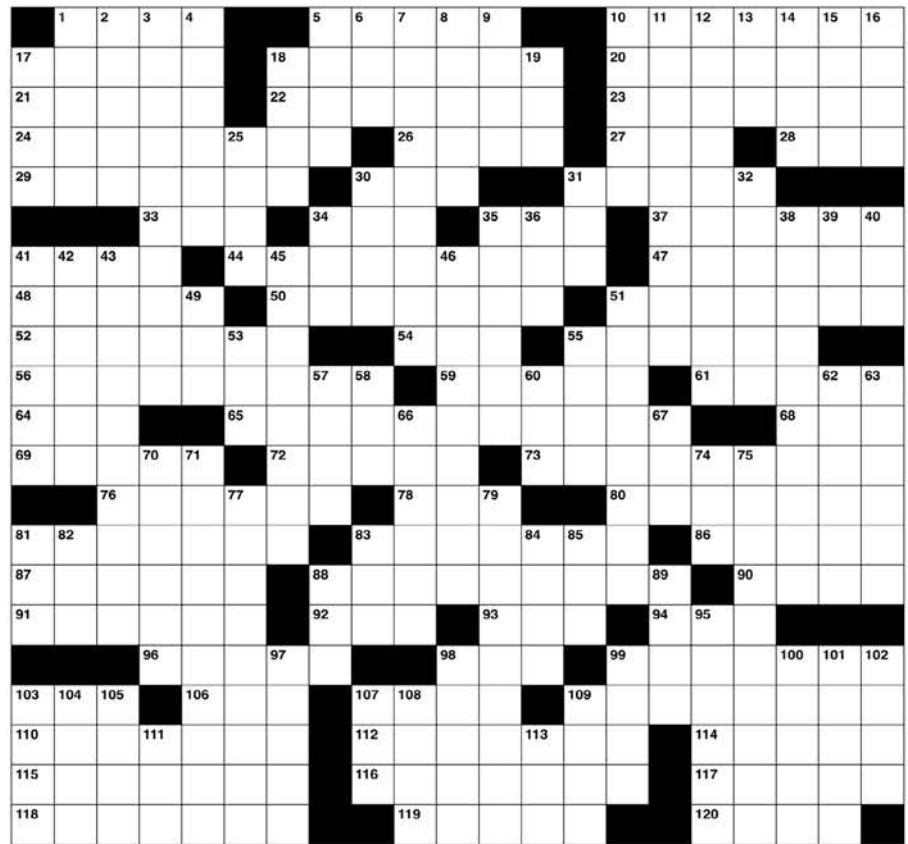
Tuesdays - Volunteer beach clean-up group meets from 9-10 a.m., year-round. Trash bags, grippers and gloves provided. Check the Facebook page "Beach Heroes-OC" for weekly meeting locations. All are welcome.

