

CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

BIG BRAIN

Students at Stephen Decatur High School learn about the impacts of substance abuse from speaker Jenalie Raphelt, a paramedic and director of events for Medical Inflatables, with the help of a larger-than-life inflatable brain and lungs. The interactive display traveled to multiple schools throughout the county this week. See story on page 11.

Berlin mayor has ambitious goals for town

Building renovations, park on Tyndall's '23 to-do list

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(March 2, 2023) A new town hall, a developed Heron Park, more public art, filling out the Berlin Police Department and bringing the Broad Street and William Street lift stations online were some of the highlights on Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall's list of goals for the town in 2023.

Tyndall revealed his project priorities as part of the annual 2022 report during the mayor and Town Council meeting on Tuesday.

Breaking down the goals by department, Tyndall listed town hall renovations and Heron Park redevelopment under the things-to-do label for the administration. Also included in this category were researching and expanding employee wellness opportunities. See DEVELOPED Page 7

SHA releases Rt. 90 scenarios

Upgrade options outlined, public weighs in with its choices of configurations

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(March 2, 2023) Ocean Pines residents who want to get to the beach club on a nice summer day know how congested Route 90 can get. Eastbound traffic queues can extend nearly six miles on Fridays approaching Ocean City, and more than 7.5 miles Saturdays during peak times.

That's only to be expected when this two-lane spur off Route 50 is the only route into downtown Ocean City, and one of just three that connect the resort and its hundreds of thousands of weekly visitors to the mainland.

That's why the State Highway Administration (SHA) is evaluating improvements along the Route 90 corridor between Route 50 and Coastal Highway. As part of this effort, SHA initiated the Route 90 Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study. The results of this study were released on Feb. 23.

"The MD 90 Planning and Environmental Linkages Study helps us explore strategies to improve service for all those who use MD 90, from vacationers and local residents to business travelers and emergency responders," said Maryland Department of Transportation Acting Secretary Paul J. Wiedefeld.

As part of the study, the SHA conducted an online survey of the public to prioritize projects for the corridor

that could be considered in planning and design efforts related to traffic operations, capacity, safety, pedestrian and bicyclist accessibility and emergency evacuation. The survey included proposals for additional lanes, intersection improvements and new bridges over the St. Martin River and the Assawoman Bay.

A total of 386 people responded to the survey, with 85 percent of the respondents saying they would use Route 90 more often if congestion was reduced. Ninety percent of those surveyed agreed that improvements were needed along Route 90, and more than half of respondents thought that improvements were needed most along the highway at the Assawoman Bay Bridge, followed by

See STATE Page 5

Leaf-free ditches up to residents

Days of vacuuming by OPA will end in new fiscal year

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(March 2, 2023) Ocean Pines will no longer use the leaf vacuum truck to remove leaves from the ditches in neighborhoods in the next fiscal year, obligating residents to remove the leaves from the ditches and bag them with the rest of their yard waste for pickup.

Ocean Pines will continue to send See DITCH Page 7



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Berlin intending to spread casino grant money widely

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(March 2, 2023) The Town of Berlin is making it clear that casino funds should not be the sole funding source for the Law Enforcement Officer Pension System (LEOPS) that the mayor and Town Council signed up for two weeks ago.

Before Monday's regularly scheduled meeting of the mayor and council, town officials and staff met to discuss how to divide the money it will receive in local impact grants from the Ocean Downs casino.

The town is forecasted to receive \$418,142 in FY24, \$458,284 in FY25 and \$502,279 in FY26.

The initial intent of the meeting was to focus on LEOPS, a Flower Street Community Center, the Town Hall building, a public works facility upgrade or replacement, infrastructure needs, capital reserve funding for fire and EMS services, defibrillators, geographic information systems and radios.

Perhaps the biggest question the town regarding LEOPS is just how it will pay for it — an annual expense of \$340,000.

Councilmember Jay Knerr and Steve Green suggested using the grant money to free up funds for some of the aforementioned projects.

Greens said that to start, the town could use \$150,000 for LEOPS and \$100,000 for the community center.

"In my mind, I see (us committing to) as many uses as possible (for this money)," Green said.

One idea that came out of the meeting was the possibility of hiring a code enforcement officer.

"If there's a rule on the books and it's just not being followed in terms of zoning or whatnot or tall grass, I think (someone to address such issues would be a benefit)," said Councilmember Jack Orris.

Councilmember Dean Burrell said the town needs to be more proactive with code enforcement.

"As it stands now, we are (for a large part) dependent upon citizen

complaints," he said. "That's OK but we should not strive to put our citizens in those situations to snitch on their neighbors ... We need to be out there looking for ourselves."

Mayor Zack Tyndall said that there was once such a position in the Planning Department — and that the town code says the town "shall have" a code enforcement officer — but, again, the duties had been passed off to the "busy" Planning Department.

"I think there might be some better ways to tackle similar challenges, whether that's full-time or part-time, we don't know," he said.

An idea of Tyndall's to address code enforcement was to establish a citizen's reporting system, but Councilmember Jack Orris said that, regardless, they would need to create a new position within the town to oversee such a project.

Another idea touted by Green and Orris was either to eliminate or reduce the water and sewer capital fees, but town Finance Director Natalie Saleh said that she would need to look into whether casino revenues within the general fund could be used as a replacement.

At one point, Knerr asked Saleh if it would be worthwhile to take a look at the impact fees the town charges, whether they should be raised and have the burden put on incoming developers to raise funds for future expansion of water and sewer.

Saleh said that she couldn't recommend raising impact fees, which are "very specific and dependent on how many new developments were going to have" and how much the town would raise them in comparison to other municipalities.

"Just to look at the impact fees, what we have projected, for example, F(Y23), we're not near collecting them. And we will not with the cost of construction materials and everything. I don't think we've progressed enough toward the end of the year to complete the goal we set for FY23 ...

See BERLIN Page 4

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County Commissioners move ahead with selling of ice rink

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(March 2, 2023) The new Worcester County Commissioners majority will not be deterred in its intent to sell the county's portable ice rink.

In a 4-3 vote, the commissioners agreed on Feb. 21 to put the rink out for bid to sell it outright through a sealed bid process.

While the intention behind the selling the ice rink is to recoup as much money as possible from what the majority of commissioners — Chip Bertino, Jim

Bunting, Caryn Abbott and Eric Fiori — consider a failed county venture, the county will be able to choose to whom the rink is sold.

Commissioners Joe Mitrecic, Diana Purnell and Ted Elder opposed the measure.

The vote came on the heels of a last-ditch effort from Mitrecic to collect narrative proposals from Worcester County entities to whom the county might donate the rink.

"This rink was paid for by the citizens of Worcester County," Mitrecic reasoned. "It should be used by the citizens of Worcester County. (I'd like to see us) accept a narrative of what these people interested in (the county) would do with it, how they'd utilize it and figure out the best use moving forward and donate to them."

Bertino said that the taxpayers paid for the ice rink and thus there

may be an expectation that they'll be reimbursed somewhat, perhaps with the money going back into the county's treasury.

Mitrecic agreed that, yes, the taxpayers bought the ice rink, but it's now the commissioners who are taking it away.

"Their expectation, if we were concerned about the county taxpayers, we should keep it and let the county people use it," Mitrecic said. "At least if we donate it to a county entity it'll be used by county people moving forward and they can continue to utilize their investment, so to speak."

The commissioners did have a list of interested parties, however, and only a handful were organizations within the county.

According to a memo from county procurement officer Nicholas Rice, the Ocean City Tourism Department, the Town of Berlin, OCDC and Jolly Rogers are interested. Others included the City of Salisbury, the Town of Ridgely in Caroline County and the Town of Ocean View in Sussex County, Delaware are also interested.

Bunting said that there is a way for the ice rink to stay in the county if someone is intent on buying it.

"It was taxpayer money, it was partly my money, and I think we need to get something back for it and put it up for sale," he said. "If people want it bad enough, we can accept or turn it down."

'It was taxpayer money, it was partly my money, and I think we need to get something back for it and put it up for sale.'

Commissioner Jim Bunting

Berlin discussing LIQ cash use

Continued from Page 3
Impact fees are up and down."

When it came to radios, Tyndall said the town could commit \$125,000 to buy 20 of them, something that the town needed last year but ended up being a budget casualty.

Ideally, he said, the town needs 40 of them, but 20 is a good start.

"There is such a thing as too few because then you can't use them," he said.

Another big goal for the town that could tie into casino revenue use is finally addressing West Street problems, an improvement project that town staff said could cost millions of dollars. While Green suggested the town start saving for addressing West Street, Tyndall suggested that the town could address it incrementally.

Tyndall said that the discussion for allocating casino funds will resume after budget work sessions are held.

Correction

The sub-headline of the Feb. 2 article on the last meeting of the Environment and Natural Assets Committee titled "Committee worries about loss of trees" blamed geese for damaging the shoreline around the south pond.

The Environment and Natural Assets committee did not say that in its meeting. With regard to the erosion along the shoreline, the committee says it is caused by rain, wind, runoff and other weather-related situations.



