



PHOTO COURTESY RYAN NELLANS

Camp Coast won the coveted Turner Trophy at this year's Bathtub Races in Berlin. Aaron Goddard, the steerer, holds the trophy. Derek Jarmon, the powerful pusher, stands to the left of him. To their left are Jesse Turner's wife, Agnes Turner and her son Alfonzo Henry, who came to town to present the Turner Trophy. The Camp Coast crew joined in the victory.

Bathtub races pack bale-lined Main St.

Camp Coast team emerges undefeated in competition for downtown racing glory

By **Cindy Hoffman**
Staff Writer

(June 15, 2023) Hundreds of people lined the streets to watch the 33rd Berlin Bathtub Races last Friday, and were treated to a series of flawless runs by this year's championship team, Camp Coast.

The festivities began with the traditional parade, which was led by Mike Wiley in the uniform bathrobe and shower cap he has donned as a

grand marshal of the parade for 12 years.

Bagpipes tune, soaring Frisbees and flying candy filled the air as the procession made its way down Main Street. Tutu-clad volunteers worked the crowd selling rubber ducks for the raffle.

While 19 teams originally signed up for the race, 13 teams vied for the coveted Turner Trophy. Four teams were stars of the day: Sheppard Realty, with their Viking attire; Berlin Electric with their Mario Brothers outfits; and Otten Delights, with their young and muscular pusher. But the unbeatable

See CAMP Page 10



PHOTO COURTESY SARA GORFINKEL

The mother-son Sheppard Realty team of Gussie Sholtis and Kyle Hill hammed it up with their chariot-inspired costumes.

School bd. inflicts cuts on budget

Administration slices, dices in effort to honor pay deals

By **Jack Chavez**
Staff Writer

(June 15, 2023) It's already a safe assumption that the sun won't shine on the faces of the Class of 2024 when they walk across the stages to receive their diplomas nearly a full year from now.

Instead, they will do so indoors after the Worcester County Board of Education cut outdoor festivities for the rising seniors, along with several other items, following a board meeting last

"Not all kids can learn in a six-and-a-half-hour day in 180 days."

Jon Andes

week that saw the school system begin to close the \$4.5-million shortfall with which the county commissioners' maintenance-of-effort vote left them.

The eliminations included locally funded tutoring programs; afterschool and 2024 summer academies at Ocean City and Showell elementary schools, Berlin Intermediate School and Stephen Decatur Middle School; the Haven House after-school program at Snow Hill Elementary School; and the 2023 Opening Kick-Off event for faculty and staff."

The board also reduced funding by 50 percent for instructional supply and materials of instruction allotments for all schools, local funding for special education materials of instruction, field trips and translation costs for after-school and summer academies.

It reduced instruction support supplies, administration supplies and travel at the WCPS central office by 25 percent and reduced the matching funds for the Maryland LEADS grant.

Those cuts aren't the end, either, as

See SCHOOL Page 2



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PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION VIA FACEBOOK

A group of Stephen Decatur High School staff members pose for a photo while dressed in black on June 9 in protest of the County Commissioners' vote days earlier to only fund the board of education's fiscal 2024 at the level granted last year, leaving a nearly \$4.5 million shortfall.

School officials scramble to meet terms of contract

Continued from Page 1
board President Todd Ferrante alluded to the fact that the school system will reenter into negotiations with the Worcester County Teachers Association, the Worcester County Bus Contractors Association and the Worcester County Educational Support Staff Association.

Though board negotiators haven't yet sat down with any of the parties, it's already clear that the school system likely won't be able to afford the 4 percent and 4.5 percent raises it told teachers, bus contractors and support staff they would receive earlier this year.

"We think all of our people deserve every bit of the raises promised in those original negotiated agreements, but to balance our budget, we have tough decisions ahead of us," Ferrante said.

Ferrante added that changes might still be made after renegotiations, but the board needed to have a framework for the county by Tuesday.

At the meeting, board member Jon Andres summed up the impact the decisions will have on Worcester County

See TEACHERS Page 10

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Board candidates introduce themselves, their priorities

(June 16, 2023) Members of the Ocean Pines Elections Committee asked the four candidates in the 2023 Ocean Pines Board election to submit a brief statement introducing themselves to voters, and to answer three questions created by the board.

Below is the information each candidate presented to the board, in ballot order. Candidate submissions were not edited for grammar or punctuation.

John Latham

I have been a homeowner in Ocean Pines since 2013. In 2021, my wife and I decided to make Ocean Pines our full-time residence as we love everything about the community. I am from Pasadena, MD. I have been a volunteer for 20+ years and knew I wanted to continue my passion for service in my community. I am the current President of the Marina Village Condominium Association where I focus on safety, aesthetics and value of our properties.

I also serve on the OPA Marine Activities Advisory Committee and assisted in recommending the upgrades at the Mumford's boat ramp last year which resulted in much needed improvements to the ramp pier.

If elected, my goal will be to help make our community even better. I will use my business background in leadership, communications, and financial acumen to help drive the decisions on important issues that are in the best interest of the Ocean Pines community.

I served in the United States Marine Corps Reserve and have a B.S. and M.S. in Business Management Studies from the University of Maryland, University College. Currently, I serve as Vice President at Corcentric, LLC, a Procurement and Financial Automation Consulting Company.

Questions:

1. What do you think are the most significant issues facing the Association in the next 2 or 3 years and what solutions would you offer?

I believe some of the most significant issues that OPA will face in the next couple years are:

Making sure that we stay aligned with our 5-year strategic plan that includes maintenance of our infrastructure and appearance (roads, drainage, bulkheads, DMA Reserve plan). I would support the current plan as I have spent quite a bit of time reviewing the plans for each of these areas. I believe we are heading in the right direction. I would not want to see the community delay these projects that are so important to our future.

I want to see OPA continue the trend with our financial condition as the last three years have been positive and we have had the opportunity to lower our assessments. It's important to our community and was identified as being important to our homeowners in our recent community survey. Continuing to listen to the owners will be paramount.

We need to stay close to decisions that surround our community (route 90 dualization/ traffic on 589). They both could have significant impact on our community.

Safety is important to our community, and we need to continue to support police and fire/EMS.

2. Outsourcing of our three Food and Beverage operations has been successful. Do you see other areas in which outsourcing might be appropriate?

I have been living in Ocean Pines for over 10 years and I have seen many changes in our food and beverage operations through the years. I believe it was the right decision to outsource an operation where OPA does not have a core competency and expertise to operate.

Our GM does a great job assessing our operations and determines whether to use overtime with current staff, or bring in outside contractors when we have capacity issues. Areas where we are already utilizing outsourcing service are legal services, payroll administration, newsletter and catalog printing and bulkhead repair/replacement. I believe that outsourcing is the right decision for those areas.

From a Public Works/General Maintenance (roads, drainage and maintenance) standpoint as they have a larger team of employees (FTE'S) and account for a higher portion of the budget, they use outsourced contractors as needed. Landscaping and pool maintenance could be potential areas to evaluate for outsourcing if we are not doing that already. I do believe that we should continue to periodically evaluate our expenses to make sure we are fully leveraging expense line items at least on an annual basis.

3. Boards must make difficult decisions. How will you address differences of opinions between Board members?

I would characterize myself as a strong collaborator. I believe that much can be accomplished by a team when everyone treats each other in a professional manner, and they remain civil to one another. Whenever groups of people come together to come up with solutions, there are always different opinions. I believe different backgrounds and expertise levels are good and can help to create

See CANDIDATE Page 4

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Candidate questions answered

Continued from Page 3

a healthy and productive Board of Directors. My consulting background has required me to work with many different and diverse companies and stakeholders to help drive towards a decision that is in the best interest of the business. I will take a similar approach and make sure everyone is allowed to provide input and respect the opinion of others. Ultimately, the Board works for the community, and we really need to continue making sure that we are listening and driving towards the overall improvement of our community. I would also want to make sure the Board fully utilizes feedback from the committees for decision making. There is an enormous amount of subject matter expertise that resides within the committees, and they all work extremely hard.

Jerry Murphy

Thank you for this opportunity to be of service to Ocean Pines, our unique and sought after community!



Jerry Murphy

My name is Jerry Murphy, a native of Baltimore and a Mt. St. Joseph graduate. I first arrived in Ocean Pines in the mid 1970's, as a builder of several distinctive Round Houses that still exist today. I later became the General Manager of the McDonalds in Berlin and Ocean City, next becoming an owner of a successful packaging supply company, now currently a realtor with Long and Foster.

My family purchased the Boise Cascade Sales Office, located on Widows Watch Court, which has since been reconstructed. I took sole possession of the house in 1990, where I still reside.

I would like to serve the community that has been such an integral part of my life. Having gratefully served on a Board of Directors in the Baltimore area, I would like to share this experience with the Ocean Pines community. My ability to debate, listen, remain calm and fair would be an asset to our Board and Community.

Questions:

1. *What do you think are the most significant issues facing the Association in the next 2 or 3 years and what solutions would you offer?*

The issues that appear to be of most concern currently, are drainage and bulkheads. While some recent improvements are underway, there is still work and decisions to be made. I would suggest a plan that would take into consideration the environmental and conservation challenges we face today. Safety of the Community, Police Recruitment and The Southside Fire Station Development are issues that must stay on the front burner for funding, both public and private.

2. *Outsourcing of our three Food and Beverage operations has been successful. Do you see other areas in which outsourcing might be appropriate?*

Regarding outsourcing, I feel that the current path that the Board/ Association is taking with the food and

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Potential bidders are encouraged to attend the Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting which will be held on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at Berlin Town Hall, 10 William Street, Berlin, Maryland.

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Priorities outlined by candidates

beverage contracts are very good. They are the best that Ocean Pines have had to this date...exceeding all expectations, with profits and participation at an all time high. At this time, I do not see a need for any additional outsourcing. However, I would defer to our general manager, John Viola and the various committees, to suggest any areas that outsourcing might be needed.

3. *Boards must make difficult decisions. How will you address differences of opinions between Board members?*

Understandably, not all members of the Board will agree all of the time. When different opinions arise, I will listen, weigh all options, and measure the risk versus the rewards. I will vote according to my best vision, educational background and experience.

Elaine Brady

I became familiar with Ocean Pines when my parents purchased a lot in the 70s, retiring here in 1991. Over those years I watched the community grow into a place I wished to live, and I purchased my home here in 2002.



Elaine Brady

My father served on the OPA Board in the 1990s, and with many others had the opportunity to work closely with the developer and county to provide amenities and services needed for a growing community, which we all enjoy today.

The board's role now is to ensure we maintain our beautiful community and its amenities, keep our community safe by supporting our Police and Fire Departments, protect our property values, and follow the association's governing documents.

With over 8400 property owners I recognize there will always be differing priorities and opinions. I will listen to community members and thoughtfully make decisions on the issues at hand in order to wisely spend your money.

Serving on a variety of Ocean Pines committees, along with being the former owner/publisher of the Bayside Gazette gave me the opportunity to connect to the community. I'm now retired and would love to continue focusing on our wonderful community by serving on the board.