# Puzzles

## THE FINAL FRONTIER BY RICH KATZ / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Rich Katz, of Park City, Utah, does freelance work in corporate restructuring, with a focus on financially challenged companies. He started solving crosswords about five years ago and quickly graduated to making them. This is his New York Times debut. The starting point for its theme was 116-Across. Rich's love of puns is evidenced by his email address, which includes the Spanish *ricos* and *gatos*. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Visitor-center handouts
  - 5 Crew supervisor on a merchant ship
  - 10 QB Patrick who was 2018's N.F.L. M.V.P.
  - 17 Like a pub crawler's breath, perhaps
  - 18 \*Embarrassing pants mishap?
  - 20 Set apart
  - 21 Relative of "ciao"
  - 22 "I never met a \_\_\_ I didn't like": Garfield
  - 23 Like some tans
  - 24 \*Shipper of British toilets?
  - 26 Something you might use just for the halibut?
  - 27 \_\_\_ Plains, Ill.
  - 28 Hill worker
  - 29 Modern-day groundskeeper?
  - 30 Wanda Sykes, Regina Hall and Amy Schumer, for the 2022 Oscars
  - 31 Divides into sectors
  - 33 5-Down, in Spanish
  - 34 "I'm not impressed!"
  - 35 Some sci-fi effects
  - 37 Fast line at the airport, informally
  - 41 Small figures?
  - 44 \*Big fight for a Disney heroine from Polynesia?
  - 47 Some track-and-field races
  - 48 "They tell me ..."
- DOWN**
- 106 Metric for a Met, for short
  - 107 Diane Sawyer's real first name
  - 109 \*Rest spot for a tabby?
  - 110 Angry and impatient
  - 112 Parent who's fluent in emojis and modern slang, maybe
  - 114 "Your \_\_\_ ran over my dogma" (classic dad joke)
  - 115 Sovereign's singular
  - 116 \*Brew that's both bitter and fruity?
  - 117 Tiny arachnids
  - 118 Cries feebly
  - 119 Do some barbering on
  - 120 Language of the Emerald Isle
- ACROSS**
- 51 Spanish gentlemen
  - 52 Standing at the ready
  - 54 Affectionate attention, for short
  - 55 Neither blows it nor crushes it
  - 56 Grabs lunch, say
  - 59 Word with cane or cone
  - 61 As a friend, in French
  - 64 "That hits the spot!"
  - 65 Voyage by rocket ... or a feature of the answers to the 12 starred clues?
  - 68 U-Haul offering
  - 69 One rounded up in a roundup
  - 72 A car that won't start is a common one in horror films
  - 73 Ties again
  - 76 Pulitzer-winning novelist Lurie
  - 78 Extreme vexation
  - 80 Alliance
  - 81 Symptom of burnout
  - 83 Take up a notch
  - 86 Singer Abdul
  - 87 Keg attachment
  - 88 \*Shortage of slime?
  - 90 Appear
  - 91 "Is that a challenge?!"
  - 92 Part of E.S.L.: Abbr.
  - 93 Voice of dissent
  - 94 Scratch (out)
  - 96 Film brand
  - 98 Seoul singers?
  - 99 Component of some high-tech dog collars
  - 103 Kind of card sold in many international airports
- DOWN**
- 1 French wine region
  - 2 Series of trade discounts?
  - 3 Portmanteau invitations
  - 4 Website overseers, in brief
  - 5 Image on a postcard from Yellowstone
  - 6 Western Hemisphere treaty grp.
  - 7 \*Painting of potatoes, e.g.?
  - 8 Exhorts
  - 9 \_\_\_-Down (what this is)
  - 10 Botch
  - 11 \*Main course featuring Egyptian snake meat?
  - 12 Street smarts
- ACROSS**
- 13 Portuguese greeting
  - 14 "S.N.L." alumna Rudolph
  - 15 Boarding school where tailcoats are part of the dress code
  - 16 On its way
  - 17 Show some reluctance
  - 18 Item tossed into a fire at the end of "Citizen Kane"
  - 19 Buddy
  - 25 "Va-va-\_\_\_!"
  - 30 Set of options
  - 31 Acne spot, informally
  - 32 Brawl site in old westerns
  - 34 West of Hollywood
  - 35 Agree
  - 36 \_\_\_ Goose, cousin of Donald Duck
  - 38 \*Iditarod, for one?
  - 39 Bourbon alternative
  - 40 The start of something?
  - 41 Byproduct of composting
  - 42 "Wow, super!"
  - 43 \*Staging of a narc sting?
  - 45 How a parent serving as the tooth fairy might walk
  - 46 Supported
  - 49 Stephen of "The Crying Game"
  - 51 Anguish following a dance marathon
  - 53 N.F.L. positions that sound like a fast-food chain
  - 55 "I'm sorry, \_\_\_, I'm afraid I can't do that" (line from HAL in "2001")
- DOWN**
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  - 15 Boarding school where tailcoats are part of the dress code
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- 57 Mountain lake
- 58 Green prefix
- 60 Fish with a long snout
- 62 Layer beneath the earth's crust
- 63 Something made off the cuff?
- 66 Closing words
- 67 Office PC setup
- 70 One-percenters
- 71 Frustrating process
- 74 Noted speedway sponsor
- 75 What a beehive is made of
- 77 \*Terrific messenger at Hogwarts?
- 79 \*Friend in a competition?
- 81 Furby's or fidget spinners, e.g.
- 82 In the manner of
- 83 Many millenniums
- 84 Small batteries
- 85 "Oh, the things you can think up if only you \_\_\_!": Dr. Seuss
- 88 Lead-in to X, Y or Z
- 89 Substance
- 95 Sign unlikely to have been written by the person it is attached to
- 97 Hill workers
- 98 Swell
- 99 Hindu embodiment of virtue
- 100 Stolen treats in "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland"
- 101 Mann of music
- 102 Mardi \_\_\_
- 103 Knights and noblemen
- 104 Privy to
- 105 Request for permission
- 107 TV screen option, for short
- 108 Chits
- 109 Manage
- 111 Dallas hoopster, for short
- 113 Lotta money