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Figure 5.11 - Concept 2 Roadway Typical Section

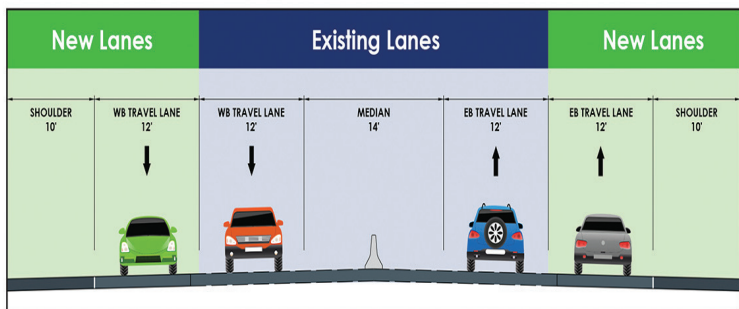


Figure 5.12 - Concept 2 Typical Section St. Martin River and Assawoman Bay Bridges

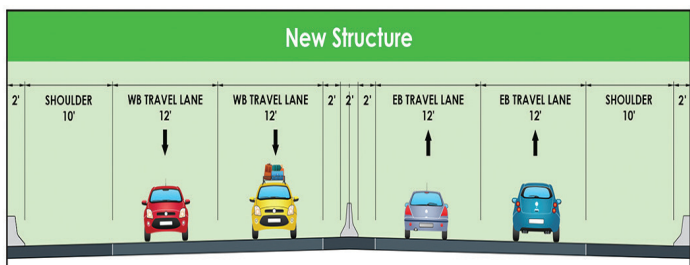


Figure 5.13 - Concept 3 Roadway Typical Section

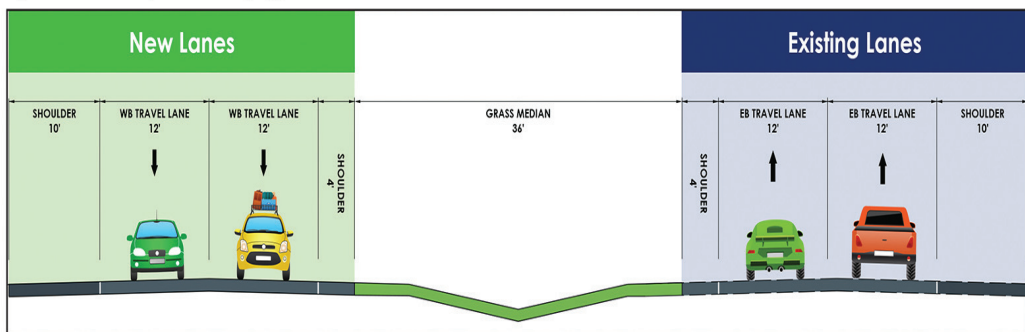
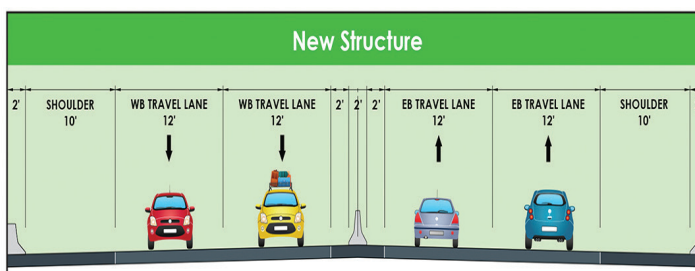


Figure 5.14 - Concept 3 Typical Section St. Martin River and Assawoman Bay Bridges



STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

Concept 2 adds two additional outside lanes, one in each direction along Route 90. Concept 3 would widen Route 90 to provide a four-lane divided roadway. A new two-lane roadway would be constructed on the north side or south side of the existing roadway with an open median.

State Highway report lists options for Rt. 90 upgrade

Continued from Page 1

the St. Martin River Bridge (47 percent), the intersection with St. Martin's Neck Road (46 percent) and Route 589 to St. Martin River (44 percent).

The road, which has a 55 mph speed limit, is a primary evacuation route for Ocean City during a severe weather event or emergency.

"It is our mission to protect and enhance Maryland communities, we know mobility, accessibility, safety and reliability are vital components. This study will help us and our community partners chart a course of action," said Wiedefeld.

The goals of the project include accommodating existing and future traffic needs, including access for bicycles and pedestrians; improving the level of safety on this well-traveled roadway; improving accessibility during evacuation events; and improving flooding resilience and adaptation.

The Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors passed a motion

on Nov. 19, 2022 to email the department of transportation and the Worcester County Commissioners its endorsement of the efforts by the Worcester County Bike and Pedestrian Coalition regarding the proposed Route 90 Project, according to board President Doug Parks.

Six concepts were developed and evaluated: one no-build concept and five build concepts. Concepts two and three meet all of the goals for the project.

Concept two includes a divided four-lane stretch from Route 113 to Coastal Highway, retaining the existing median barrier, and a new four-lane bridge to the north or south of the existing bridge. Approximately 39 percent of respondents liked this concept.

Concept three includes a divided four lanes from Route 113 to Coastal Highway with a grass median; a new two-lane roadway north of the existing road for westbound lanes, with

See SHA Page 7

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WORCESTER COUNTY DATA

Central and Southern Worcester have some of the **highest rates** of Chlamydia, Gonorrhea in the state

40% of Worcester Co. high school students, **7.3%** of middle school students, have reported having sexual intercourse.

9.9% have had sex with four or more persons in their lives

Of the students who are sexually active, **23.8%** of them reported drinking alcohol or using drugs before sexual intercourse.

Of the students who are sexually active, only **54.7%** of them reported using a condom

Of the students who are sexually active, **11.6%** of them reported using NO form of birth control at all during their last sexual intercourse

11.9% of Worcester students identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender

• MD Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2018-19
• MDH STI data and Statistics report: <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OIDPCS/CSTIP/Pages/sti-data-statistics.aspx>



CHART COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Despite explanations from school officials that the health education framework specifically addresses sexual health issues in Worcester County, the WCPS Board of Education – and plenty of parents – denounced the bill for what they feel is harmful and unnecessarily graphic material.

Board denounces sex education bill

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(March 2, 2023) The Worcester County Board of Education followed the County Commissioners' example on Feb. 21 by unanimously denouncing the Health Education Framework bill currently in discussion in the Maryland General Assembly.

The board took in a presentation from WCPS coordinator for instruction Tamara Mills and Annette Wallace, WCPS chief safety and academic officer for grades 9 through 12, after allowing parents and others to offer their opinions on the bill that seeks to codify the framework.

In her presentation, Mills broke down the state of sexual health among Worcester teenagers today and addressed what the bill, HB119, actually does.

Central and southern Worcester County areas have some of the highest rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea and, in 2019, the rate of chlamydia

was five times higher in those ages 15 to 24 than the rate for all ages, according to data Mills presented from the Maryland Department of Health and the CDC.

According to the data, 40 percent of high school students and 7.3 percent of middle school students have reported having sexual intercourse, 9.9 percent of sexually active high school students have had sex with four or more people in their lives, 23.8 percent reported using alcohol or drugs prior to sex, 45.3 percent reported not using a condom and 11.6 percent reported using no form of birth control at all.

Altogether, 11.9 percent of county students identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.

"This is really about children's health and safety," Mills said.



Tamara Mills

Mills also addressed the popular concern that the curriculum starts in-depth sex education too early, explaining that Worcester County has "always" begun teaching sexual health in fifth grade and, while the framework allows beginning as early as fourth grade, the county intends to stay with fifth grade.

Mills cited a CDC study that shows 1 in 5 new HIV cases in 2020 were in people ages 13 to 24. She juxtaposed that number with the stats about middle school sexual activity and the lack of condom use in Worcester County.

The commissioners and board seem resolved in their rebuke of the legislation but the public opinion in the county appears to be more varied with regard to a comprehensive overhaul of health education.

During public comments before Mills's presentation, 15 of the 17 speakers spoke about HB119.

Speakers who were against the bill in its current iteration still outnumbered those who were for it, but multiple people came forward to tout the research that went into the framework.

Margo Gill, a mother of five children in the county's school system and a family medicine doctor for Atlantic General Hospital, spoke about the stated intent of the physicians and health education teachers who formulated the framework to address disease prevention and risk.

"(It is) definitions only," Gill said of the subject matter in the framework that many criticized as obscene.

Gill listed several statistics that back the legislation, including that state data indicates that Hispanic and Black students in Worcester County experience childbirth more often than

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Developed park on Tyndall's list

Continued from Page 1

tunities, expanding efforts to attract and retain employees, digitizing town documents and updating the town's strategic plan.

For the Finance Department, Tyndall said he wished to see the water Advanced Metering Infrastructure system completed and an electric rate study wrapped up. He also calls for reducing paper consumption by transitioning to electric files, integrating new credit card software and updating the current service fee structure.

Economic and Community Development Department goals included the expanding public art, updating welcome center displays, creating an internet presence for parking at Stephen Decatur Park by adding it to Google Maps and Apple Maps as a town parking lot, adding more year-round parking signage for the St. Paul's and Decatur Park and applying for additional grants to support the towns events, public art and advertising.

For police, the town has already secured one goal in the Law Enforcement Officers Pension System, which should help address attracting and retaining officers. Other goals included improving overall technical hardware and software, reinforcing community policing strategies and

increasing agency partnerships, interfacing with the public more and enhancing the body camera system to automatically record when other cameras are turned on nearby and when a handgun or Taser are removed from their holster.

Planning and Zoning departments goals include conducting community outreach to determine the town's future growth plan, adding "code enforcement" identification to the Planning Department's vehicle and updating the town's various maps — municipal boundaries, zoning and GIS.

Electric Department goals included lineman and meter technician training, power plant upgrades and addressing the electric utility distribution system.

Public Works goals included continuing to assess and improve the town's parks, playgrounds and streets, evaluating a community composting program and creating a beautification budget as well as growing the Beautification Committee, which as of Tuesday has no recorded meeting on the town's website.

Water Resources Department goals, on top of the lift stations, include rebuilding the Well 1 pump house and installing meters in the town drinking water system.

SHA lists six Rt. 90 concepts

Continued from Page 5

the existing road becoming east-bound lanes and a new four-lane bridge to the north or south of the existing bridge.

"The MD 90 study provides us with the information we need to accurately access this vital corridor and summarize recommendations to help us prioritize projects," said State Highway Administration Administrator Tim Smith.

Already, \$15 million has been programmed to advance preliminary design and National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) activities

along the Route 90 corridor.

To address traffic congestion in the near term, a project to provide an additional eastbound lane on Route 90 could be advanced as an independent project. The preliminary design and corridor studies would contribute towards the development of a long-term strategy for the highway.

The State Highway Administration anticipates moving forward with preliminary design and evaluations for potential corridor solutions beginning this spring. To see the full report, visit the MDOT SHA website under the project portal page.