Questions:

1. *What do you think are the most significant issues facing the Association in the next 2 or 3 years and what solutions would you offer?*

Our community is now 55 years old and there is a need to expedite the process of run-down properties to protect property values. Neighborhoods which have a secondary HOA have managed to do so with fines. Reasonably enacted, it could help to

resolve issues with unkempt properties after warnings are ignored, along with encouraging owners to address needed repairs in a timelier manner.

The Beach Club, which is one of our oldest most valuable assets, is in need of a renovation and to be brought up to current ADA accessible standards so all of our property owners can enjoy this wonderful amenity.

Drainage will always be an ongoing issue and we should continue to look for grants through local environmental partners who can help mitigate drainage problems, along with erosion to our shorelines, as we have with the Bainbridge and Jenkins Point projects.

Keeping our community safe by supporting the needs of our Police and Fire Departments.

Working with our county and state representatives for essential needs, including a cell tower capable of providing reliable cell service to areas in the 'dead zone', and ramping up improvements to Rt. 589 as commercial growth continues to expand along that corridor.

2. *Outsourcing of our three Food and Beverage operations has been successful. Do you see other areas in which outsourcing might be appropriate?*

Outsourcing our Food and Beverage operations certainly proved with the right local management group those facilities could be turned around in a big way. We are fortunate to be located in an area where hospitality is the main industry, making it fairly easy to find a local company who could take on that task to great success.

In our other major revenue generating operations of aquatics and golf there are few local resources with the expertise and manpower needed. An earlier attempt to bring in an out-of-area management group for golf did not go well, and there are few local resources to handle our pools, so I don't see an opportunity at this time.

Currently the General Manager determines when he and his management team feel the need for outsourcing special projects and interim labor shortages. The board can, and should, at any time consider a recommendation by the General Manager for permanent outsourcing for any department due to continued labor shortages that may greatly impact the community, or one that will provide a positive cost/benefit opportunity for the association.

3. *Boards must make difficult decisions. How will you address differences of opinions between Board members?*

Making difficult decisions is made easier by listening to a variety of viewpoints, suggestions and opinions, as there are rarely perfection solutions to all issues.

See CANDIDATES Page 6

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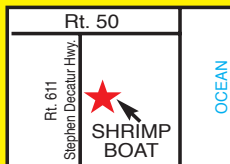
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Candidates make priorities clear through their answers

Continued from Page 5

I tend to be direct, as I believe a healthy and respectful discussion is the best way to arrive at a practical and well-reasoned result. There will always be times in which any board member may be more passionate about something than others, and listening respectfully to the opinions of others allows everyone to be heard and have their viewpoint considered. In the process of constructive debate most of us can learn something we may not have thought about, and even realize there may be a better solution than our own to a sticky problem.

Debates on issues are not meant to be personal. Everyone should feel comfortable in expressing their ideas and opinions, and strive to agree to disagree in a civil manner..... and then even enjoy getting together amicably with each other later for a cocktail. Respect and civility can go a long way in providing a productive board and a community which is content feeling sound decisions are being made.

Jeffrey Heavner

My name is Jeff Heavner and I encourage all to cast your vote and consider me as one of your choices. I recently retired from a 31-year career at ExxonMobil in a wide variety of challenging leadership roles. I spent the last 4-years as a member of an 8-person leadership team that safely and successfully directed a \$3 billion lubricants business with an expense budget of \$250 million.

My wife and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary and have 2 daughters. I graduated from the US Naval Academy and honorably served our great country on the USS Midway, CV-41, homeported in Japan as an intelligence officer for fighter squadron, VF-151, and then as an instructor at the Navy and Marine Corps Intelligence Training Center in Virginia.

I have been successful by establishing a safety culture, casting a wide collaboration net and valuing the per-

spective of others, planning and setting goals and working as a team to make good decisions. I will use my proven leadership behaviors and broad experiences to help keep our team's collective direction aligned to execute a plan ensuring we all continue to enjoy the lifestyle and property values where we have chosen to live.

Questions:

1. *What do you think are the most significant issues facing the Association in the next 2 or 3 years and what solutions would you offer?*

Ocean Pines is a vibrant community that competes with the best. I call it the "Land of Pleasant Living." The association will always have significant internal and external issues to face to continuously improve our infrastructure (police, fire, roads, bulkheads), amenities, marketing and public relations, public works, and recreation and parks. Improvement is vital to lead this community forward into the next 50-years. Issues like police staffing, aging fire trucks, aging beach club, community aesthetics, road projects outside of the Pines. The list is continuing and is long.

The cornerstone of my success at ExxonMobil was leading departments forward by focusing on the execution of both yearly and longer-range strategic plans. The plans identified the significant issues and their solutions. Departments discussed progress at leadership (board) meetings. Our success was dependent on working together. I recommend that each of the thirteen advisory committees and general manager develop, maintain, and report the progress of strategic plans.

This approach builds teams and transparency. I also recommend adopting the practice of scheduling time during board meetings where one or two committees reviews the highlights of their plans. Get more individuals involved and talking. I believe this would create more community interest.

2. *Outsourcing of our three Food and Beverage operations has been successful. Do you see other areas in which outsourcing might be appropriate?*

See GET Page 7



Jeffrey Heavner

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Get to know OP candidates OP Election Committee hosts forum June 21

Continued from Page 6
priate?

Outsourcing, the practice of hiring a third party for services, is usually a choice by companies to reduce costs. However, it can also be an alternative for organizations that do not possess the sustained core competencies to provide the best customer experience and compete for improved usage, revenue, and profits.

It became clear that OPA did not have the core competencies to delight customers at its three wonderful food and beverage venues. The board made a great decision to outsource! Food and beverage absolutely require highly specialized skills and resources.

Every organization has the responsibility to routinely evaluate its operations for opportunities that either significantly reduce costs or improve customer delight and share of wallet. The services and technology available are ever changing. An advisory committee, Strategic Planning, should undertake this responsibility. I recommend developing a protocol to help accomplish this task with minimum burden.

The board has the advantage from a broad spectrum of thirteen talented advisory committees. These committees are most valuable! I would also recommend that committee members interface directly with the board during meetings versus through their board liaison. It is wonderful to see the strong patronage at the three OP venues.

3. *Boards must make difficult decisions.*

How will you address differences of opinions between Board members?

Big issue decision making is challenging work. This disciplined focus can define character. Board members bring diversified perspective that can be the heartbeat of a well-oiled machine working to improve the needs of our wonderful community. Differing opinions can flush-out facts or knowledge that may strengthen or even change the opinion of others.

It is essential to both choose board members that have demonstrated the ability to collaborate with others and establish a professional environment that encourages open discussion.

I bring the skills required to professionally ask open-ended questions that respect the opinions of others while uncovering the prevailing reasons behind beliefs. I developed this business acumen over decades of leadership positions at ExxonMobil in sales, engineering, marketing, and distribution, built upon a Navy leadership foundation. I truly value the opinions of others and have developed excellent listening skills.

A key aspect of productive teamwork is valuing diverse thinking. Boards should create a culture where individuals share and discuss the foundation of differing opinions. It is easy to erode courage of conviction and halt discussions of why others feel the way they do. Good decisions now will keep Ocean Pines a most valued community for the next 50-years.

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(June 15, 2023) The Ocean Pines Association Election Committee members met on Friday to discuss the election process.

“We have a terrific slate of people here,” Chairman Tom Patti said of the candidates.

“One of the best groups of candidates and most knowledgeable that we have had in the 25 years that I have been here,” George Alston said.

The committee discussed the forum set for June 21. Each candidate will be given three minutes for their introduction, two minutes to respond to each question, and three minutes for a closing statement.

Committee member Tom Schwartz was chosen as the announcer, who will ask questions of the candidates. Candidates will not be asked the same questions.

It was decided that the committee will make a list of the questions that are submitted in advance and they will be picked out of a hat.

For the first time, candidates will also be asked questions from the audience.

Residents can submit questions in advance for the forum by emailing elections@oceanpines.org.

Residents will need their Ocean Pines ID to attend the forum in person.

The candidate forum will be held at 6 p.m., June 21, at the Golf Clubhouse. The forum will be recorded and available via Facebook and YouTube for those who cannot attend in person.

Residents are reminded to update their contact information through the portal on the Ocean Pines website, go into the administration building, or email at member@oceanpines.org.

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New native plant garden installed

Gull Creek Assisted Living residents cheer on crews as lawn gets transformed

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(June 15, 2023) Gull Creek Senior Living residents in Berlin have been watching for months as an expansive garden and meandering walking paths were being installed in what was once a large empty lawn.

William Daugherty, one of the owners of Gull Creek, is passionate about agriculture and gardening and made the decision to create a native garden for the residents and local community. He is funding the project himself and was on site for the installation, watering the plants and getting his hands dirty.

"Gardens are wonderful in so many ways. This will give our residents the ability to get outdoors and enjoy nature," Daugherty said.

Residents, eager to enjoy the gardens, got their first opportunity to do that last month.

"On May 2, when the pathways were completed, residents enjoyed an inaugural walk, roll and stroll to check out the new pathways," said the manager of the project, Scott Hill.

"Twenty-five people tested out the



CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

A large native plant garden is being constructed at Gull Creek Assisted Living in Berlin. The garden has meandering walking paths for residents and nature lovers to explore.

paths. We had a ribbon cutting from the door to nowhere."

The door to nowhere led out to the grass lawn, which was inhospitable for most residents to traverse. The door is now the entrance to the gardens.

"Residents have often been on their balcony applauding us," said Maryann Malarkey, the landscape designer for the project.

Malarkey lives in Boston, but was excited to be approached by Daugherty, whom she has worked with before, to design the project.

"I thought it was a fantastic idea, giving your residents an outdoor oasis. It's another world. It can be gentle, it can be challenging, it can be everything from peaceful to powerful. A place to walk, engage, meditate, have therapy. I believe strongly that being outside is so lifegiving," Malarkey said.

She said that since the garden will be mostly native plants, it won't have that pop that a typical mall garden might have.

"Things will be a little more subtle. It will be a quieter garden."

There will be many opportunities to enjoy the garden. Sixteen park benches, 10 chairs and three tables will be placed throughout the gardens. There will also be 34 rocking chairs. The garden is designed with outdoor rooms to meet with friends and family.

Malarkey designed the garden around a giant maple tree.

"It's the grand-daddy of the garden," she said.

The garden will be populated by deciduous trees for birds, flowers for

pollinators and berry bushes for food. Bird houses that used to be on the lawn will be incorporated into the gardens. There will also be a rain garden.

Twelve trucks hauled 240 tons of dirt to establish the garden and more than 1,000 plants and trees are being planted.

Dougherty imagines the resident's grandchildren coming for a visit and running along the garden paths and enjoying nature.

Jamie Tripplett, the resident activity director at Gull Creek is already planning activities for the gardens. These include a walking group, yoga and other exercise programs, movie night and worship services. She hopes to work with the Worcester County Arts Council to display artwork and do demonstrations in the sunroom overlooking the gardens.

Dougherty plans to measure the paths and place signs with distances, so residents know how far they have walked.

Many local companies have been involved in the development of the gardens. Harkins Concrete Construction laid the pathways. Bluebird Nursery provided the plants. Scotland Yard did all the landscaping. Benches were purchased from Victor Stanley, a company out of Dunkirk.