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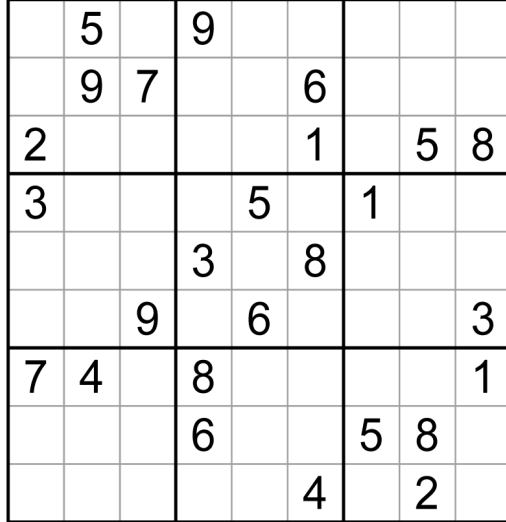
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© Puzzles by Pappocom  
**HARD - 4**

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



**Answers to last week's puzzles**

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



# Eagle Scout Martin helps build cat shelters

(Feb. 9, 2023) Local Eagle Scout Christian Martin recently helped produce almost 20 shelters as part of a project to help homeless cats in the area.

Martin said he was looking for a new service project and thought of local nonprofit group Town Cats, which formed in 1998 to help address the feral cat problem in nearby Ocean City.

"I've known Miss Susan [Mohler], the president of Town Cats, for several years," he said. "And for two or three years now, I've been helping them at their yard sales and at the farmers markets at White Horse Park," he said.

After contacting Town Cats, Martin said the group asked for help building cat shelters.

Martin and Mohler met in the Ocean Pines Community Center to talk about the process, and they planned another session at the community center in mid-December to do the work.

"I also made it available so younger people could come and help, if they needed service-learning hours, which is a requirement to graduate high school," Martin said. "In the end, we had 26 volunteers."

Martin said the shelters are "like a miniature apartment home" for cats, giving them a haven from the elements.

"It helps keep them warm during the winter and cool during the summer," he said.

Mohler created a PowerPoint on how to build the shelters, which Martin turned into an instruction booklet for the volunteer session.

To make the shelters, volunteers cut entrance and exit holes into 20-gallon lidded storage bins that are then outfitted with Styrofoam, straw, insulation tape, and a mylar recovery blanket.

"There's an entrance and an emergency exit hole,



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

**Local Eagle Scout Christian Martin recently assisted in producing almost 20 shelters as part of a project to help homeless cats in the area.**

with a backflap on the emergency exits in case the cat feels trapped," Martin said. "It's kind of like a giant, warm igloo."

Mohler said Town Cats donated all the supplies, but Martin did all the organizing, from booking the room to creating an online signup sheet for volunteers.

She said the volunteers made 16 shelters, about half of which were claimed within the first week.

"The shelters are placed in designated places where people take care of outside cats," Mohler said.

"People can ask for them if they have cats outside that are not necessarily feral," she continued. "A feral cat is a cat that does not want to be around people. A stray cat could be a lost cat or just one that runs around but is friendly. And some cats just live

outside."

Mohler said stray and feral cats continue to be an issue in Ocean Pines and surrounding areas. She pointed to numerous social media posts about lost animals.

"It just goes on and on," she said. "But the problem isn't the cats – it's the people. They don't get their cats spayed or neutered. So, in about six years two cats could theoretically end up as thousands."

She said the shelters provided by Martin and his volunteer group "came right on time" because of the colder temperatures.

To request a shelter, visit [www.towncats.net](http://www.towncats.net) or [www.facebook.com/towncatsofoceancity](http://www.facebook.com/towncatsofoceancity) and send a message. The nonprofit asks for a \$20 donation to help offset the cost of materials.

Town Cats is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. The organization has a trap/spay and release program for feral cats and provides spay/neuter services for free roaming or pet cats at a low cost.

Martin said it felt great to help a local cause that he believes in.

"The best thing to hear is how quickly the shelters have gone. It shows that people really care about these animals," he said.

His mother, Lybbi, said she's proud of the work her son has done.

"Something people don't know about Christian is that he's already at the 250 mark [for volunteer service hours] and you only need to have 75 to graduate from high school," she said. "He's done a lot of good things, and Town Cats is a wonderful organization."

"That's what scouting does – it teaches our kids how to give back and take care of our community, which is what we need more of," she added.