Ditch vacuuming by OPA to end

Continued from Page 1

crews out twice a week to pick up bagged leaves from Thanksgiving to Christmas on opposite days to trash hauler Republic's collection days.

The Environment and Natural Assets Committee is suggesting to Ocean Pines management that it increase the hours and times for homeowners to drop off their yard waste at Public Works; that Ocean Pines ID cards be used for proof of residency rather than stickers; and to stop the commercial trucks from using the yard.

"We also would like to encourage residents to use paper bags for yard

waste rather than plastic bags," said Sharon Santacroce, the chair of the Environment and Natural Assets Committee. "Paper bags are environmentally friendly as opposed to plastic that takes forever to degrade."

Paper bags can be found at local hardware stores in the area.

According to The World Counts, most plastic bags are made from Polyethylene, which takes centuries to degrade. In total, humans use 100 million tons of plastic every year. Some 10 percent of this plastic ends up in the oceans. An estimated 300 million plastic bags every year end up in the Atlantic Ocean alone.

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Md. sex education bill under fire

Continued from Page 6

their white counterparts. The rate of sexually transmitted diseases is “steadily increasing” in Worcester County she said.

“I cannot tell you the number of people less than 18 who do not understand their bodies and options and how to protect themselves,” she said. “But those are the kids with access (to healthcare). There are hundreds, if not thousands, of kids in schools who do not have reliable health care access or prevention education or testing. If we take apart or remove comprehensive health education, we are discriminating against those who are more and already susceptible to harm and marginalization.”

Parent Christine Hulslander offered an old adage.

“The time for the map is before you enter the woods,” she said. “Knowing what territory lies ahead is a part of being prepared, informed and knowledgeable.”

She didn’t deny that the material could be described as “smut,” as Commissioner Jim Bunting put it last week, but guessed that the majority of the people in the room at the board meeting had engaged in many of the sexual acts listed in the framework.

“By providing information to our children with age-appropriate content, we are providing a map for the territory ahead,” Hulslander said. “These are things they will experience.”

Still, plenty of opposition — from multiple points — exists to the legislation.

Grant Helvey, who ran for a Worcester County Commissioner seat last year, told the board that he hopes they find the legislation, its authors and supporters “wrongful, self-righteous, arrogant and insulting” while urging any board members who support the bill to name themselves so that “those who entrust you with the authority may judge you and your capability to continue in service.”

“What is the price that you as a trusted school board member place on the rights of families to lead the future generations to become virtuous

citizens?” Helvey asked. “What will be the consequence of saying no to tyrants who support the bill? What enforceable powers do they hold over each of you?”

Parent Dianna Harris pointed out that math and English proficiency statistics — still ultimately lacking in her estimation despite being among the best in the state — show that there is already too much on students’ plates.

“I long to understand why, when our students are struggling to add, read and write, this state and this board of education would even entertain expanding the curricula to have students be able to define oral, anal, vaginal and (solo) sex.”

Other opponents made arguments such as the framework robs parents of their right to teach their own kids, that the law should be rewritten to offer the curriculum on an opt-in basis since communication with parents is sometimes unreliable and that the framework is justification for a quid pro quo that would bring prayer back to school.

After the presentation, it was immediately clear that the board would not be supporting the bill. Multiple board members even went so far as to explain that the only reason it didn’t cosign the letter from the county commissioners opposing the bill is that the letter was drafted and sent before the board had a chance to meet.

School board member Jon Andes said that the board’s decision is in line with the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) belief that curriculums should be set by local school boards.

“We have been working through (MABE) to oppose HB119 for all the many reasons that were said today,” Andes said. “We need as much flexibility as we possibly can implement the curriculum that makes sense for our students. What might work in Howard County or Baltimore County or Baltimore City may not work in Worcester County in delivering instruction.”

HB119 has yet to cross chambers and is awaiting its second reading, as is its twin bill SB0199.



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2023-2024 SCHOOL SYSTEM CALENDAR SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION

Month	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
AUGUST			1	2	3	4	5
FEBRUARY						1	2
SEPTEMBER						1	2
MARCH							1
OCTOBER							1
APRIL							1
NOVEMBER							1
MAY							1
DECEMBER							1
JUNE							1
JANUARY							1

CALENDAR LEGEND
 Yellow - New Teacher Orientation
 Red - Schools/Others Closed
 Blue - Early Dismissal for Students
 Green - Schools Closed for Students
 Orange - Inclement Weather Make-Up Days (if needed)
 End of a Marking Period

NOTES
 Worcester County Public Schools has identified three (3) inclement weather days in this calendar. Beyond those three days, the school system will not close for inclement weather, but will transition to virtual learning in accordance with our Virtual Learning Plan.

PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The 2023-2024 Worcester County Public School year will see students in class from Tuesday, Sept. 4 until Wednesday, June 12, weather permitting.

WCPS Board of Education Briefs

By Jack Chavez
 Staff Writer

(March 2, 2023) The Worcester County Public Schools Board of Education discussed the following during its Feb. 21 meeting:

Calendar

The board officially adopted the 2023-24 school system calendar. The first day of school is Sept. 4, the Monday after Labor Day, and the last day is scheduled to be Wednesday, June

12. Christmas break will start with an early dismissal on Thursday, Dec. 21 and students will come back on Jan. 3.

Spring break will begin with an early dismissal on Wednesday, March 27 and students will return on Tuesday, April 2. The schedule accommodates three makeup days if inclement weather or other emergencies necessitate.

According to the proposal from Su-
 Continued on Page 11



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Unique drug education program

Giant inflatable brain and lungs teach students about substance abuse dangers

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(March 2, 2023) Worcester County Public Schools and Worcester Goes Purple hosted a week-long series of health events featuring the MEGA Brain and MEGA Lungs at area schools to raise awareness among county middle and high school students about substance abuse.

The inflatable MEGA brain and MEGA lungs provide students and staff the opportunity to see how drugs, alcohol, tobacco and vaping affect the brain and lungs.

"We know that vaping and substance abuse is a huge problem in our community. Vaping is very common, it's a problem. Students are not allowed to vape on school property, but

they are definitely doing it off school property," said Michelle Fluty, Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) advisor and health and PE teacher at Stephen Decatur High School. "Hopefully this will motivate those using substances to quit."

She also hopes that those who are not using will choose to stay away from vaping and other substance abuse once they understand the dangers.

Fluty said substance abuse is a topic the students at the high school are learning about in health class and those taking psychology are learning about the brain.

"We hope kids will talk to their parents and bring them back tonight to see the exhibit," said Debbie Smullen, Worcester Goes Purple event coordinator.

According to the 2018 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 47.6 percent of students in the 12th grade have used

electronic vapor products and 29.5 percent are currently using. A total of 7.4 percent use daily.

The study also looked at middle school students and found that 12.5 percent of sixth graders had used an electronic vapor product, with 2.4 percent saying they currently use.

"Vaping is more dangerous than smoking cigarettes. It's not just vapor, with vaping, oil goes into your lungs," said Smullen.

"Some parents think of vaping as a lesser of two evils, but it is not," added Tamara Mills, coordinator of instruction for Worcester County Public Schools.

The study also found that 43 percent of 12th graders have used marijuana, with nearly 25 percent saying they currently use one or more times during the past 30 days.

Only 2.4 percent of sixth graders said they had tried marijuana.

See STUDENTS Page 12

WCPS Board of Education Briefs

Continued from Page 10

perintendent Lou Taylor, the school system will not close beyond the three makeup days and will instead transition to virtual learning for any additional days needed.

There are 10 standalone holidays throughout the school year where schools are closed overall or for students only, including Friday, Oct. 20 for the Maryland State Education Association convention in Ocean City and Tuesday, April 23 for the Presidential Primary.

Behavior intervention

Ocean City Elementary School gave a presentation on its Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports program and how it has enhanced the student experience at the school.

The program included using the word "values" over "rules" that reflect the school's four points that are vital to its culture — respecting oneself, respecting others, respecting learning

and respecting the environment. Each value has a corresponding guideline for conduct at arrival and dismissal, hallways and transitions, bathrooms and the cafeteria.

The program adds mindful moments and a value matrix to the old code of conduct. Value matrices rank students relatively instead of establishing an absolute, chronological pecking order.

Within the program, 352 students were recognized as "star citizens" in the 2021-22 school year, and so far 254 students have earned the recognition this school year.

Virtual days

The Maryland State Department of Education is allowing local education agencies to repurpose eight days as virtual learning. The days to be considered include, but are not limited to, inclement weather days, staff professional learning days and high school graduation days.

No more than three of the eight days may be used as asynchronous learning days. There will be at least four hours of synchronous learning for all students on each synchronous learning day.

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Students learn impact of drugs

Continued from Page 11

Nearly 15 percent of 12th graders surveyed said they had taken prescription pain medication without a doctor's prescription. For sixth graders, that number was 6 percent.

Nearly 24 percent of 12th graders had been offered, sold or given an illegal drug on school property. New survey data will be available in about a month, according to Mills.

After the presentations, Fluty talked to some of her classes to determine how impactful the event was for them. "The students thought it was relatable, the stories the paramedics shared were relatable. They shared stories about teenagers who had overdosed on painkillers. The speakers really talked to them and with them and not at them," she said. "They said they learned some new things about the effects of vaping and things they had not heard before."

The Mega Brain and Mega Lungs was also displayed at Snow Hill Middle School, Snow Hill High School, Pocomoke Middle School and on Friday, will be at Pocomoke High School.

Funding for the display was provided by Worcester Goes Purple with a grant from the Maryland Operation Opioid Command Center.

OPVFD walks and talks fire safety

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(March 2, 2023) Members of the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department hit the streets this week to talk to neighbors on Moby Dick Drive and Seafarer Lane after the deadly fire took the life of the home's sole occupant at the time, 62-year-old Timothy Cooper.

"We are here to answer questions. We want to help the neighbors understand what happened with the fire. We also want to make sure that every house has a working smoke detector," OPVFD Chief Steve Grunewald said.