"This project has been local from the ground up," Malarkey said.

Dougherty plans to host an open house for neighbors once the project is complete to celebrate the partners in the project and welcome the community to enjoy all the gardens have to offer.

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Art Day in the Pines offers music, workshops, games

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(June 15, 2023) The Art League of Ocean City will present its third annual Arts Day on June 24 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Ocean Pines at the Veterans Memorial Park.

“This is a family event. Bring mom, dad, kids, aunts, uncles, grandparents, dogs. Don’t forget to bring your chair or blanket to sit in front of the music and enjoy the day,” Aubrey Sizemore, the volunteer and events coordinator for the Art League said.

A Kids Zone will feature bounce houses, basketball, art activities, crafts, face painting and bubbles. Also on the day’s activities will be art workshops, live music, raffles and axe throwing. More than 60 artisans will be displaying their work, while others will do demonstrations, show their art cars and draw caricatures.

Food, beer and wine will also be available.

There is no admission fee to attend the event, which is being co-sponsored by the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks, Department, although there will be a cost for some of the activities.

‘This is a family event. Bring mom, dad, kids, aunts, uncles, grandparents, dogs.’
Aubrey Sizemore

Scheduled classes include mini mosaic pendant making with Carol Rydel, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for \$30 and paint pouring with Geri Gaskill, 2- 4 p.m. for \$25

“This event will help us continue to provide free after-school programs to kids in our community, free family art day, support our art program for those with addiction and in recovery, and keep our doors open for monthly gallery exhibits, classes and so much more,” Sizemore said.

Rain date is Sunday, June 25th

The event is co-hosted by the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks.

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Photo by Ray Bojarski

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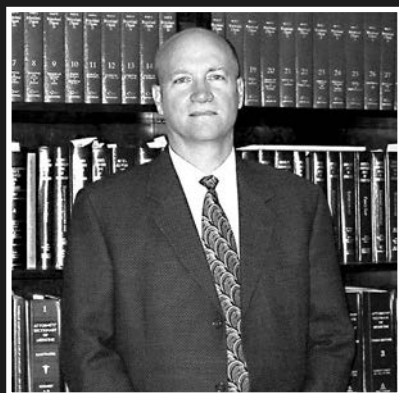
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**Camp Coast pair captures
bathtub race's Turner Trophy**

Continued from Page 1
star of the show was the powerful Derek Jarmon, who pushed Aaron Goddard over the toilet paper finish line to victory as team Camp Coast.

Camp Coast started out strong in the first heat against the Globe and never stopped. They were undefeated against 410 Social, Otten Delights and Seaside Plumbing.

Ryan Nellans, the executive director of the Berlin Chamber of Commerce presented Camp Coast with the Turner Trophy, named after Jesse Turner, who founded the bathtub races.

Mr. Turner's wife, Agnes and his son, Alfonzo Henry, joined Nellans in presenting the trophy.

"Mr. Jesse Turner was a constant source of encouragement, a real pillar of the community, he did things to help the community without celebrating himself," said Nellans.

The Turner Trophy is a 2.5-foot-tall gold trophy with a blown glass rubber duck at the top, hand-crafted by local artist Jeff Auxer.

Jarmon, who is a program manager at Worcester County Rec and Parks, has been a pusher for Camp Coast for three years.

"I used to run track. I graduated from Stephen Decatur High School. I went

back to my track training: resistance training, pushing a sled, elevation mask, you name it," he said.

An elevation mask cuts down on the amount of oxygen that an athlete can bring in during strenuous activity. This helps preserve oxygen for that final push.

"Last year, I ran six races, three back-to-back," said Jarmon. He wanted to be ready for that.

Jarmon said Camp Coast plans to take the trophy around the county to its different partners because it was such a team effort.

"Our parks department helped put the cart together. The administration here, which is housed in our government building in Snow Hill, has been a huge contributor and supporter, providing feedback on the car. And our HR department has always loved this event."

Jarmon said he didn't know if he will be back next year, but for now he is enjoying the ride.

**Teachers wear
black in protest**

Continued from Page 2
children.

"Not all kids can learn in a six-and-a-half-hour day in 180 days," he said. "We implemented (these programs) to assist kids both in remediation and enrichment. Our kids need them; our families need them."

Across the county on Friday teachers wore black in solidarity, reflecting somber attitudes toward the message that, at least for a year, they and their students will make ends meet with significantly fewer resources.

At Buckingham Elementary School, many teachers didn't show up for work until the second students walked through the doors, a labor tactic known as "work-to-rule."

Worcester's teachers and their supporters didn't hold back on social media in reacting to the fallout from the commissioners' 5-to-2 vote.

"Anyone hiring for the entire Worcester County teachers?" one wrote on Facebook. "After this delightful decision, every teacher is going to need an additional job or two to keep their heads and family above water."

"This is a disgrace!! VOTE THEM OUT!" another wrote.

The Worcester County Teachers Association posted a commissioners district map, asking if "your commissioner" voted for the education budget.

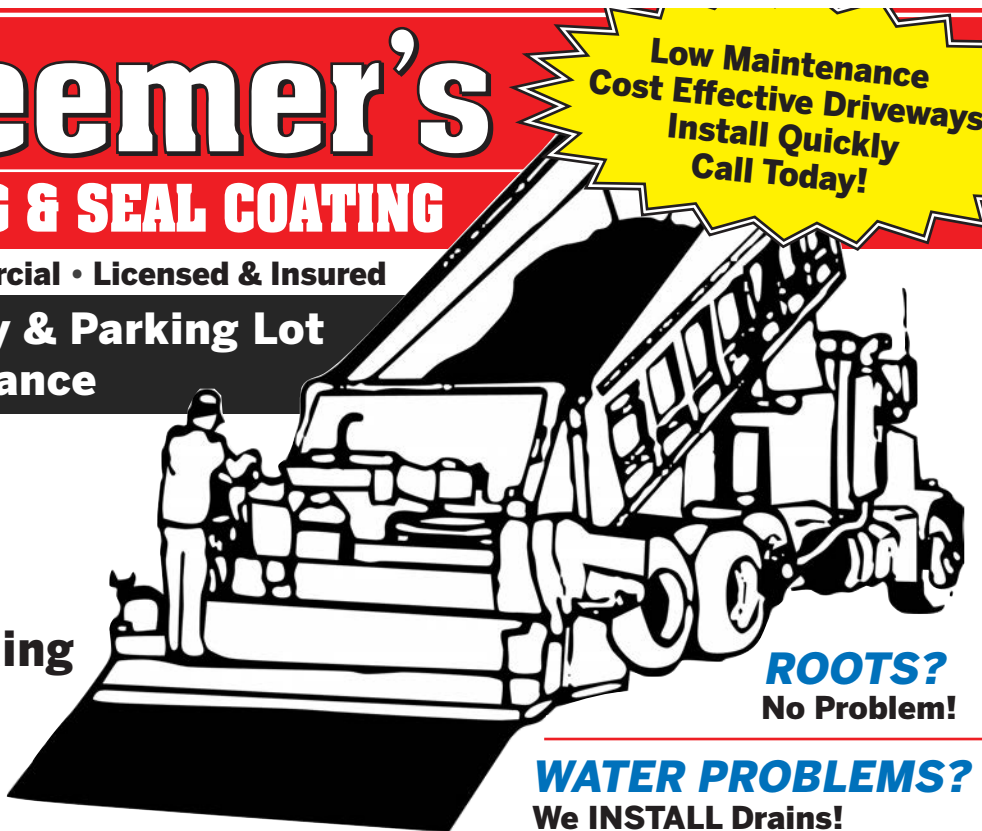
Commissioners Caryn Abbott, Eric Fiori, Ted Elder, Jim Bunting and Chip Bertino voted to only fund the school system at the same level as last year, while Commissioners Joe Mitrecic and Diana Purnell voted against the measure.

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FILE PHOTO / BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Gabriel Vitak, 6, of Snow Hill, enjoyed fishing at the South Gate Pond in Ocean Pines.

Ocean Pines Anglers Club to host Teach a Kid to Fish Day

By **Cindy Hoffman**
Staff Writer

(June 15, 2023) The fish will be biting on Saturday, June 17 for the annual "Teach a Kid to Fish Day" hosted by the Ocean Pines Anglers Club.

From 9 - 11 a.m. kids will get the chance to fish at the South Gate Pond, near the Sports Core Pool.

Members of the Ocean Pines Anglers Club and the state Department of Natural Resources will be on hand to teach the kids fishing skills and techniques such as knot-tying, how to bait a hook, lure selection and casting. They'll also talk about fish identification.

"A lot of it becomes, not teach a kid, but teach a parent or teach a grandparent to fish," John McFalls of the Anglers Club said.

Many come to the event with a fishing rod still in the package.

"We will put it together for them," McFalls said.

The stocked pond contains all kinds of fish: largemouth bass, sunfish, catfish, carp, and crappie, according to McFalls.

This is strictly a catch-and-release event. McFalls does not recommend

people eating the fish they catch in the South Pond because of the number of ducks and geese that also use those waters year-round.

The event, which draws between 60-80 people each year, inevitably produces a great level of excitement among the young participants.

"That's why we do these things. We enjoy that excitement," he said.

"Fishing is a great activity. It gets kids outdoors, and away from their computers and IPADs. It's a great hobby."

There will be a drawing for a free rod and reel, so when kids arrive they should register to enter. This year's prize is a custom-made rod with reel by David Hammond.

"Custom rods are pricey; I don't even have one," McFalls said.

McFalls said the winner can contact Hammond and he will put their name on the rod.

The Ocean Pines Environmental Committee will be at the event to talk to the kids about protecting the environment while they fish. The efforts would include picking up lures, hooks and fishing line. Lines can get caught

See TEACH Page 13



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CINDY HOFFMAN / BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The Berlin mayor and council discuss various ordinances and motions during their June 12 meeting.

New ordinances, motions passed by Berlin council

By **Cindy Hoffman**
Staff Writer

(June 5, 2023) The Berlin mayor and Town Council approved numerous ordinances and motions during their meeting on Monday.

The most notable of these requires all enterprises that do business within the corporate limits of Berlin to have an annual business licenses, regardless of whether the business is physically located in Berlin. The ordinance passed unanimously.

Also passing unanimously was a measure that allows the town of Berlin to enter into an access agreement with the Maryland and Delaware Railroad for the location of underground utilities that will serve the Evans Parc Venture.

The agreement will become effective when Evans Parc completes construction of the utilities and the town accepts the utilities into its Water/sewer system. The motion was passed unanimously.

A related measure will allow the town to enter into an agreement to reimburse Evans Parc for the annual

and ongoing payment of Railroad license agreement fees associated with the project located at 9413 Evans Road.

Following that track, the council approved a draft license agreement with the Maryland and Delaware Railroad for the future Berlin Bikeways Project. The agreement is currently under review by the railroad and changes could be made, followed by a review by the town attorney.

In other matters, the council awarded Goody Hill Groundwork a \$766,000 contract to upgrade smart water meters. The final costs of the project will depend on the actual installation work.

Lastly, the council approved a measure that will allow the Town of Berlin to become the first municipality in the state to sponsor an electrical line worker/meter technician training program. Becoming a sponsor is expected to create more opportunities for grant funding and enhance employee recruitment and retention.