## Calendar

Continued from Page 25

### JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

*Tuesdays* - Berlin Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 7 p.m. [www.jw.org](http://www.jw.org)

### TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

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

### OC KNITTING CLUB

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

### ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE

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

## Wed., Feb. 15

### 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. Promoting the needles arts through sewing education, activities and textile crafts. For artisans of all skill levels. 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://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](http://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

### STROKE SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Neurology, 314 Franklin Ave., Berlin, 3-4 p.m. For stroke survivors, family and friends. 410-641-4765, [bglime@atlanticgeneral.org](mailto:bglime@atlanticgeneral.org)

### LOCAL AUTHOR BOOK TALK & SIGNING

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Gwen-

dolyn Morey Skeens, author of "Last Chance," a romance set on the Eastern Shore, will discuss her writing and answer questions. 410-957-0878, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### AFRICAN AMERICAN ART

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. This brief introduction looks at some of the highlights of Black artists from the 19th century to the 1980s. 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### TRIVIA WITH JIM MECKLEY: 'SNOWFALL & VALENTINES'

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 3 p.m. Test your knowledge in this seasonally themed trivia contest. Prizes awarded to the top three teams. Refreshments provided. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### WOODEN BIRDHOUSES

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 3:30 p.m. Build, paint and decorate wooden birdhouses, just in time for spring nesting. All materials provided. Register: 410-641-0650, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

### FAIR HOUSING: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Held via Zoom, 7 p.m. The Maryland

Commission on Civil Rights provides information on fair housing law and housing discrimination issues. 443-783-6164

### KIWANIS CLUB MEETING

*Wednesdays* - Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 8 a.m. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. Third Wednesday meetings are offsite and will be updated monthly. Guests are welcome. [www.kiwanisofopoc.org](http://www.kiwanisofopoc.org)

## ONGOING EVENTS

### CHILDREN'S DESIGN COMPETITION

Create a design that captures Unstoppable Joy and their slogan "Hope is stronger than fear." The winning design will be featured on their 2023 T-shirts. Submit designs now until Feb. 15. Email to [Berkleigh.ujc@gmail.com](mailto:Berkleigh.ujc@gmail.com) or mail to the Healing Arts Center, attn: Berkleigh at 617 Franklin Ave., Berlin, MD 21811. Include child's name and age. Judging and celebration to happen in March. [www.unstoppablejoyco.org](http://www.unstoppablejoyco.org)

### FREE INTRO TO PLATFORM TENNIS & SPEC TENNIS

By appointment in January and February. Call Vin at 862-219-3352 or email [oppaddle2020@gmail.com](mailto:oppaddle2020@gmail.com). Equipment provided.

# CLASSIFIED Marketplace

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Classifieds appear in Ocean City Today & Bayside Gazette each week and online at [oceancitytoday.com](http://oceancitytoday.com) & [baysideoc.com](http://baysideoc.com)

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**WORCESTER PREPARATORY SCHOOL**  
Worcester Preparatory School is seeking  
**EXPERIENCED TEACHERS**  
Candidates for this position should possess a degree in education. Previous experience teaching lower, middle and upper school students is desirable. State certification is not required. Candidates with experience and an interest in coaching are desirable.  
Located on Maryland's Eastern Shore in Berlin just fifteen minutes from the Ocean City beaches. Worcester Preparatory School is a co-ed independent day school of over 500 students in grades pre-K - 12. The school has comprehensive facilities on a 45-acre campus just a mile from the vibrant town center in Berlin. Governed by an independent board of trustees, WPS was founded in 1970 and enjoyed rapid growth in the decades that followed. It is the premier independent school on the Eastern Shore, drawing students from Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware; some travelling over an hour to reach campus. All graduates matriculate to four-year colleges or universities, many among the most selective in the nation.  
Worcester Preparatory School is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or any other status protected by law.  
Compensation and benefits are competitive with other area private schools and are adjusted based on experience level and credentials.  
Interested persons should send a letter of interest, employment application, resume, and educational philosophy (if available) to **Linda Watson, Director of Human Resources**, at [lwatson@worcesterprep.org](mailto:lwatson@worcesterprep.org).

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This position reports to both the Head of Upper School and the Head of Middle School.  
Candidates for this position should possess a BS degree in Mathematics, with the demonstrated ability to teach Algebra at the above referenced level. Previous experience teaching middle and upper school students is desirable. State certification is not required. Candidates with the experience and interest to coach are desirable.  
Located on Maryland's Eastern Shore in Berlin just fifteen minutes from the Ocean City beaches, Worcester Preparatory School is a co-ed independent day school of over 500 students in grades pre-K-12. The school has comprehensive facilities on a acre campus just a mile from the vibrant town center in Berlin. Governed by an independent board of trustees, WPS was founded in 1970 and enjoyed rapid growth in the decades that followed. It is the premier independent school on the Eastern Shore, drawing students from Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware; some travelling over an hour to reach campus. All graduates matriculate to four-year colleges or universities, many among the most selective in the nation.  
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Saturday, 12-3pm	3 Tail of the Fox Drive, Ocean Pines	4BR/2BA/1HBA	Single Family	\$549,000	Sandy Dougan/BHHS
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