"The [Feb. 21] fire is still under investigation by the Worcester County Fire Marshal's office," he said. "But we believe the fire originated in the laundry room, possibly the dryer." Smoke alarms were present in the house.

"Dryer maintenance is important. Check your lint traps and make sure your flue is free of lint once a month," Grunewald advised residents.

He also reminded residents not to park next to a fire hydrant. In the event of an emergency, it can add minutes to work around a vehicle to access water.

"It's also important to make sure you have a planned way out of your home," added Grunewald.

The fire department was on the site of the fire within three minutes of receiving the call. "We got water on the fire in less than five minutes," Grunewald said. "We don't know when the fire started compared to when we got the call. We kept it to the house of origin and pulled a line to protect the neighbor's house. This is what we train for."

"With all of these trees, we were very lucky. The fire department did an amazing job. Their quick response saved the houses around it," said neighbor Marylou Kogan.

Members of the OPVFD were handing out a fire safety checklist for homeowners as they went door to door in the neighborhood.



CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Worcester County Fire Marshal Matt Owens, Firefighter Rob Eicher and Captain Mike Mather canvas the neighborhood of the deadly fire at 116 Seafarer Lane in Ocean Pines to talk with neighbors about fire safety.

Three board members, Doug Parks, Rick Farr and Monica Rakowski joined the department representatives. "We want to make sure the fire department has all the resources it needs to be successful," Farr said.

"We are here to show support for the community and for the fire department," said Parks. "Our surveys always show that safety is a top priority for the community."

The fact sheet provided by the fire department included tips for caring for your clothes dryer.

See OPVFD Page 13

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Coast Guard offering boat safety classes at OP library

(March 2, 2023) The US Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering the Maryland Safe Boating Course at the Ocean Pines Library, March 7-9 from 6-9 p.m.

Certified instructors from the Ocean City Coast Guard Auxiliary will present this comprehensive class to all boaters. All the required material is covered along with time for questions.

The Maryland Boating Safety Education Act requires that anyone born after July 1, 1972 must possess a Maryland Basic Boating Safety Certificate to operate a boat in the state.

Those attending the class, and

passing the test will receive a Maryland Boating Certificate which is NAS-BLA approved and valid in all states.

A fee of \$20 covers the cost of the three-day course and materials.

Register or get more information by calling Barry Cohen at 410-935-4807, or email CGAUXOC@gmail.com.

The library is located at 1107 Cathell Rd., Berlin, Maryland 21811.

Checks should be made payable to: USGCAUX 12-05 and mailed to: USGCAUX 12-05, P.O. Box 1682, Berlin, Maryland 21811. Payment via PayPal is also accepted.

Health screenings offered in OP

(March 2, 2023) Residents living in and around the Ocean Pines area can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening on March 7.

The Ocean Pines Community Center, at 239 Ocean Parkway, will host this event.

Screenings can check for: the level of plaque buildup in arteries, related to risk for cardiovascular disease,

stroke and overall vascular health; HDL and LDL Cholesterol levels; diabetes risk; and kidney and thyroid function.

Screenings are affordable and convenient. Free parking is also available. Special package pricing starts at \$159, but consultants will work with attendees to create a package that is right for them based on age and risk factors.

Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

OPVFD canvases neighborhood

Continued from Page 12

Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.

Do not use the dryer without a lint filter. Clean the lint filter before and after each cycle.

Do not forget to clean the back of the dryer where lint can build up.

Check the venting system behind the dryer to make sure that it is not damaged, crushed or restricted.

Make sure that the outdoor vent covering opens when the dryer is operating.

According to the National Fire

Protection Association, dryer fires are responsible for seven deaths, 344 civilian injuries, and \$233 million in property damage annually.

The OPVFD also encourages people to have smoke alarms on every level of their home and inside and outside sleeping areas.

"Thankfully every house we visited had working detectors, however we handed out approximately 10 detectors to neighbors who met us while we were walking," said Joe Enste, OPVFD public information officer.



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County recording 'read' receipts for zoning

DRP to receive notice when relevant residents notified of upcoming public hearing

By Jack Chavez
Staff Writer

(March 2, 2023) Worcester County will now have certified confirmation every time a property owner receives notice of a zoning appeals case for an adjacent property.

In a 7-0 vote, the county commissioners confirmed on Feb. 21 the move that county officials hope gives the county an extra layer of protection in cases when residents must be notified when a project under review could affect their property.

The cost will be covered by the recipient of the notice.

In a presentation to the commissioners, Director of Development, Review and Permitting Jennifer Keener said that the typical process for such cases is to take out advertisements in local newspapers 15 days in advance and install a "bright orange sign" on the property itself that describes the case, the request and the date and time of the hearing. The county also sent notices via standard, first-class mail to this whose property touches the property in question is across the street from it or even

across a body of water from it.

"We tend to err on the side of caution if a property is just slightly off the boundaries," Keener said.

She added that in the last six months of 2022, her office sent "well over 400" such notifications. Depending on the case, there could be anywhere from three to 50 "adjoiners," she said.

"We don't get too many people complaining that they haven't received their mail," Keener said. "Anybody that we did get, they were notified, they've come to the hearing, they've seen (the notice) another way. My recommendation is to keep it the way it is with first-class mail. But I'm happy to do whatever."

Commissioner Jim Bunting, drawing on his experience on the Board of Zoning Appeals, said it wasn't uncommon for people to stand up at meetings and say they never received a notification.

Commissioner Eric Fiori asked what proof the county retains to document that it sent a notification, to which Keener said that her department keeps a form replete with contacted individuals and their information. Staff signs that affidavit and puts it on file.

Keener said her main concern with going with the certified mail option is

what the county does if a delivery isn't made, especially if a signature is required.

"A lot of us work during the day and to have somebody have to go to the post office to sign if they missed it or pick it up, that may cause additional delays or concerns that they didn't get the notification," she said.

Fiori said regardless, it's not fair to the adjoining property owner if they're unaware of a "major commercial or residential project" happening near them.

"I do think that should halt the public hearing on a development project," Fiori said. "I don't think that's fair if they didn't see it in a newspaper ... Electronic delivery confirmation would take the burden of proof that we mailed everything out, take it off an individual staff member and put it on the US Postal Service. I think that is a good practice moving forward."

Mitreic said he had no problem at all with the current system, but at every BZA meeting he's witnessed, "the first thing out of (every opponent's mouth) is that they didn't receive their notice."

"If you want to bring to a halt a hearing because somebody says (they didn't get a notice), we're going to

have planning and zoning meetings tied up for the next 50 years," he said. "Although I don't disagree with the certified mail, that's the way many of the towns in Sussex County do it, so I think it's probably the best way to move forward, but as far as people saying they don't know anything about it, that's usually the first thing they say."

"It's incumbent upon them to pay attention to what's going on. It's posted right next to them or across the street. They should know."

Community Brief

New hours

All branches of the Worcester County Library will open at 9 a.m. (Monday through Saturday) effective Monday, March 6.

Closing times vary by location. For a complete list of branches and library hours, visit WorcesterLibrary.org/branches.

Also, check out Facebook: Worcester County Maryland Library, Instagram: [worcesterlibrarymd](https://www.instagram.com/worcesterlibrarymd),

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Worcester County hosts job fairs March 9 and April 13

(March 2, 2023) Worcester County Human Resources will host job fairs in the Worcester County Government Center in Snow Hill from noon to 3 p.m. on March 9 and April 13.

Meet with professionals from human resources and other departments to discuss career options.

Computers will be available for job seekers to complete and submit applications onsite.

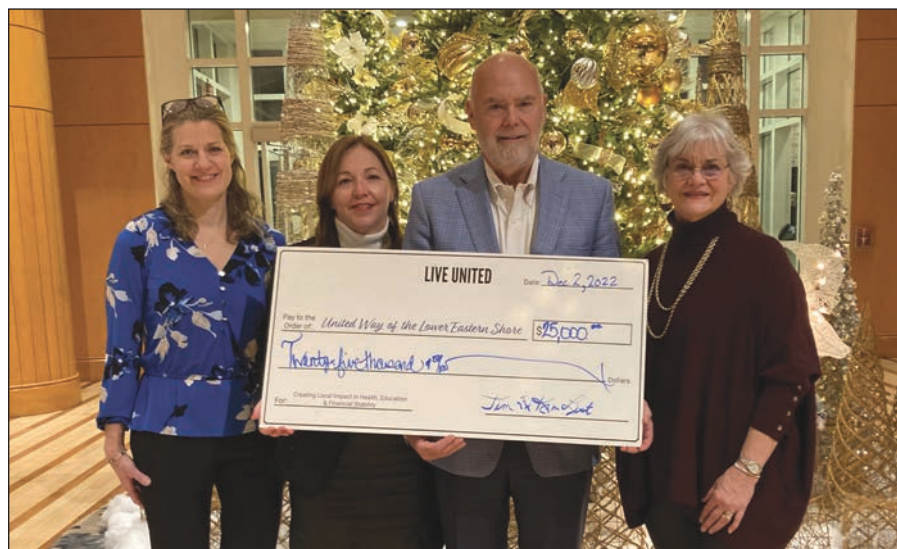
Those seeking rewarding work in a

welcoming, team-centered environment are invited to attend.

Worcester County Government offers full benefits for full-time employees, career advancement opportunities, and membership in the Maryland State Retirement System.

For a complete list of job opportunities, visit <https://worcesterhr.co.worcester.md.us/>.

For more information, contact Human Resources Specialist Ann Hankins at 410-632-0090.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore recently received \$25,000 for the 1944 Legacy Circle Fund in honor of Bill and Carolee List, given by his son and daughter-in-law, Jim and Kim List of Ocean City. Pictured, from left, are Pam Gregory, UWLES president and CEO; donors Kim and Jim List, and Cathie Thomas, UWLES Leadership & Planned Giving officer.