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CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

President BFC David Fitzgerald and Fire Chief RJ Rhode discuss the Fire and EMS budget with the mayor and council during a meeting on June 12.

Berlin council approves 2023-24 budget

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(June 15, 2023) Berlin Volunteer Fire Company and EMS financial concerns had the Berlin mayor and Town Council scrambling for money Monday night, as EMS representatives made clear that they could only guarantee six months of service under the town's proposed budget as proposed.

In the draft agreement from June 8, EMS budgeted \$125,000 to provide four-person coverage, 24 hours a day, which included payroll, benefits, and other expenses to cover two new EMT positions.

Mayor Jack Tyndall noted that the 2023 budget only had \$72,000 allo-

cated to this request.

"Year after year, we are running on fumes, eventually the fumes will run out," said the president of the Berlin Fire Company President David Fitzgerald.

During the discussion, Fire Chief RJ Rhode suggested that EMS would only sign a contract with Berlin until Dec. 30 without these additional funds.

With that suggestion on the table, the council got to work identifying ways to make up the difference.

A motion was passed to approve the FY 2023-24 budget with the following changes: The council increased tax revenue expectations by \$500,000; cut \$21K for a new IT

server; cut police by \$20K for car cameras; reduced the salary for a new position of deputy town administrator from 103,000 to \$70,000 with a corresponding change in title; and added a \$250 per town employee for an end-of-year payment. These changes allowed the town to cover the \$72,000 shortfall for EMS. Or so they believed.

But after passage, town Finance Director Natalie Saleh told the council that their maneuvers that they actually ended up with an excess of \$45K.

So, the council amended the mo-

tion unanimously to put back the costs of the IT server and the police car cameras.

With these amendments, the council passed the 2023-24 budget.

The total budget for 2023-24 is \$11 million, which is \$3 million more than 2022-23 FY budget.

Much of the difference is because of a state Department of Transportation grant of \$1,160,878. Other sources, totaling 2,226,190, are a combination funds carried forward, reserve funding and grants, according to Saleh.

Teach a Kid to Fish Saturday

Continued from Page 11

in trees, especially with novice anglers, so cleaning those up before leaving is important to protect birds and other wildlife.

DNR will have a table with coloring books and whistles for the kids.

Participants are encouraged to bring insect repellent, water and a rod. Bait will be provided.

The event is free. No pre-registration is required.

For those who enjoy their first fishing experience, the Angler's Club will be hosting the 27th Art Hansen Memorial Youth Fishing Contest on Saturday, July 15 from 9-10:30 a.m. at the South Gate Pond near the Sports Core Pool. Trophies and prizes will be awarded for age groups of 4-7, 8-11 and 12-16.

For more information on either of these events, call John McFalls at 610- 505-1697

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Worcester welcomes Walls as new HR deputy director

(June 15, 2023) The Worcester County Commissioners recently named Patricia Walls the deputy director of human resources. She stepped into her new position on March 1.

"I am thrilled to have Pat join our team," Human Resources Director Stacey Norton said in a news release. "Her experience and leadership will be a tremendous asset to the Human Resources department and will enable us provide exceptional customer service to our employees."



Patricia Walls

Walls, a strategic planner recognized for maximizing corporate, team and individual goals through successful human resources management, earned a bachelor of arts degree in liberal studies from Salisbury University. She brings over 20 years of analytical, decision-making and problem-solving skills in human resources to Worcester County government.

From 2016 to 2023, she served as the corporate director of human resources for Marshall Hotels & Resorts in Salisbury. Prior to that, she

served as the associate relations representative in human resources for Perdue Farms and director of human resources for the SRG Woolf Group, Inc.

"I am honored to be working for the County Commissioners and residents of Worcester County," Walls said in the release. "The entire Worcester County Government team has been very welcoming, and I look forward to working with and supporting them."

Pat resides with her husband, Jay, in Wicomico County. They have one grown son. During her time off, she enjoys camping, reading and spending time at the beach with her family.

Walls will assist the director in the overall management of human resources. Her responsibilities include providing guidance to county officials and other department heads in personnel matters. These include development and oversight of human resources programs, with an emphasis on employee relations, to include recruitment, hiring, training, performance evaluation, counseling, discipline, classification and benefits administration, and ensuring compliance with all employment-related laws and county policies.

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"My feet feel like they are on fire."

"Each step feels like I'm walking through wet paint."

"I live in constant fear that I'll fall."

"I can't sleep, my hands and feet tingle all night."

What do all of these people have in common? They suffer from **peripheral neuropathy**. It's estimated that more than 20 million people in the United States have peripheral neuropathy. Unfortunately, this figure may be significantly higher as the disease is often misdiagnosed because of its wide array of symptoms.

Dr. Cynthia Salmond of Coastal Acupuncture and Integrative Medicine in Berlin shares this belief.

"I've been treating neuropathy, in all its various forms, for over four years and so often my patients come to me because of the symptoms, not because of a diagnosis. They see one of my ads, or hear the testimonial of another patient and say to themselves, 'Hey, I feel the same thing.'"

Frankie M. of Annapolis testified to this. "I remember my husband driving me to my consultation and I saw a woman running just outside our neighborhood. I was so envious - I just kept thinking, 'I would give anything just to walk again'. My primary care doctor told me my troubles with pain and balance were just symptoms of old age and gave me a prescription. I was so depressed."

Fortunately, Frankie would eventually see Dr. Salmond on the news and how she offers a real solution at Coastal AIM. "I just knew I had to see her. She was my last hope."

"Almost all of our patients come to us with a story similar to Frankie's. They've been everywhere else. They've been told there's no hope," shares Liz, a Patient Care Technician at

Coastal AIM. "It just breaks my heart, but I know how much we can help people like Frankie, so I'm always so happy when they walk through our door."

Those diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy often face a grim reality; Western Medicine declares there is no solution while most alternative therapies carry large price tags and offer little to no resolution. Which is why Dr. Salmond and the staff at Coastal AIM pride themselves on being the 'last resort with the best results'.

Peripheral neuropathy is a result of damage to the nerves and this damage is commonly caused by the lack of blood flow in the hands and feet. A lack of blood flow results in a lack of nutrients; the nerves then begin to degenerate and die which causes pain ranging from discomfort to debilitation. Because neuropathy is a degenerative condition, once those nerves begin to deteriorate they will continue to do so until they are completely expired, leaving patients suffering from crippling balance issues. "In this case, the absence of pain is not necessarily a good thing," shares Dr. Salmond, "This usually indicates that your nerves are hanging on by a fragile thread."

So how exactly is Dr. Salmond able to reverse the effects of this degenerative condition? "Acupuncture has been used to increase blood flow for thousands of years which helps to get the necessary nutrients to the affected nerves. But the real magic happens when I integrate ATP Resonance BioTherapy. This is technology that was originally developed by NASA to expedite recovery and healing."

"I just can't say enough about Coastal AIM," Frankie shared through tears of joy. My husband and I moved here almost three years ago and he's gone to the beach almost everyday. I always stayed home because of the pain and discomfort. Yesterday, I walked on the beach with him! And next week, we're making plans for a weekend music festival. I am truly living life these days."

According to Frankie's test results, she has seen a 74% improvement in pain and functionality, which is "on par with the majority of our patients," shares Liz. "But more important than those test results is the joy she's expressed being here and hearing about all the amazing things she's able to do because she feels great!"

By seamlessly blending the ancient science of acupuncture with modern medical solutions, Dr. Salmond has achieved a 90% success rate in reversing the effects of neuropathy. She starts each patient with an initial consultation where a sensory exam is performed. This not only aids in making a proper diagnosis but it helps to define just how much nerve damage has occurred. She says, "This is important because if a patient has suffered more than 95% damage, there is little that I can do to help them. I'm familiar with medical miracles, but I know the limits as a practitioner and the limits of this medicine."

When it comes to treating peripheral neuropathy, regardless of its origin, early detection greatly improves chances of a full recovery.

If you or someone you love are suffering with chronic pain that presents as burning, tingling or 'pins and needles' or you've been recently diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy, it's important to know there are options.

There is hope.

Call (443) 513-4639 to schedule an initial consultation or visit coastalaim.com to read more success stories.



Viola to discuss new racquet center next board meeting

By **Cindy Hoffman**
Staff Writer

(June 15, 2023) A new building is on the horizon for the Racquet Center, following a May vote by the Racquet Sports Advisory Committee to recommend to the board a two-story building with balconies overlooking the courts.

During a meeting on Thursday, committee members discussed with Director Colette Horn what their priorities would be for the building. The consensus was to have balconies that would face the platform, pickleball and tennis courts, which could require balconies on all four sides.

Horn reminded the committee that there will also have to be space

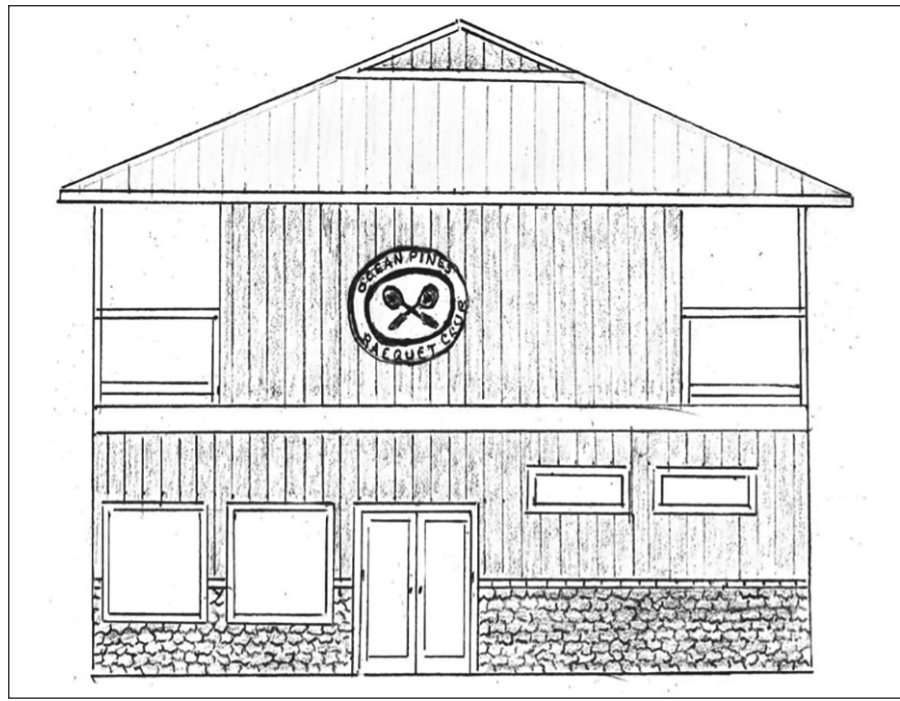
for utilities on the second floor.

Horn told committee members that the cost of the building would be paid for out of replacement reserves. She said the building is fully depreciated and the depreciation value reflects when it was built —1991.

The next step will be to develop concept drawings, which will then allow for a budget to be developed.

General Manager John Viola said he will address the capital expenditure at the board of directors meeting this Saturday.