List family donates \$25K to United Way to honor parents

(March 2, 2023) United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore recently received \$25,000 for the 1944 Legacy Circle Fund in honor of Bill and Carolee List, given by his son and daughter-in-law, Jim and Kim List of Ocean City.

Bill and Carolee were active for many years in their community, sharing their time, talent and treasure.

Upon Bill's passing in the spring of 2022, the Lists chose to honor Jim's parents through a gift to support the future work of UWLES.

The 1944 Legacy Circle represents individuals who have committed to

ensuring the long-term vitality of United Way and the community it serves.

Each has made a gift or shared their intention of a planned gift to the organization through various estate options.

Through this program, supporters are able to contribute lasting gifts that will continue to help Lower Shore neighbors for years to come.

For more information on the 1944 Legacy Circle, visit uwles.org/PlannedGiving or contact Cathie Thomas at cathie@uwles.org.

Chorus performing concerts in area for nearly 40 years

(March 2, 2023) For almost 40 years, the Pine Tones Chorus has been a staple of Ocean Pines, staging at least two major concerts each year while also performing at area nursing homes and adult daycare facilities.

Since 1984, the Pine Tones have presented annual spring and Christmas concerts.

In 1999, the spring turnout was so large that several dozen people were turned away, and subsequent programs were moved to the Ocean Pines Community Church.

Annual Christmas concerts were moved to the Atlantic United Methodist Church in Ocean City.

The Pine Tones are led by co-directors June Todd and Jenny Anderson, with piano accompaniment provided by Anderson and her husband, Pete.

The full group includes more than 40 members, along with a series of musicians who help bolster the chorus with upright bass, trumpet, clarinet, flute, and drums.

See PINE Page 17

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Pine Tones Chorus looking for new members

Continued from Page 16

David Holloway, who joined the group in 2008 after retiring and moving from Pennsylvania, is the current president and Tom Hemmick is the publicity coordinator.

“Our programs are generally very diverse and feature some of the oldies and goodies, as sung by everyone from Sinatra to Mariah Carey,” Hemmick said.

The Pine Tones also covers The Beatles, Elvis, Nat King Cole, Frankie Valli, and Doris Day.

“Some of the most challenging music that we do comes from the old masters,” Hemmick said. “At the Christmas concert this year, we’ll have a song that’s very challenging by Mozart. And then we have done songs by more modern composers, like Andrew Lloyd Webber.”

The Pine Tones also do many smaller concerts each year in nursing homes and retirement centers.

Holloway said those visits are good tune-ups for the big concerts – and great community outreach for the Pine Tones organization.

“It’s good for them and it’s good for us,” he said. “Some of these places are a senior daycare center, and others are more like a nursing home. So, we have everything from people who are dressed to the nines and eating at tables with tablecloths, to the folks that are wheeled in on a bed, and hopefully they’re enjoying the music.”

The Pine Tones are always looking for new members, Hemmick said.

“We are looking for all voice parts, which are sopranos, altos, tenors and basses – and if a person doesn’t know what voice part they are singing, we will help them,” he said. “New members are usually paired off with more experienced members, which helps them learn all the new music and songs.”

Rehearsals for the spring concert



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

For almost 40 years, the Pine Tones Chorus has been a staple of Ocean Pines, staging at least two major concerts each year while also performing at area nursing homes and adult daycare facilities.

will start during the first week of March.

“We’re an older group and most members are north of 70, but we also have some younger people who don’t work on Thursdays, when we have our rehearsals at 1 p.m. in the community center,” Hemmick said. “If you’re interested in singing with us, please stop by or get in contact.”

Hemmick said a prior member celebrated his 100th birthday in 2012 – and then continued to sing for five more years.

“Even at that age, he sang a solo [in 2012],” Hemmick said, adding the solo happened to be a Gilbert and Sullivan song with 12 verses. “It was quite an event.”

Funding for the Pine Tones comes from sponsorships and donations from community members.

For information about the Pine Tones, including membership and sponsorship opportunities, contact Holloway at david.holloway1965@gmail.com.

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Snapshots



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PROCLAMATION

The commissioners presented a proclamation on Feb. 7 to Worcester County NAACP President Ivory Smith recognizing February as Black History Month. The commissioners also paid tribute to a number of historic figures whose contributions helped to shape Worcester County.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

CONFERENCE

Five members of the Republican Women of Worcester County Board attended a Maryland Federation of Republican Women Leadership Conference on Jan. 7, at the Renditions Golf Club in Davidsonville. Pictured, from left, are Sandy Zitzer, RWWC president; Gina Shaffer, legislative chair; Jean Delcher, treasurer; Carol Frazier, Campaign Activities chair; and Liz Mumford, first vice president.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

RING CEREMONY

The annual Junior Ring Ceremony took place at Worcester Preparatory School on Feb. 8. It is tradition that seniors present the juniors with their rings along with a few insightful comments as to why the recipient is special to them. Class of 2024 students standing with their alumni parents are Mason Williams and his mother, Meg ('90); Cole Campbell and his mother, Erika ('88); Leby Becker and her mother, Tara ('91), and Baylor Hoen with his father, Chris ('90).



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Senior Harrison Humes presented junior Carson Rayne with his class ring.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Displaying their new class rings, from left, are Hunter Simons, Luke Hopkins and Dylan Simons.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Senior Caitlyn Hoen presented her brother, Baylor, with his class ring. They are joined by their father, Chris, a 1990 WPS graduate.

Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

CELEBRATION

Worcester Prep's Lower School (PreK - Grade 5) celebrated Valentine's Day on Feb. 14, with parties, where students shared cards and treats with their classmates, or spent the time giving to a good cause. Worcester Prep's fifth grade class, along with the help of homeroom moms, Jenna Hoch and Kim Kappes, spent their Valentine's party building "Warrior Care Packages" by bundling infant blankets and books to be donated to Wyatt's Warriors Foundation, created in honor of Wyatt Mercer Shipe who was born with congenital heart defects. The foundation was created in Wyatt's memory to help families during a difficult time by providing comfort, support, education and encouragement. In doing so, "Warrior Care Packages" are provided to families who must leave local hospitals for infant care at larger specialized hospitals. For more information on Wyatt's Warriors Foundation, visit www.wyattswarriors.org. First graders participated in a nationwide Valentine's Exchange again this year.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Pictured are fourth graders Olivia Mason, Allen Martikyan and Allie Kuon.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Pictured is Camille Jenkin's fifth grade class.



OFFICERS

The Worcester County Garden Club's 2023-2025 officers were recently installed during a meeting and luncheon in the Clubhouse at the Ocean City Golf Club. Pictured, in front is Worcester County Garden Club President Suzy Young, and in back, from left, Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland District 1 Jeanne Bernard, First Vice President Joan LaHayne, Second Vice President Jan King, Recording Secretary Mary Ellen Jefferson, Corresponding Secretary Rebecca Galyon, Treasurer Martha Bennett, and Membership Ellen Howse.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Opinion

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

Back luxury model for Rt. 90 project

The State Highway Administration's Route 90 corridor planning and environmental study released last week makes for interesting reading ... for people who also get a kick out of reading food labels.

As writing goes, the content of the SHA's report is drier than a box of cereal, even though it does offer some insight into what the possibilities are for moving more traffic more quickly and safely.

But that's where this project and its proposed configurations remain — on the state's list of possibilities. Although Ocean City and Worcester County elected officials have told state highway officials that converting two-lane Route 90 to a four-lane highway is their number one priority, the project's official ranking on the state's list of things to do is "We'll get to it when we can."

That's denoted by the "TBD" — To Be Determined — assigned to the most critical phases of this project — right-of-way acquisition and construction — as listed in the SHA project schedule.

That's not to say the expansion of Route 90 and the construction of a new Assawoman Bay bridge won't happen at some point, but it does mean that motorists will have years to figure out the best way to navigate between Ocean Pines and Ocean City when the construction phase finally does arrive.

Since that's the case, residents, frequent out-of-town visitors and local officials have nothing to lose and everything to gain by getting behind the luxury model of highway-bridge reconfigurations should the state issue another call for public opinion.

Four lanes, new bridges, and pedestrian/cycling access all along the route would be the top-of-the-line model. It costs nothing to insist on the best, and given the amount of time that will elapse before these TBDs become actual dates, it's fair to say that anything, including good things, can happen.



"Your test results are in. You're going to need a bigger pill organizer"

Scholarship honors local educator

(March 2, 2023) A new scholarship honoring the late Worcester County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Francis Ruffo will benefit graduating seniors of Pocomoke, Snow Hill, and Stephen Decatur high schools.

The Dr. Francis A. Ruffo Memorial Scholarship Fund, held at the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, will be awarded annually to a Worcester County public school senior who is enrolled in a two- or four-year college and demonstrates good character and commitment to serving others.

"My dad always admired

anyone who put responsibility to family, country, and the welfare of others above their own



Dr. Francis Ruffo

personal gain," says Carri Ruffo-Miller. "This inspired him to dedicate his life to the service of others, and we are delighted to know that his legacy to service and education will continue through the scholarship fund."

Upon retirement from the United States Navy, Dr. Ruffo began a career in public education in the community.

He was a teacher, a counselor, a principal, and the Worcester County Superintendent of Schools.

"Dr. Ruffo was a compassionate leader who worked tirelessly to ensure students received an outstanding education," said Erica Joseph, Community Foundation president. "As a family of educators, the Ruffo family strongly believes the power of education can make the world a better place."

To learn more of to make a tax-deductible contribution to the fund visit CFES.org/donate and select the "Dr. Francis A. Ruffo Memorial Fund."

Arts Council supports county teachers

(March 2, 2023) The Worcester County Arts Council Board of Directors unanimously agreed on Feb. 15 to provide Worcester County Public Schools art, music, and theater teachers with one-year complimentary membership to the Worcester County Arts Council.

The Arts in Education program, sponsored by the arts council, emphasizes lifelong learning and supporting local arts programs and art educators

are one of the council's priorities.

"The impact of arts education is undeniable, and we applaud and appreciate our local arts teachers for inspiring and guiding our youth to become more expressive, forward-thinking, and creative," Anna Mullis, WCAC's executive director said.

Teachers will receive monthly newsletters and announcements, invitations to receptions and the annual arts celebration, discounts on pur-

chases at the WCAC's gallery, and the council's support in strengthening the arts in Worcester County.

"We are grateful for the support and collaborative partnership that we have with the arts council. They truly help enrich our community and have arts education as a priority. This is an exciting initiative," said Tamara Mills, Worcester County Public Schools Fine and Performing Arts coordinator.

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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Memorial Foundation show benefits education efforts

(March 2, 2023) The Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation will host an event on March 10 at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club to benefit its educational outreach programs.

The outreach programs sponsor annual field trips to the memorial for all fifth-grade students in Worcester County.

The foundation recently released a video about the memorial, its mission, and the educational program for students viewable online at: https://youtu.be/W_SbPKZDcYc. Each student also receives an activity booklet to take home, encouraging further discussions.

"This event will directly benefit our educational outreach programs," Veterans Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore said. "We feel this is one of the most important things that the foundation does, and that all children should realize the sacrifices that veterans have made to protect our freedoms."

Entertainer Tony Pace, previously named as the event headliner, announced this week that he would not participate.

"It is with profound sadness that

circumstances have forced me to withdraw from participating in the March 10 Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation fundraiser," he said. "The event is for the benefit of veterans and children's educational programs. The Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation's efforts are to be praised and worthy of your continued support. It is my hope and prayer that you all continue to support their cause, despite my absence."

Gilmore said another act, which she described as a "top-notch entertainer from Atlantic City," would fill in for Pace.

Doors open at 4:30 p.m. and a buffet dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. The show will start at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$70, and a cash bar will be provided.

Checks may be sent to WCVMF, PO Box 1576, Ocean Pines, Maryland 21811.

Tickets are limited. No tickets will be sold at the door. Single tickets are available, or tables of 10 can be purchased.

For more information call Sharyn O'Hare at 410-603-4777 or sharynop@gmail.com.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Worcester Preparatory School's first swim team made its debut on Feb. 10, at the inaugural Eastern Shore Independent Athletic Conference meet.

Worcester Prep's first swim team

(March 2, 2023) Worcester Preparatory School's first swim team made its debut on Feb. 10, at the inaugural Eastern Shore Independent Athletic Conference meet.

The school's team consists of senior Meeta Agarwal, sophomore Will Wells, freshmen Jude Damouni and Lena Parker, and eighth graders Gabriella Damouni, Bella Fernley, Mia Jaoude, Jacob Lev and Jack Wells.

Kristina Watts, who is in her first year teaching math at Worcester's middle school, has signed on to be the coach. Watts swam for 10 years in Baltimore County and four years at Salisbury University. She is currently the coach of the Decatur swim program. The plan is for her to coach both Decatur and Worcester next winter, if allowed.

Watts has coached swimming for 14 years for four different teams, consisting of all ages from 6 up to collegiate level, including high school teams that were conference champions, and swimmers who have placed top eight in the state throughout her career.

Winning there events during the Feb. 10 meet were: Gabi Damouni (100- and 200-yard freestyle), Jaoude (100-yard butterfly, 100-yard backstroke), Jude Damouni (200 freestyle) and Jack Wells (50

freestyle).

Jaoude, Agarwal, Damouni and Parker came in first place in the girls' 200-yard medley relay race.

The Wells, Lev and Damouni were victorious in the boys' 200-yard freestyle relay race.

The Worcester Prep boys' team

placed second and the girls' team finished third overall out of six schools participating.

It will be discussed during a meeting in April if swimming will become an official Eastern Shore Independent Athletic Conference varsity sport next winter.

OP administration building reopens after renovations

(March 2, 2023) The Ocean Pines Administration Building lobby reopened last Wednesday, after a renovation that included the installation of a new HVAC system, new flooring and a fresh coat of paint on every wall.

Assessment and Memberships Manager Ruth Ann Meyer supervised the project, with additional input from interior designer Tobie Jacobs. The work was done by Ocean Pines Public Works and outside contractors.

"Thanks to the Ocean Pines community, management and staff for their patience and understanding during the renovation. It was definitely a team effort, from vendors to staff," Meyer said. "Thanks to the Public Works crews for being available at a moment's notice for furniture moving, and to the Administration management and staff for their patience and support during the process."

"We hope everyone enjoys the fresh face we have put on the Administration Building. It was definitely a process, but I think it was well worth it in the end," Meyer added.

The Ocean Pines Administration Building is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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Cuisine

Suplee fascinated by 'mighty' Scotch Egg

I sat down to write about Scotch Eggs, but I have a brain that merrily jumps from one topic to another at a moment's notice.

I'm looking out my back window, glancing past my computer and looking at a stunning patch of bright green grass.

Nowhere else in my backyard is the grass

as green, nor does any of foliage come close to the splendor of this mightily lush grouping, especially this early.

And then I remember that this is where the septic tank overflowed after the pump went up last month.

Ah, yes, I remember that day well. I was in an online meeting with a gaggle of others from work, and I could not discern what my idiot dog was splashing around in.

Befuddled, I turned off video and went outside, discovering the ugly truth. I was not happy. Winston was thrilled.

Well, to say he was thrilled would be an understatement. He was enthralled with his new discovery.

Needless to say, I did not let him follow me inside and I had to sit through him barking incessantly for 45 minutes, as I waited for the meeting to end. Once it was over — and after my coworkers had their laughs — I put on a pair of surf trunks and promptly gave that mongrel the scrubbing of a lifetime. I then showered for an hour.

God, why do we own animals and keep them in our houses? Humans are the strangest of them all, I guess.

Well, at least I know that little area of the yard will grow well this summer. It is a sneak preview of spring, and now that we are a mere few weeks away, I'll take it, septic overflow, and all.

But, this is not why I brought you here today. No, I was thinking about a random trip to Busch Gardens years ago with my two youngest children. We went on a Labor Day Monday, which we expected would be one of the busier days. We were not further from correct, as the park was half-full at best.

Apparently, other parents actually care about having their children well-rested and prepared for school, but not me. A trip to an amusement park three and a half hours away sounded



like a much better way to send off summer.

We had a spectacular day, and as luck would have it, the previous foodservice provider in the park had this great tapas theme happening throughout the park, all for \$4-5.

In Italy, you could get a tiny meat and cheese board with olives. In Ireland, they had a Guinness Chocolate Mousse (my favorite). I can't remember what they had in England, but in Scotland they had the Scotch Egg.

The mighty Scotch Egg still holds a bit of fascination for me, as who in their right mind decided to deep fry breakfast? I'm not complaining, as I love them but — good lord — they can be decadent.

Served with a mustard sauce and some tossed greens, they make a perfect appetizer for a dinner party, and quite frankly, they could pass as a good hangover helper, so think brunch and you're golden.

So as you look out your window eating your Scotch Egg, hungover on a Sunday morning, raise a Bloody Mary in my honor, and try not to think of Winston splashing in questionable puddles. You're welcome.

Scotch Egg

serves 8

8 whole, fresh eggs
1 lb. Sweet or hot Italian sausage
1 c. AP Flour
1 c. Cornstarch
Salt & Pepper, as needed
3 whole eggs
1/2 c. Whole milk
4 c. Panko breadcrumbs, processed fine
Oil for frying

- Boil the eggs by placing them in cold water and placing on a high burner.

- When they come to a rolling boil, remove the pan from the heat and let sit for 11 minutes.

- Drain the water and cover with ice water to shock the eggs.

- Peel and pat dry.
- Divide sausage into 8 equal portions and press flat.

- Wrap each egg with an even layer of sausage, making sure that the sausage is sealed all the way around.
- Set up a breading station with three pie pans or similar containers.

- In the first you will put the flour, cornstarch and seasoning.

- In the second will go the milk and eggs, well-beaten.

- In the third will go the breadcrumbs.

- Dredge (lightly coat) an egg in the flour mixture, then transfer to the

eggwash.

- Coat the egg and transfer to the panko.

- Heat oil to 350F and fry the eggs until they are nice and toasty. I like the lower temperature since the egg can go longer, cooking the sausage and heating up the egg, which will end up with the cooked, firm egg yolk.

- Remove and allow them to cool for a bit, serving on greens with a little coarse mustard. You can also cook a simple mustard sauce with some white wine, cream and said coarse mustard as well. It goes well with this dish (recipe follows).

Mustard Sauce

makes about 1 cup

3/4 c. Duke's Mayonnaise
Juice of half a lemon

2 Tbsp. Coarse or Dijon mustard, your choice

Dash of favorite hot sauce
S&P. to taste

- Combine all ingredients well and allow to sit for at least an hour so everything can come together.

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

Calendar

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

Thurs., March 2

7TH ANNUAL OCEAN CITY FILM FESTIVAL OPENING NIGHT

Ocean City Performing Arts Center - Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 7 p.m. Featuring films with local interest such as "Hedgehog" and "The Biggest Little Farm: The Return." Followed by an Opening Night After Party at Seacrets. Featuring special \$10 walk-in tickets. 410-524-9433

7TH ANNUAL OCEAN CITY FILM FESTIVAL

Showcasing more than 70 independent films in multiple genres at various Ocean City locations, 12-11 p.m. For list of films, parties, Q&As and events: OCMDFilmFestival.com. 410-524-9433

CPAP MASK FITTING

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

STORY TIME: HAPPY BIRTHDAY DR. SEUSS!