If the budget exceeds the board's spending limit of \$1 million, the issue will have to be decided by the Ocean Pines property owners through a referendum.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Preliminary sketches of a proposed new Racquet Club show a one and a two-story option to replace the current building. The sketches were shared by John Viola at the April OPA board meeting.

County office closing June 19

(June 15, 2023) Worcester County Government offices, including all five branch libraries and recreation and parks, will be closed Monday, June 19, for Juneteenth, National Freedom Day.

The central landfill and homeowner convenience centers will also be closed. Government offices will resume standard operating hours on June 20.

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Snapshots

OPTIMIST DONATION

Wayne Littleton, director of Randy's Crew, accepts a \$1,000 check from Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club President Christina Dolomont-Brown during the organization's May 4 dinner meeting.

PHOTO COURTESY ROGER PACELLA



RED DAY '23

Keller Williams agents pose on the steps of the Diakonia main house shelter in Ocean City during this year's RED Day. Every second Thursday of May, the company's agents step away from daily business duties to serve their communities with a day of service called RED Day. This year, the agents volunteered for a Habitat for Humanity Brush with Kindness project in Mystic Harbor, painted and organized at the Diakonia shelter, and served lunches at HALO Hope and Life Outreach in Salisbury.

SUBMITTED/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



PHOTO COURTESY GENERAL LEVIN WINDER CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

NEW DAR MEMBERS

From left, new General Levin Winder Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution members Regent Talley Hann, Barbara Rusko, Barbara May and Mary Jane Hastings pose for a photo after their recent induction at Worcester Preparatory School.



SUBMITTED/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

BINGO FOR BABIES CHECK

The Ocean City Knights of Columbus #9053 presented the Grace Center for Maternal and Women's Health in Berlin with a check from the proceeds of its Bingo For Babies fundraiser in the amount of \$4,938. The Lady Knights Auxiliary Council #9053 donated \$3,500 from its Bingo For Babies luncheon. Pictured, from left, are Joann Manole, executive director Grace Center for Maternal and Women's Health; Robin Pilkerton, vice president Ocean City Lady Knights Auxiliary, Inc.; Dee Matthews, president OC LKA; Donna Kiniry, secretary, OC LKA; Debbie Guido, treasurer OC LKA; Thomas Anderson, Ocean City Knights of Columbus Council #9053 and Bingo for Babies chairperson; and Thomas Herwig, Grand Knight, OC KOC Council #9053.



PHOTO COURTESY GENERAL LEVIN WINDER CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

DAR MEMBERS POSING

From left, General Levin Winder Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution Chaplain Barbara Ruskin poses with new members Betty-Jane Cain, Christine Nanna-Lieb, Barbara Bush, Carol Mongelli and Regent Talley Hann.



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID J. LANDIS, SR.

GUEST SPEAKER

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City recently welcomed guest speaker Melissa Reid, president of the Taylor House Museum in Berlin. She is pictured with Kiwanis Club President Bob Wolfing.

Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTOS/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

RED SHOES

(Left) Members of the Republican Women of Worcester County during a Red Shoe Book Club meeting on May 23 at the Ocean Pines Library. Nationally, Republican women have donated thousands of books each year to libraries, schools, hospitals and other public institutions through their Mamie Eisenhower Library Project. The Red Shoe Book Club is a way for members to explore and discuss books from the Member Center Digital Resource Library. (Above) Members of the group show off their red shoes.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Rina Dirickson, second from left, a 2023 graduate of Stephen Decatur High School, poses with the Dr. Joseph Z. Badros Scholarship from the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore. The \$5,000 award will help Dirickson support her academic goals. Pictured with her are scholarship donor Diana Badros, and her parents, Todd and Naoko Dirickson.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

NEW KIWANIS MEMBERS

New Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City members Ron and Bette Wildgust, sponsor John Hult and Past President Tim Lund, pictured from left, pose for a photo after the couple's induction into the club on May 10. The new members, who love pickleball and are part of a group of pickleballers who recently joined Kiwanis, were inducted during Kiwanis International membership month.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

GUEST SPEAKER

Liz Mumford, Republican Women of Worcester County first vice president; Nicole Bennett, first vice president of the Maryland GOP; and RWWC President Sandy Zitzer, pictured from left, pose for a photo on May 25 at the RWWC monthly general meeting and luncheon. Bennett was the guest speaker at the meeting.



PHOTO COURTESY ROGER PACELLA

CHECK PRESENTATION

Two members of the Worcester County Veteran's Memorial in Ocean Pines accepted a check for \$3,000 from the Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club to support their youth program on April 6. Pictured, from left, are Susan Pantone, vice president of the Veteran's Memorial Committee; Marie Gilmore, president; and Optimist member Bill Hickey.

Highest DUI conviction rate again

DUI enforcement efforts will continue through summer

(June 15, 2023) According to recently released data, the Office of the State's Attorney for Worcester County has once again earned the highest conviction rate in the State of Maryland for the prosecution of alcohol and drug-related driving offenses.

According to a news release, the figures, for 2021, were reported by the University of Maryland's National Study Center for Trauma and EMS.

Worcester County prosecutors handled over 1,000 DUI/DWI cases during the 2021 calendar year, and secured a 92.2 percent conviction rate.

The statewide average conviction rate for the year was 77.2 percent by comparison.

The Maryland State's Attorney's Association has recognized Worcester County prosecutors for having the state's top conviction rate each year since 2019.

"We continue to be very proud of our aggressive efforts in the prosecution of DUI cases," State's Attorney Kris Heiser said in the release. "These are results that our citizens expect and deserve, and are results that should serve as caution to would-be drunk drivers. Now more than ever before, there are so many options available to avoid drinking and driving and the tragic impacts that it can have on our community."

She added that "drunk driving is a crime that is 100 percent preventable," and remains a priority for local prosecutors to curtail. "As we prepare

for a busy summer, locals and visitors alike should know that DUI enforcement efforts will continue to keep our community safe," Heiser said.

Se thanked members of all of the county's police agencies for "actively patrolling the roadways in search of these dangerous drivers, and for their diligence in preparing strong cases" for she and her colleagues to prosecute in court.

Heiser also recognized the dedication of the county's assistant state's attorneys, who are responsible for prosecuting the vast majority of the offenses as part of the office's district court division.

For more information or for an interview, contact Ashley Cramer at the Office of the State's Attorney at 410-632-2166 ext. 9.

Worcester County promotes summer fire safety survey

(June 15, 2023) The Worcester County Fire Safety Survey is on now through July 1, and all who take it will automatically be entered for a chance to win a free family pizza party.

The gooey, cheesy, crusty main course will be delivered by a massive, red fire truck.

Working smoke alarms are at the heart of fire safety. The simple devices save lives by serving as early warning systems. During a fire, signal blasts from working smoke alarms provide valuable time for families to evacuate safely.

The Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office and each of the fire agencies in Worcester County are sponsoring the Summer Fire Safety Survey. The challenge aims to highlight the significance of installing and maintaining functioning smoke alarms on every level of every home, including each sleeping area, and ensuring they are interconnected for maximum coverage.

"The information gathered from the survey will help us enhance area fire safety initiatives to make our community a safer place for all families," Worcester County Fire Marshal Matt Owens said in a news release. "To express our gratitude for your valuable input, one lucky family will win a one-of-a-kind pizza party. Imagine the delight on your children's faces when firefighters deliver pizza right to the winning family's door."

Worcester County seeks county spirit award nominations

(June 15, 2023) To honor volunteers whose contributions help improve the quality of life locally, Worcester County residents are invited to nominate individuals, organizations, and businesses for the Volunteer Spirit of Worcester County awards.

The nomination period opened June 7, and ends at 4:30 p.m., Aug. 25.

"This past year, we have started to move towards a new normal, and residents are volunteering in the community again," Human Resources Specialist Kelly Brinkley said in a news release. "It is wonderful to see the full support for our local nonprofits return, and nominating an individual, group, or business for the 2023 Volunteer Spirit of Worcester County is the perfect opportunity to showcase their dedicated service."

Volunteer spirit nominations will be accepted for each of the following eight categories, with one winner to be chosen. See NOMINATIONS Page 19

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What's Happening in Snow Hill
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Meet the Team: Howard Webb, OP's IT guru

(June 15, 2023) It's easy to take things for granted when they work well.

A phone call that reaches an actual person. Paying a check at a restaurant or buying a pool pass. The accounting system that runs a community behind the scenes.

Virtually everything that plugs into a wall and makes our modern world go.

In Ocean Pines, for the last four years, Howard Webb has been the glue that holds all that together.

Webb is originally from the Washington, D.C. area. He worked in the real estate business before moving to IT.

"It was totally by accident," he said. "One of my real estate clients happened to own a small computer company in Arlington, Virginia, and he offered me a job selling computer hardware and software to the real estate vertical market.

"I got in on the ground level and I just liked it. I had an aptitude for it and it was a small company, so you could get your hands dirty and dig in," he continued. "It was really kind of happenstance, but I'm glad it happened."

Webb later moved to Ocean Pines

because his parents owned a house here, and he continued working in the technology field, running network and audio cables for new homes.

Four years ago, he joined the fledgling IT Department in Ocean Pines.

"They had a hodgepodge of equipment and software that was kind of pieced together, and a lot of the stuff was obsolete. We were really just starting to have an IT department," he said. "When I started working here, we were trying to get some kind of order and cohesiveness and, you know – a plan."

Webb said one of his first tasks was stabilizing the enterprise resource planning (ERP) software that, basically, helps organize and automate the various computer systems.

"The big thing was the infrastructure as a whole – connecting our amenities so that we can communicate with each other," he said. "Another big problem was that we really had no redundancy as far as our connection to the internet, or to each other."

A few years ago, it was common for the internet to go down for several hours at the Yacht Club, one of the pools, or even in the administration building. When that happens, no transactions can be processed, and no money

can be made.

The introduction of Comcast as a second service provider, along with Mediacom, meant that outages still happen, but now they last minutes instead of hours.

"We've incorporated Comcast with Mediacom and now we have redundancy in our locations so that, if the Yacht Club or the Beach Club doesn't have internet access, one of the other providers kicks in as soon as one goes down," he said. "So, for the customer it's seamless and you don't even notice it. That's much better than it was.

"That's what IT does behind the scenes – it's the glue that holds everything together," Webb added.

Overall, Webb said the IT Department has become much more organized and is able to work more efficiently.

Of course, when all that work to update and modernize systems was going on, suddenly IT also had to help the Association navigate through a pandemic that meant working virtually was often a necessity.

"People actually fell into the flow pretty quickly," Webb said. "Most of the staff here at the Admin Building had laptops. And then we started implementing Microsoft Teams that allowed

us to work a lot more cohesively together. In general people don't like change, but our people caught on pretty well.

"Now we're doing committee meetings and board meetings via Teams, and I'm really pleasantly surprised, be- See IT Page 21



Howard Webb

Nominations taken until August 29

Continued from Page 18

sen from each: individual, group/team, emerging leader, faith-based, nonprofit volunteer program, local business, veteran, and lifetime achievement.

Nominees should reside in and represent the volunteer spirit of Worcester County. Nomination forms are found online at worcestervolunteer.org. Once there,

click on "News."