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Celebrate Dr. Seuss with a story and a fun craft. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME 'BROWN BEAR, BROWN BEAR'

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

MERRY MAKERS: ORIGINAL VASES

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Make a vase out of cans or jars. Limit 10. Registration required: 410-208-4014. www.worcesterlibrary.org

CHESS CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Meet new friends and play some chess. Bring your boards. All are welcome. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

CHERRY BLOSSOM PAINTINGS

Snow Hill 50plus Center, 4767 Snow Hill Road, Snow Hill, 11 a.m. In honor of the National Cherry Blossom Festival held in Washington, DC the group will make cherry blossom paintings. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BOOK DISCUSSION: 'JUST AS I AM' BY CICELY TYSON AND MICHELLE BURFORD

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

the book are available at the library's front desk. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

SURVIVAL SPANISH: STUDENT EDITION: HOBBIES

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4 p.m. Join Miss Morgan for this introductory Spanish program. The group will be learning about hobbies. For ages 9-12 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ZUMBA

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., March 3

7TH ANNUAL OCEAN CITY FILM FESTIVAL

Showcasing more than 70 independent films in multiple genres at various Ocean City locations, 10 a.m.-11 p.m. For list of films, parties, Q&As and events: OCMDFilmFestival.com. 410-524-9433

BABY TIME

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Time just for you and your teeny tiny. Stay after to socialize with other families. For children younger than 2 years and their caregivers. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Community Church at Ocean Pines, 11227 Racetrack Road. The sanctuary will be open from noon to 1 p.m. All are welcome to come and pray for the world and our nation. 410-641-5433

HOBBIES CLUB: SCRAPBOOKING

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1 p.m. Preserve your memories with this new hobby. Bring in your favorite photos and get help with the rest. For ages 6 years and older. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

FREE FIRST FRIDAY ART OPENING

Ocean City Center for the Arts - Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 5-7 p.m. The show explores the theme of "What makes people smile about Ocean City." Satellite openings at the Coffee Beanery, 94th Street and Princess Royale lobby, 91st Street. OCart.org, 410-524-9433

REPUBLICAN WOMEN OF WORCESTER COUNTY MEET & GREET HAPPY HOUR

Fager's Island, 201 60th St., Ocean City, 5-7 p.m. Come meet and socialize with other Republicans and bring a friend. All are welcome. Cash bar.

Sat., March 4

7TH ANNUAL OCEAN CITY FILM FESTIVAL

Showcasing more than 70 independent films in multiple genres at various Ocean City locations, 8 a.m.-11 p.m. For list of films, parties, Q&As and events: OCMDFilmFestival.com. 410-524-9433

SPORTS DAY AT THE BEACH - SPORTS CARDS & MEMORABILIA SHOW

Westside Rt. 50 Shopping Center (next to Hooper's Crab House), 12913 Ocean Gateway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Buy, sell and trade. Silent auction, raffles, 50/50, mystery boxes. Admission donation: \$5 for adults, \$2 for those 9 years and younger. To purchase table space: 443-978-0680, littletonwayne@yahoo.com.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Ocean Pines Community Center - Asateague Room, 235 Ocean Parkway, 8-11 a.m. Cost is \$9, children under 4 years eat free. Tickets available from any local Kiwanian or pay at the door. Take out available. www.kiwanisofopoc.org

TINKER TIME: LEPRECHAUN TRAPS

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Drop in anytime to build a leprechaun trap. Supplies provided. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

GENEALOGY HELP

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10 a.m.-noon. Need help in finding your roots? The Local History Librarian will be on hand to help. By appointment only: 410-632-3495. www.worcesterlibrary.org

FIRST SATURDAY WRITERS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10 a.m. Novice and established writers gather to share their works. Structure includes critiques and appreciation, market leads and writing exercises. Drop ins welcome. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT FRIED CHICKEN BUFFET

Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, 36540 Mount Pleasant Road, Willards, 11 a.m. Vegetables, beverages and dessert included. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for children and free to those 5 years and younger. Carry outs and bake table available. 410-835-8340

PROJECT T(W)EEN: VIDEO GAME DAY: OLD

SCHOOL V. NEW SCHOOL

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Come join the group for a battle of the systems. From Nintendo 64 to the Nintendo Switch, which will you like best. For ages 11 years and older. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

'UNTOLD STORIES - CHRONICLING OUR DELMARVA HISTORY' OPENING RECEPTION

Germantown School Community Heritage Center, 10223 Trappe Road, Berlin, 1-4 p.m. Patrick Henry presents a curated cross-section of his historical photographs. Dating from the late 19th into the 20th century. germantown-school@gmail.com, 443-235-9803, 410-641-6038

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

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

Sun., March 5

7TH ANNUAL OCEAN CITY FILM FESTIVAL

Showcasing more than 70 independent films in multiple genres at various Ocean City locations, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. For list of films, parties, Q&As and events: OCMDFilmFestival.com. 410-524-9433

RANDY'S CREW BLUES & BBQ FUNDRAISER

28th St. Pit-N'-Pub, 2706 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 1-4 p.m. All-you-can-eat buffet including pork BBQ, ribs, fried chicken and more. Cost is \$15 at the door. Plus happy hour prices, mystery boxes, silent auction, raffles and more. Wayne Littleton, 443-978-0680

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

Mon., March 6

STORY TIME 'WEATHER'

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Crafts, songs and stories about different types of weather. For ages 2-5 years. 410-524-1818, 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 Garden of Forking Paths" by Jorge Luis Borges. This group meets twice a month to discuss classic and modern selections.