Completed forms may be submitted to the Human Resources Office, Room 1301 in the Worcester County Government Center in Snow Hill, or by contacting Brinkley at 410-632-0090 or kbrinkley@co.worcester.md.us.

All five branch libraries – Berlin, Ocean City, Ocean Pines, Pocomoke, and Snow Hill – will have paper copies of the nomination form. This year,

nomination forms may be completed and submitted at any Worcester County branch library.

To highlight the outstanding services of the volunteers, the Worcester County commissioners will be presenting award winners at their Sept. 19 meeting. The Volunteer Spirit of Worcester County takes place in cooperation with the annual Governor's Service Awards program.



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Opinion

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Must be better way to budget for schools

What is the point, one might ask, of the Worcester County Teachers Association negotiating teachers' salaries with the board of education if the board of education has no power to guarantee the deal?

Although the board is trying to honor the terms of the agreement it struck with the association as part of its budget process, the school board's ability to deliver on its promises is entirely dependent on county government's willingness to go along with the program.

Because governments don't actually make anything to sell and can't legally profit by charging fees higher than the cost of services they deliver, they must get their income through various taxes and fees they impose.

School boards, however, can't do that. They are at the mercy of state and county governments, even though they are not a branch of either.

The school board is an independent entity that's more answerable to the state board of education than it is to the county or any other government authority. Except for money.

There are probably a thousand good arguments against it, but public school systems in this state should have their own taxing authority if they are to be responsible for setting the payroll.

Otherwise, as has been shown by the recent budget battle between the school board and the commissioners, good faith negotiations between teachers and school boards are more like hope-for-the-best negotiations.

The commissioners, of course, contend that they are not preventing the board of education from giving raises or doing whatever it wants, and that they are only fulfilling their obligation as the county paymaster to account for where the money goes.

In the meantime, the elected board of education and the school system are supposed to operate as an independent agency, when it's not independent at all.

It doesn't make sense and somewhere, somehow there must be a better way to do this.



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Letters

Budget endangers kids' education

Editor,

The state's top public schools are those in Worcester County. Is it reasonable to put this rating in danger?

We won't advance and may perhaps go backward with the level of funds that the commissioners approved. The County Commissioners' recent decision to simply provide funding for schools at maintenance-of-effort levels (\$4.4 million less than asked) is extremely short sighted.

Maintenance of effort means we spend only what we spent this year. That means salary increases and inflationary costs would not be taken into account, necessitating significant budget cuts. There is a teacher shortage everywhere. Contracts with employees will need to be renegotiated at this funding level. This is a slap in the face from the commissioners, and it might cause us to lose teachers at a time when finding new ones is so challenging.

Some commissioners keep talking about transparency. The school system provided

additional information requested by the county. What more do they want? In a meeting with county officials, the school system posed the question: Is this what you want? The county responded in the affirmative, but when the commissioners received the information, they declared it insufficient. The commissioners keep moving the goalpost.

What exactly do they want to see? Be specific. Why do the commissioners need more information when they claim they don't want to micromanage? Do they believe the school system is hiding something?

An excellent relationship between the county government and the school system should not be put in jeopardy. The high caliber schools in the county are a result of this close relationship and trust. I urge the county to support a request for more financing if at some point they determine they have extra funds. Hopefully, it won't be too late to keep our top-notch faculty and staff, as well as the top-notch student programs.

Joan Roache
Ocean City

Advocating for voter ID law in Maryland

Editor,

Fair and free voting is the most important activity the citizens of a free society can engage in.

Without this, we lose our republic. Everything that the government does can be changed or supported by means of citizens voting the associated law-maker in or out of power.

There is substantial evidence that the trend in early voting and election day voting are being reversed when the mail-in ballots are counted. This was found to be evident with 17 Maryland statewide contests. All Republican candidates were leading but were all reversed after the mail-in ballots were counted. Coincidence?? I think not! We need to adopt paper ballots, single-day voting, and eliminate mail-in ballots, drop boxes and voting machines.

What I want to take issue with here is the fact that we do not have mandatory ID requirements when we vote. Our Worcester County Board of elections are in favor of this but were stymied by the state

Continued on Page 21

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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IT team modernizes Ocean Pines systems

Continued from Page 19

cause we used to struggle to get any attendance and now we have a whole bunch of new people attending these meetings," Webb continued. "So, I think we've managed to pull some positives."

The other big IT project was the Northstar software that runs all of Ocean Pines' financial systems, as well as the oceanpines.org website.

Webb said there were definitely growing pains, but things have mostly stabilized.

"It's a lot better," he said. "We used to have 1,000 outstanding tickets to Northstar about issues at any given time, and there were new issues every day. There are problems with any new

system, but it's toned way down. Overall, it's much more stable.

"I don't get anywhere near as many calls now and, when I do, it's stuff that I can handle," he added.

Webb said the next big project for the IT Department is going paperless, and moving data storage into a cloud-based system that is easier to use and more accessible.

It will also allow staff to be more flexible.

"Right now, our finance director and a couple of people work from home, and they have to use a VPN to attach to our files and access our resources on our server, which is kind of cumbersome. They occasionally have problems with it, and they have to call me to reconnect,"

he said. "Now, they'll be able to access it from anywhere from any computer, because it'll all be in the cloud.

"We'll also be more paperless with our document management, so we can share documents among each other, and it'll be searchable," he continued. "And it should help cut down on the mountains of paper that you see in some of our offices."

Overall, Webb said Ocean Pines is much closer to where it needs to be, from a technology standpoint.

"For an organization of our size and our resources, it's always going to be hard. But, we're coming into the 21st century as far as technology is concerned. And we're a lot better than we were four years ago," he said.

Webb is now the senior support associate for the Ocean Pines IT Department.

Last year, Keith Calabrese took over as the IT manager. He's the third person to helm that position in the last four years, but Webb said Calabrese has brought a level of stability to the department.

"Keith is great," Webb said. "He's kind of an easygoing guy. He depends on me and pretty much gives me free rein to do what needs to be done. He kind of takes care of the administrative part, dealing with the Board and with future planning, disaster recovery plans - all the stuff that I did not want to do."

Through it all, Webb has always maintained a healthy sense of humor. When he walks into any office in Ocean Pines, you know he's there to fix a problem, and he almost always has a way of making people smile and laugh.

"My grandmother always told me there's two ways to look at everything: There are people that have everything and they're unhappy, and there are people that have nothing and they're happy every day," Webb said. "It's really just a matter of perspective.

"I'm not happy all the time, but you only get one life. Whatever you do with it, that's all you got," he continued. "So, even if things are sometimes hard, you might as well make fun of it or laugh about it. I think that's where it comes from."

Letters

Continued from Page 20

claiming imposing such a requirement on our citizens is discriminatory. Oh really, then let me show you what other activities in our society are discriminatory.

A valid ID is required for: driving, boarding an airplane, purchasing a car, getting a car registration, renting anything, buying insurance and plane tickets, obtaining a passport, picking up mail from Fed X, UPS and the post office, visiting a doctor's office or hospital, getting outpatient testing, donating blood, getting a prescription, buying certain over-the-counter products, applying for a job or a school, applying for a professional license, getting married, checking out a library book, joining the military, adopting a child, transacting with a bank, sending a wire transfer, applying for online banking, applying for store credit, establishing a utilities account, getting a credit card, opening a retirement account, applying for a mortgage, buying a house, applying for apartment rentals, renting a hotel room, buying a cell phone, going to court, entering federal buildings, getting a business license, getting a state ID, cashing a large lottery ticket win, obtaining Medicare and Medicaid, applying for food stamps and welfare, applying for unemployment, using social security services, applying for section 8 housing, applying for a H-18 Visa or Green card, holding a rally or protest, buying a firearm, applying for a hunting or fishing license, joining a gym, using a pawn shop, entering a night club, volunteering at nonprofit organizations, voting in a union election, buying cigarettes or liquor, visiting a casino, buying an M-rated video game, going to jail, participating in outdoor dangerous activities, buying annual tickets to an amusement park, adopting a pet and the most contradictory requirement demanding ID is the participation in a political event but NOT IN THE POLITICAL EVENT OF VOTING!!!!

excuse fit all these? Isn't applying for food stamps and welfare needing an ID discriminatory? You cannot adopt an animal but you can vote without an ID.

Those that are against voter ID are only against it because they want to cheat. This is the ONLY reason; not because they think it is discriminatory which makes no sense.

Right now conservative votes are not being counted or are being drowned in illegal votes by dead people and people that do not exist. We are campaigning against, not other voters but against paper ballots, a printing press in reality. This has been proven!

We must "true the vote" and demand that every voter show a picture ID (like a driver's license) is the beginning of this. If we don't, we will lose our republic as Benjamin Franklin forewarned. Remember the expression: "you don't know what you have until you lose it!"

Dennis Evans
Berlin

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Soon-to-be new Community Church at Ocean Pines Stephen Ministers will be commissioned on June 18. Pictured, in back, from left, are Jeff Lord, Wayne Janis and Austin Buchiane, and in front, Teresa Kinhart, Emily Gelman, Lou Etta McClafin and Gail Terrier.

Stephen Ministry grows at Pines Community Church

(June 15, 2023) The Christian care-giving ministry at Community Church at Ocean Pines in Berlin has grown.

Jeff Lloyd, Wayne Janis, Austin Buchaine, Teresa Kinhart, Emily Gelman, Louetta McClafin and Gail Terrier will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers on June 18.

The new caregivers join eight Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders already commissioned and serving at Community Church at Ocean Pine.

"The people at CCAOP are excited to offer the care and love of our Stephen Ministers to our congregation and community," Pastor Dale

Brown said in a news release.

Stephen Minister Mary Boyd also commented on her role in the church.

"Stephen Ministry means I have an opportunity to fulfill Christ's command to help my brothers and sisters in Christ; visiting the sick, comforting those who mourn, and loving others as we love ourselves," Boyd said in the release.

Members of the church expect the Stephen Ministry to continue as a source of warmth, care, and blessing for many years to come, enabling the entire congregation to grow as a nurturing community where people are cherished and cared for and their

See SUPPORT Page 23

DEMAND JUSTICE

Victims of sexual abuse by Catholic clergy have rights.

Victims who suffered from sexual abuse by a member of the clergy in Maryland can seek compensation. While nothing can undo you or your loved one's pain, you can recover compensation from the abusers and the institutions that enabled them.

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Obituary

WILMA (PINKY) ELIZABETH BENDER

Ocean Pines
Wilma (Pinky) Elizabeth Bender, 78, of Ocean Pines, passed away peacefully on Saturday, April 8, 2023, surrounded by her family, following a long journey with Alzheimer's.



Wilma Bender

She was the loving wife of Mark, who was her primary caregiver until just prior to her death.

Wilma is survived by her four children: Ronald Hebb, Jr. (Lisa), Elizabeth Danz, Brien Hebb (Stephanie), and Carrie Hill (Gordon); her 13 grandchildren whom she adored: Joshua (April), Amanda (Ambrose), Caleb, Zachary, Nicholas, Erika, McKenzie, Benjamin, William, Jason, Alexander, Caitlin and Charlotte; great-grandchildren: Maddie, Cassidy and Reese; and a brother, James O'Brien.

Her sister, Jeanne Martin, pre-

ceded her in death.

Wilma was born in Savanna, Georgia, on July 10, 1944, to the late Wilmer and Henrietta O'Brien.

Her pink cheeks became the inspiration for her lifelong nickname, Pinky.

She graduated from Eastern High in 1962, started nursing school, and later started her career at Martin Marietta. In the late 1980s, Pinky returned to school to follow her true calling of nursing, graduating in 1992 with her RN and enjoying a successful career as a cardiac care nurse.

Pinky loved traveling with Mark (cruises were her favorite) and devoted herself to her grandchildren who lovingly called her Mommom.

Services will be held Saturday, June 24, at the Community Church of Ocean Pines. Visitation will begin at 11 a.m., followed by a service of remembrance at 11:30. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Pinky's name to the Alzheimer's Association.

Support for crisis and illness

Continued from Page 22
needs taken seriously, all in the name of Jesus Christ, the release said.

Stephen Ministers offer care and support for people experiencing life difficulties such as the death of a loved one, job crisis, aging, separation or divorce or long-term illness, and offer support of a Christian friend. They have undergone 50 hours of intensive training covering topics such as effective listening, confidentiality, the stress of hospitalization, feelings, and using community resources.

Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry. Those receiving care can be sure that their identity and what goes on in the caring relationship will remain private.

The lay Christian caregivers will also continue to receive twice-monthly continuing education and supervision support sessions as they strive to offer the highest-quality Christian care giving.

Community Church at Ocean Pines is one of more than 11,000 congregations throughout the United States, Canada, and several foreign countries representing more than 160 different denominations that have implemented a program of lay Christian care giving.

The Stephen Series was developed by Stephen Ministries in St. Louis. Community Church at Ocean Pines has been part of the Stephen Series since 2012.

For questions about Stephen Ministry at Community Church at Ocean Pines, or if you know someone in our

community who needs care and support at this time, call Mary Stover at 410-726-1795.

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Photo by Stephen Pryce Lea

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Cuisine

Musubi turns Spam into a fine delicacy

Spam™ is the great, disrespected wunderkind of the potted meat world, and I stand by that. I can only say that if you think this delicacy is disgusting, you have never had it done right, and today? Well, you are about to see it done right.



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3

Spam tends to lurk in the same category as anchovies. I love when folks, namely students, tell me how disgusting anchovies are as they splash their food with L&P Worcestershire Sauce. Don't want to know? Then don't read the ingredients, but I digress.

Musubi is one of my favorite snacks to eat in Hawaii and I can tell you that the only time it disappoints is when you go to the wrong gas station to get it. A ubiquitous snack food in the islands, it is a handheld pack of deliciousness that is only improved with a chilled glass of POG or fresh coconut water.

Our potted meat in question has been around since 1937, and was made famous during WWII as the allies made their way through the Pacific Theater and ate more than one hundred million pounds (Hormel.com and that was news to me). The cool thing is that Hormel figured out a way to use the otherwise underutilized pork shoulder. Genius.

And when you waltz through the Hawaiian grocery stores, barefoot as I usually am and you should be as well, I'm always amazed at the hundreds of cans in all 15 flavors that adorn the shelves. It warms my pasty white heart.

I'm fairly certain that I've written in the past about me traveling south and ordering fried green tomatoes every chance I get to compare. In Hawaii it is the same way with musubi. Most times it is wonderful, but on that rare occasion, I question my sanity and rethink my purpose in life, but so it goes, all in the name of research of course.

And if you do happen to worm your way through Kauai, the gas station in Princeville is good, but that one on the edge of Lihue? Don't even think about it. Caveat emptor. Otherwise, you just might be reenforcing your negative beliefs in Spam, and how dare you blaspheme in front of me?



Musubi

makes 6 pieces

- 1 can Spam™ (don't knock it until you try it)
- 2 c. Cooked sushi rice (recipe sort of follows)
- 1/4 c. Hawaiian BBQ sauce (recipe follows)
- 1-2 strips nori seaweed

1. Cut Spam into six equal slices. If you have spatial deficiencies and you are worried about what "even" means, cut the whole lot in half, and then cut each half into three. This will at least get you closer to the end-game.

2. Sear in a tiny touch of oil or pan spray until golden on both sides. You do not need to add salt, as our little friend acts as a hammy salt lick as it is.

3. Set aside and get ready for assembly.

4. Drop a piece of plastic wrap in your now-empty Spam can and put a piece of cooked Spam in.

5. Brush or swipe with some of your BBQ sauce and top with about 3/4-inch of sushi rice

6. Press down firmly and evenly and remove from the can carefully.

7. Now just take a 1-inch strip of nori seaweed and moisten it, laying the musubi Spam-side down.

8. Wrap it tight like you are binding up a package to go on a pallet, turn it over and it is done.

9. You may leave as is or brush one more time with a little bit more of your sauce. It depends on how well you made it.

Sushi Rice

Makes about 5 cups (plenty for some sushi)

- 2 c. Sushi rice
- 3 c. Water
- 1/4 c. Granulated sugar
- 1/2 c. Rice wine vinegar salt, only as needed

1. This is why I wrote "sort of follows" above: Every brand of sushi rice has a different set of instructions, so basically follow the one on the bag.

2. There is a plethora of information online about making sushi rice, and I want you to dig in and find a process that works for you.

3. The first big pointer is to rinse your rice thoroughly before cooking. This is critical and yields a perfect rice for sushi, poke and musubi as pictured here.

4. The second big pointer is to cook the rice a little before service but for the best results, do not refrigerate. We have all had grocery store sushi,

and while it's not bad, it is absolutely not the same thing.

Hawaiian BBQ Sauce

makes about 1 quart

- 1 c. Soy sauce
- 1 c. Pineapple juice
- 2 Tbsp. Ketchup
- 1/2 c. Rice wine vinegar
- 1/2 c. Brown sugar, light
- 1/4 c. Roasted garlic
- 3-inch piece of peeled ginger, fresh
- 3 Tbsp. Black and white sesame seeds
- 2 Tbsp. Red pepper flakes

1. Combine everything in a saucepan except for the sesame seeds and pepper flakes.

2. Bring to a simmer and slowly reduce until it has slightly thickened. As it cools down, it will thicken more. Also, the more you reduce it, the saltier it will be, so be judicious in your simmering actions.

3. Strain to remove ginger after you are happy with the consistency.

4. Add the sesame seeds and red pepper flakes and refrigerate until ready to use.

Paul Suplee is the owner of the boxcar restaurants and is also Senior Lecturer of Culinary Arts at UMES. boxcarrestaurants.com



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Worcester Prep fourth graders from left, Tajal Pillai, Eli Parker, Ramaiya Boopathi and Bryan Anderson pose with awards from the Maryland Municipal League's "If I Were Mayor" essay contest. Parker was the District 1 winner and earned a governor's citation while the other students were District 1 semi-finalists.

'If I were a mayor' statewide essay competition winners

(June 15, 2023) The district winner and several semi-finalists in the Maryland Municipal League's "If I Were a Mayor" essay contest came from the fourth grade class at Worcester Preparatory School fourth.

According to a news release, fourth grader Eli Parker, of Snow Hill, was named District 1 winner in the statewide competition. The contest is comprised of 11 districts, with District 1 encompassing Somerset, Worcester, Wicomico and Dorchester counties.

Eli was honored with the ten other district finalists at the Maryland State House in Annapolis on May 9. The 11 winning essays were chosen from thousands of student essay submis-

sions this year. As part of the celebration, each of the winners received a commemorative plaque, a personalized governor's citation and a monetary prize.

Fourth graders Bryan Anderson of Milton, Ramaiya Boopathi of Millsboro, and Tejal Pillai of Lewes also placed as semi-finalists in District 1.

The release said this year's essay theme was "Preserving the Past to Power the Future." The contest has educated 50,000 students about municipal government and the mayor's role for 23 years. The contest remains digital to ensure one of MML's longest-running programs is accessible to any classroom environment.

Volunteer mentors needed for local kids this summer

(June 15, 2023) Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Eastern Shore invites members of the public to maximize their summer plans and beyond by becoming a mentor to a local child.

Sign up to become a mentor today and enjoy all the activities summer has to offer with a new friend who enjoys similar interests, creating a meaningful impact on a child's life.

Mentor matches will have the opportunity to participate in community activities and agency-hosted events that expose children to activities they might not otherwise experience. By spending time together over the summer and beyond, mentors will build closer friendships and create great memories going to the park,

swimming at the beach, playing sports together, or participating in many other activities.

Existing school and site-based mentors, the fun of mentoring does not need to stop when school lets out. Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Eastern Shore works with other site- and school-based mentoring programs to safely allow mentors and students to spend time together in the community over the summer. When the new school year begins, in-school mentoring with mentees would resume.

To sign up today or for more information, call 410-543-2447, email clientservices@shorebiglittle.org, or visit shorebiglittle.org.

Calendar

Thurs., June 15

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.

SUMMER STORY TIME!

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Join in for the summer story time to help kick off Summer Reading. Stick around after for a fun craft. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

PLAY TIME

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

CHESS CLUB

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

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Beginning with a 20-minute lesson on genealogy research followed by a Q&A session. Bring a laptop, tablet or papers containing family information. Registration requested: 410-208-4014.

SUMMER SEA GLASS ART

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Learn to make summer-themed sea glass art. Materials provided. Registration required: 410-641-0650. 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 SINGLE 55 PLUS

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

Sat., June 17

ANNUAL OC SURF FEST

37th Street & Beach, Ocean City, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Five-person teams compet-

ing for fun in the "Anything Goes Team Challenge" Surf Contest. Also demonstrations and games on the beach. Benefiting Ocean City Surf Club. Register: www.oceancitysurfclub.org.

TEACH A KID TO FISH DAY

S. Gate Pond, 11144 Cathell Road, Ocean Pines, 9-11 a.m. All ages invited. Learn fishing skills and techniques from members of the Ocean Pines Anglers Club and DNR. Bring insect repellent, water and rod. Bait provided. John McFalls, 610-505-1697

WALK WITH A DOC

South Gate Pond, Ocean Pines, 9 a.m. Educate. Exercise. Empower. Monthly Walk with a Doc. Alyce Marzola, amarzola@atlanticgeneral.org

TINKER TIME: LOVE BUGS

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Drop in anytime. Use the library's supplies and your imagination to create. This month, create a love bug for someone special. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STEM SATURDAYS

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Join in any time during the day to use your creativity and build using one of the STEM building kits. For all ages. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ANNUAL YOUTH FISHING DERBY

Assateague State Park, 6915 Stephen Decatur Highway, Berlin, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Register at the Nature Nook. Participants must be ages 15 years or younger. Learn fishing techniques and surf fish. Fishing equipment is provided but limited. Prizes awarded. Info: 443-397-0078.