Continued on Page 27

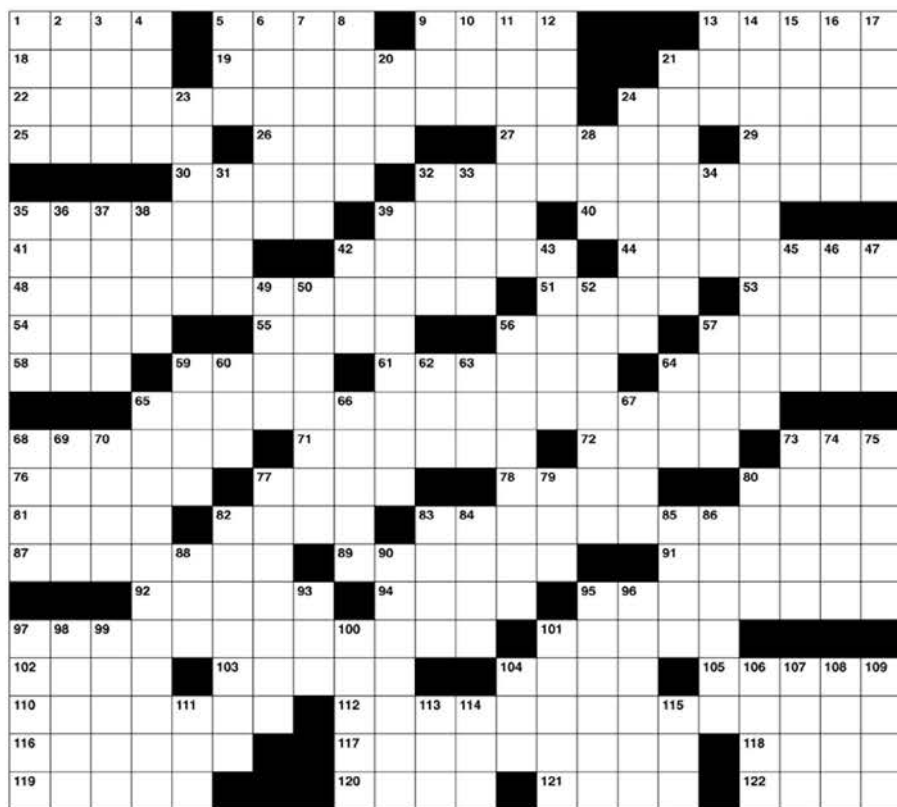
Puzzles

SIMILE IRRESISTIBLE

BY REBECCA GOLDSTEIN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Rebecca Goldstein, of Albany, Calif., is a research scientist at Merck, developing cancer immunotherapies. An avid crossword solver (typically six to 10 puzzles a day), she started constructing in 2020 at her wife's suggestion. Her puzzles have appeared in The New Yorker, The Wall Street Journal, USA Today, The Los Angeles Times and elsewhere. This is her sixth (and first Sunday) for us. Rebecca is excited to debut the modern coinage at 39-Down. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Gas light
 - 5 Spa garment
 - 9 Hebrew word for "spring"
 - 13 Ideal course
 - 18 Chow chow chow
 - 19 Presidential "pet" that sprouts an Afro
 - 21 Challah braids, e.g.
 - 22 Bus?
 - 24 Bowlers
 - 25 Ingredient in un cortado
 - 26 ___ across the board (perfect score)
 - 27 Subatomic particles
 - 29 Antiquated, quaintly
 - 30 Looks to pick things up
 - 32 Photosynthesize?
 - 35 Some classic Chuck Taylor All Stars
 - 39 Little Energizers, say
 - 40 Replay tech.
 - 41 United
 - 42 Volunteer
 - 44 Gift for a budding myrmecologist
 - 48 Peel?
 - 51 Garments often seen at royal weddings
 - 53 Stead
 - 54 Secondhand
 - 55 "American Greed" network
 - 56 "Jump" duo ___ Kross
- DOWN**
- 57 Finales
 - 58 Disposable sock in a shoe store
 - 59 Frame of mind
 - 61 Abhor
 - 64 Words stealthily mouthed to a friend while stuck in a boring conversation
 - 65 Photoshop?
 - 68 Olympic snowboarding event
 - 71 Family-style meal with simmering broth
 - 72 Frolic
 - 73 Intelligence org.
 - 76 Stinks
 - 77 Actress Ward
 - 78 Kristen of "Barb and Star Go to Vista Del Mar"
 - 80 Mama pigs
 - 81 Full house, in poker slang
 - 82 Exquisitely made basket
 - 83 Sting?
 - 87 Olympic runner ___ Felix
 - 89 Takes an oath
 - 91 Role on "Seinfeld"
 - 92 Onetime Turkish title
 - 94 "What's the ___?"
 - 95 Aggressively enterprising sort
 - 97 Iron?
 - 101 2006 mockumentary with a 2020 "Subsequent Moviefilm"
 - 102 ___ Alto
 - 103 Multiple-choice choice
 - 104 Drudge
 - 105 It's-time connector
 - 110 Tickler's targets
 - 112 Quenched?
 - 116 Soaks in hot water
 - 117 Wear white to a chili cook-off, you might say
 - 118 Marathon segment
 - 119 Setting for ultra close-up photos
 - 120 For two, musically
 - 121 Crock-Pot creation
 - 122 Collared-shirt accessory
 - 17 Tushies
 - 20 Yiddish laments
 - 21 Teachers' teachings
 - 23 Took five
 - 24 23andMe facilities
 - 28 Ending with clip or slip
 - 31 "Today" co-host Kotb
 - 32 Chutzpah
 - 33 Commuter option
 - 34 Big Ben hrs.
 - 35 Hosts, as at a penthouse
 - 36 "Can't win 'em all"
 - 37 Affixed in a scrapbook, say
 - 38 Posterior
 - 39 Evidence derived from personal experience and observation rather than systematic research and analysis
 - 42 Recede
 - 43 Ankle bones
 - 45 Help around the House
 - 46 Paper purchase
 - 47 Think out loud
 - 49 Subject of Queen Mary
 - 50 Phrase that may be repeated in a long story
 - 52 Course for an English major, informally
 - 56 Stayed toasty
 - 57 Kvetch
 - 59 Scans that may involve dye injections, in brief
 - 60 Anthem contraction
 - 62 Pseudoscientific ability, for short
 - 63 Terence who's known as the "Mozart of Mathematics"
 - 64 Total
 - 65 One who's no fun at all
 - 66 Breakfast centers?
 - 67 Ancient Roman formal wear
 - 68 Tea served with a jumbo straw
 - 69 Golden calf, for one
 - 70 Hockey score
 - 73 Pitch-perfect?
 - 74 Pigs
 - 75 "___ my last email ..."
 - 77 Shade providers
 - 79 "Where's My Refund?" org.
 - 80 Whack
 - 82 Down B-52s, say
 - 83 Close tightly
 - 84 Signifying symbol
 - 85 Company that created a Sonic boom?
 - 86 Handle at the bar
 - 88 Succeeded at musical chairs
 - 90 Imagine ___ Peace (Ben & Jerry's flavor)
 - 93 Campfire remnant
 - 95 Skilled in
 - 96 Elaborately decorated
 - 97 Muscle contraction
 - 98 Kauffman who co-created "Friends"
 - 99 Ancient Mesoamerican civilization
 - 100 Places for some piercings
 - 101 Objections
 - 104 Winter setting in S.F.
 - 106 Tushies
 - 107 "Dealing with that right now!"
 - 108 Campus with the ZIP code 90095
 - 109 Place to swim or play b-ball
 - 111 Stock launch, in brief
 - 113 Image on Australia's coat of arms
 - 114 Donkey Kong, for one
 - 115 Make final, with "up"



- 62 Pseudoscientific ability, for short
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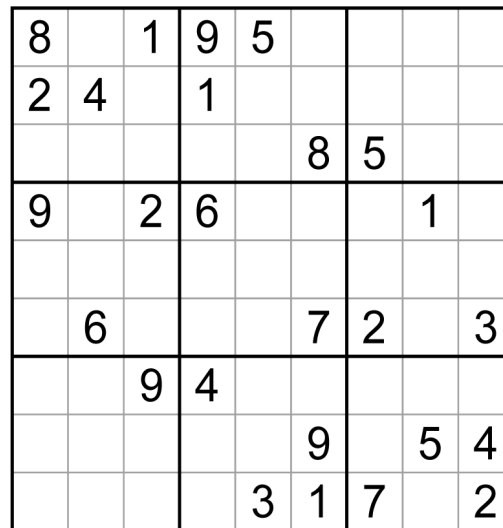
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(Located on Rt. 113 - 1 min. North of Racetrack Road)

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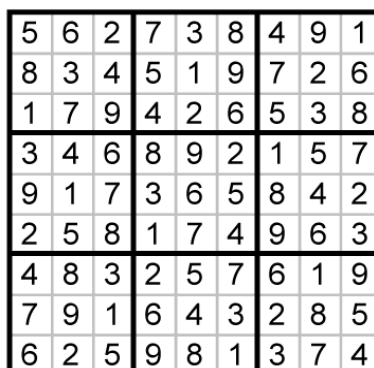
© Puzzles by Pappocom

HARD - 1

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





SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SUPPLY RUN

The Ocean City Jeep Club held its seventh annual Worcester County Animal Shelter Supply Run with over 57 Jeeps in attendance. The group is pictured on Feb. 18 in front of the Worcester County Humane Society, a no-kill shelter in Berlin.

Calendar

Continued from Page 25
410-208-4014,
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

UNCOOKING CLUB

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5 p.m. No cooking required. Bring your favorite recipe to share with the group. The class will focus on appetizers and snacks. 410-632-3495, 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., March 7

STORY TIME 'DR. SEUSS'

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

STORY TIME: DOCTORS AND DENTISTS

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and crafts. For ages 2-5 years. 410-957-0878. www.worcesterlibrary.org

OC KNITTING GROUP

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30

a.m. Bring whatever project you happen to be working on. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

MASTER GARDENER PLANT CLINIC

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Master Gardener Ginny Rosenkranz talks about all things plants. Bring any questions and feel free to show your plants as well. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BABY TIME

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 11 a.m. Songs, rhymes and stories. Stay after to socialize with other families. For ages 2 years and younger. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

MUSIC FROM THE ACADEMY AWARDS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Notes on the Beach plays some of the music written for the movie industry, featuring winners and nominees of the Oscar. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ANIME & MANGA CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 3 p.m. Introducing the new anime and manga club. Monthly themes will include trivia games, Japanese snacks and art exploration. For ages 13-16 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ACT SIP AND SCIENCE SERIES - DISCOVERING DIFFERENT USES OF FUNGI FOR CLEAN WATER

Assateague Coastal Trust, 10959 Worcester Highway, Berlin, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Matthew Harhai, owner/mushroom master of Goat Plum Tree Farm will lead the workshop. Light fare and wild spritzer drink provided. BYOB. Cost is \$25. Debbi Dean, 443-856-9309, out-

reach@actforbays.org

SONGWRITERS WORKSHOP

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 6 p.m. All genres welcome. Present works in progress or talk through composition issues with other songwriters. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

MARYLAND SAFE BOATING COURSE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 6-9 p.m. Classes to be held March 7, 8 and 9. Cost is \$20. Register: Barry Cohen, 410-935-4807, CGAUXOC@gmail.com.

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.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

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

OC KNITTING CLUB

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

ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE

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

Wed., March 8

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

Held via Zoom on the first and second Wednesday of each month for non-surgical patients. Atlantic General Bariatrics Center, 410-641-9568

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 from the Register of Wills office in Snow Hill. New members welcome. Bob McCluskey, 410-250-0980

UPCYCLED CONTAINERS: SEED STARTING

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Learn how to start seeds indoors for your own vegetable garden. Take home a few seed packets from the library's Seed Library. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org.

POLLINATORS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. The Lower Shore Land Trust will talk to the group about the benefits of creating gardens that attract pollinators. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

CHARITY BINGO

The Sterling Tavern, 119 N. Main St., Berlin, 6 p.m. Theme is Gilligan's Island. Bingo cards \$2/5 games, prizes for each game and a 50/50 raffle. Support Assateague Coastal Trust. Debbi Dean, 443-856-9309, outreach@actforbays.org

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.kiwanisofpoc.org

CLASSIFIED Marketplace

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

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



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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

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UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

University of Maryland Extension seeks

4-H Program Assistant

This position works under the direction of the 4-H Educator to support the Worcester County 4-H Educator with various programming efforts including 4-H outreach within the after-school and in-school settings, as well as community outreach programs and club development. This position will work within the office, schools, community events and outside locations. High School Diploma or GED AND five years experience performing a variety of duties in support of the teaching, demonstration, and advising work of Extension agents or in community outreach, health care, research, or social services programs.

All candidates MUST apply online. See the detailed position announcement at <https://ejobs.umd.edu> for position #128153.

Base salary of \$37,418.

The University of Maryland offers an extensive benefits package, more information regarding employee benefits can be found by visiting <https://uhr.umd.edu/benefits/>.

Apply by March 10, 2023. EOE



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.

Assateague Pointe Gate Attendant

Tuesday & Wednesday, 1 a.m. to 9 a.m., year-round, part-time, Berlin, MD
410-641-1671

Barn 34 Hiring All Positions

Apply in person Wed. & Thurs. between 9am - 12pm
3400 Coastal Hwy.

The Spinnaker, Now Hiring **Day Shift Maintenance Assistant/Houseman.**
Apply in person Monday-Friday, 10am-3pm. 1800 Baltimore Avenue, Ocean City.

Small Engine Mechanic.

Year-round. Competitive wages.
443-754-1047

PAPA JOHN'S MANAGERS, DRIVERS INSIDERS
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www.delmarvadd.com



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- Room Attendants
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- Laundry
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E-mail resumes to terry.luzius@jameshospitality.com or stop by and complete an application at our Executive Offices located at:

Coastal Palms Hotel, 12004 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Maryland 21842

James Hospitality is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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Email Resume:
molarbiz@yahoo.com

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ENGLISH TEACHER

Worcester Preparatory School is located in beautiful Berlin, on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The school is an independent, coeducational college preparatory day school serving over 500 students in grades PK -12. We are seeking an experienced and motivated Upper School English Teacher for the 2023-2024 school year.

This vibrant individual will have a strong education background and be capable of teaching the highest levels of high school English. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college with a major in English, successful classroom experience, and the ability to participate in other areas of school life are requirements for this position. Advanced Placement experience and advanced degree would be desirable.

Interested candidates should mail or email resume with cover letter to: **Linda Watson, Director of Human Resources**, 508 South Main Street, Berlin, MD 21811 or lwatson@worcesterprep.org



Worcester Preparatory School seeks an experienced

FULL-TIME UPPER SCHOOL MATH TEACHER

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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