ASSATEAGUE ADVENTURES

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. A ranger-led adventure featuring crafts, puppets, stories and cool props from Assateague Island National Seashore. All children and their families are invited. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

HISTORIC SUMMER FUN KICKOFF

Germantown School Community Heritage Center, 10223 Trappe Road, Berlin, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Featuring arts and crafts, face painting, a moon bounce, animal encounters, train rides, museum tours and more. Free and open to the public. 410-641-0638, 443-235-9803

CRAFTY SATURDAY FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY: RAINBOW PRIDE CRAFTS

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

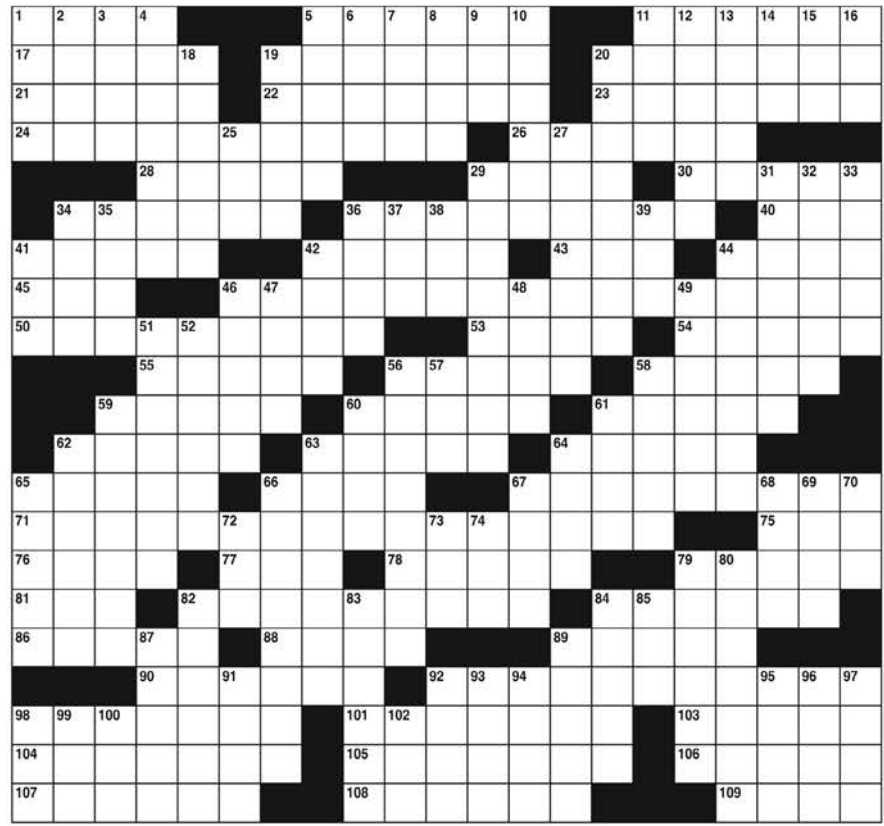
Puzzles

NUMBER THEORY

BY SAM EZERSKY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Sam Ezersky is the digital puzzles editor at The Times. A "puzzlehead" since childhood, he sold his first crossword to the paper, a Saturday, when he was 17. His job at The Times includes testing/fact-checking the daily Mini crossword and curating the daily digital Spelling Bee. This puzzle started when he noticed a curious property of 26-Across. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Consarn it!"
 - 5 Kind of case in grammar
 - 11 Shed some pounds
 - 17 Edited, in a way
 - 19 Sister channel of HBO
 - 20 What the answer at 26-Across is written in
 - 21 Low-level, as a class
 - 22 Question that might be asked when hurrying into a meeting
 - 23 Duty for a property owner
 - 24 Relative of marmalade
 - 26 FIFTEEN
 - 28 Oval Office V.I.P.
 - 29 Transition point
 - 30 Period preceding a school break
 - 34 What the answer at 45-Across is written in
 - 36 "Yes, captain"
 - 40 Gaping opening
 - 41 Willem of "John Wick"
 - 42 Toward the stern
 - 43 Howe'er
 - 44 Chicago mayor Lightfoot
 - 45 ELEVEN
- DOWN**
- 46 Whom Harry Potter frees from serving Draco Malfoy's family
 - 50 Spicy, crunchy snack tidbit
 - 53 "Ars Amatoria" writer
 - 54 Area the Chinese call Xizang
 - 55 "Make sense?"
 - 56 Hell
 - 58 Square up with
 - 59 & 60 Take control after a coup
 - 61 SIXTEEN
 - 62 "Just ___ boy, born and raised in South Detroit" (lyric from "Don't Stop Believin'")
 - 63 Specks
 - 64 Sleep: Prefix
 - 65 Not quite right
 - 66 Full of tension
 - 67 "Hallelujah, praise the Lord!"
 - 71 Because
 - 75 TWO
 - 76 Cozy spots to stop
 - 77 Miss in the future, maybe
 - 78 Buzz source
 - 79 Cocktail specification
 - 81 Fictional creature made from slime
 - 82 Restaurant handouts for calorie counters
 - 84 What the answer at 61-Across is written in
 - 86 Final authority
 - 88 Rainbows, e.g.
 - 89 Flour filter
 - 90 & 92 Alternative title for this puzzle
 - 98 On-the-go sort
 - 10 11's SW of Erie, Pa.
 - 103 See 106-Across
 - 104 What the answer at 75-Across is written in
 - 105 Life lessons?
 - 106 With 103-Across, character in Episodes I through IX of "Star Wars"
 - 107 Millennial, informally
 - 108 Things passed between the legs?
 - 109 "Butt out!"
 - 15 Team ___
 - 16 Major Southwest hub, for short
 - 18 In store
 - 19 Like some New Orleans cooking
 - 20 Sloppy
 - 25 Letter in the classical spelling of "Athena"
 - 27 "Here's something that'll help"
 - 29 Some battery ends
 - 31 Amorphous creatures
 - 32 Dreaded musician of the 1960s-'70s
 - 33 Brisk
 - 34 Luxurious affair
 - 35 Symbols of failure
 - 36 1974 Eurovision winner that went on to international stardom
 - 37 "Wahoo!"
 - 38 Immature stage of a salamander
 - 39 Letters of credit?
 - 41 Drops on the ground?
 - 42 "Not on ___!"
 - 44 Where Wagner was born and Bach died
 - 46 Scatterbrained
 - 47 Man's name that sounds like two consecutive letters of the alphabet
 - 48 At any time
 - 49 Oktoberfest vessels
 - 51 Some unfair hiring managers
 - 52 "Go ahead," in Shakespeare



- 56 Openly controversial opinions
- 57 Knock out
- 58 Invoice directive
- 59 Like most medical-journal articles
- 60 High hairstyle
- 61 Club ___
- 62 Egypt's "king of the gods"
- 63 Excellent conductors
- 64 N.Y.C. neighborhood near NoLIta
- 65 "Ciao"
- 66 Put in jeopardy
- 67 Muscle cars of the '60s
- 68 Lyrical, as poetry
- 69 Facetious response to a verbal jab
- 70 "E.T." actress Wallace
- 72 "Ugh, stop talking already!"
- 73 Sack
- 74 Sun ____, "The Art of War" philosopher
- 79 Where most of America's gold is mined
- 80 Like the presidency of John Adams
- 82 Joint
- 83 Longtime Eagles QB Donovan
- 84 Suspect
- 85 Bible study: Abbr.
- 87 With a wink
- 89 Kisses, in Cambridge
- 91 Brown
- 92 Bring (out) for display
- 93 Candy wrapped in a tube
- 94 "I'll come to you ___": Macbeth
- 95 Eensy-weensy
- 96 New pedometer reading
- 97 Beginner, in modern lingo
- 98 Mammoth
- 99 Western tribe
- 100 Salvador
- 102 What will happily sell its Soul?

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© Puzzles by Pappocom

HARD - 86

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

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

Calendar

Continued from Page 25

Spend a Saturday making crafts to celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride Month. Crafts for all ages. 410-208-4014, www.worcester-library.org

CHICKEN SALAD CARRYOUT

Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department, 10709 Bishopville Road, Bishopville, 12-2 p.m. Cost is \$8 per pint. Call 619-922-9950 for a guaranteed preorder.

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., June 18

SUNDAES IN THE PARK & FIREWORKS

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 7-9 p.m. Music by The Vi-Kings "60s/early 70's Soundtrack of your life," activities for children and fireworks. Ice cream and beverages for sale. Free event. Bring your picnic basket and beach chairs.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

Mon., June 19

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

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

DELMARVA WOMEN'S A CAPELLA CHORUS

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

OVEREASTER'S ANONYMOUS

Mondays - Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 7-8 p.m. No dues or fees. 410-459-9100

Tues., June 20

NO BULLYING, STOP BULLYING ... AND LET'S BE FRIENDS!

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. This high energy dance show works to prevent bullying. A mix of music, slapstick comedy and animated story-telling. For ages 6 years and older. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

OC KNITTING GROUP

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Bring whatever project you happen



CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

TENNIS ANYONE?

New players are learning platform tennis and spec tennis from volunteer instructors on Saturdays in June at 9:30 a.m. at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center.

to be working on. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BLOCK PARTY

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

NO BULLYING, STOP BULLYING ... AND LET'S BE FRIENDS!

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. This high energy dance show works to prevent bullying. A mix of music, slapstick comedy and animated story-telling. For ages 6 years and older. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ZUMBA

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Join certified Zumba instructor Joyce Landsman for an hour of movement. These classes uplift and improve mood. Free event. Registration required: 410-524-1818. www.worcesterlibrary.org

BEACH HEROES-OC

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

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

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

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., June 21

BIARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

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

EASTERN SHORE SEWISTS

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

NO BULLYING, STOP BULLYING ... AND LET'S BE FRIENDS!

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. This high energy dance show works to prevent bullying. A mix of music, slapstick comedy and animated story-telling. For ages 6 years and older. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

John H. "Jack" Burbage, Jr. Regional

Cancer Care Center, 9707 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 1-2 p.m. For survivors and current patients battling breast cancer. Women Supporting Women, 410-548-7880

STROKE SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Neurology, 314 Franklin Ave., Suite 104, Berlin, 3-4 p.m. For stroke survivors, family and friends. 410-641-4765, bglime@atlantic-general.org

MIKE NIXON: AUTHOR BOOK TALK & SIGNING

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 5 p.m. Featuring "Life Travel And The People in Between." The author will discuss his travels and writing journey. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

OPA CANDIDATE FORUM

Clubhouse Meeting Room, 100 Clubhouse Drive, Ocean Pines, 6 p.m. All four candidates for the OPA Board of Directors election are expected to take part in the forum. Questions from homeowners for the forum and the remote viewing link: elections@oceanpines.org.

SUMMER SOLSTICE

Held via Zoom, 7 p.m. Learn about the longest day of the year and how the world celebrates the sun. A guided meditation to welcome the summer season. Have a candle nearby. 443-783-6164

KIWANIS CLUB MEETING

Wednesdays - Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 8 a.m. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. Third Wednesday meetings are offsite and will be updated monthly on the website and Facebook. Guests are welcome. www.kiwanisofopoc.org

CLASSIFIED Marketplace

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



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

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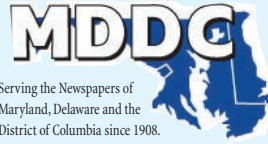
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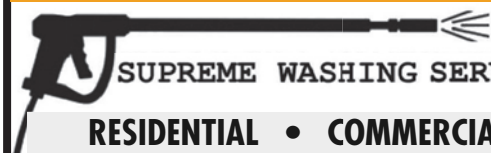
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