



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

TOWN SPIRIT

The staff of the Town of Berlin decorated the Christmas tree outside of the Atlantic Hotel before the big Ice Ice Berlin event, which drew thousands to the town last Friday.

Pay structure to be reformed per study

By **Cindy Hoffman**
Staff Writer

(Nov. 30, 2023) The Town of Berlin will revamp its wage scales based on a study conducted by PayPoint HR, an Anne Arundel County professional services firm, which found compensation of municipal employees lagging by an average of 8.5 percent across all departments.

The economic development department was the lowest at 22 percent below market and electric utilities was closer to on par with the market at 0.1 percent above market.

PayPoint HR recommended in its report that the town consider compensation adjustments for all job titles, a comprehensive approach, with no wage reductions.

The cost would be about \$370,000 to bring every employee to 50 percent of the market rate for their positions, according to Berlin Human Resources Director Kelsey Jensen.

While the goal is to bring wages up to competitive levels with other small towns, the council decided that the focus should be to get all staff established in a newly developed grade and step structure similar to what the federal government uses.

The structure has 25 grades and 21 steps in each grade. Salaries range from \$31,200 to \$164,883.

"This will give employees consistency year after year," said Councilmember Dean Burrell.

"This is a win for employees, a win for council and a win for residents due to its transparency," Councilmember Jay Knerr said.

Jensen told the council the grade and step structure makes it easier to build a budget and is more transparent for hiring and current staff.

With this structure agreed to, Jensen and Town Administrator Mary Bohlen will assign a grade to each position and present that proposal to the council. The council will not vote on the assigned grades but



Jay Knerr:

'This is a win for employees, a win for council and a win for residents due to its transparency'

See BERLIN Page 4

Berlin Christmas parade could draw 5,000

By **Cindy Hoffman**
Staff Writer

(Nov. 30, 2023) Coming on the heels of the insanely popular Ice Ice Berlin event on Friday night is the Christmas Parade, set 7-9 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 7.

Santa will be riding high in a Berlin fire engine as he leads the parade, which will include participants from a variety of schools, marching bands, fire departments, local businesses, nonprofits and car clubs, according to Ivy Wells, the director of economic and community develop-

ment for the Town of Berlin.

DJ Big Al Reno will emcee the event from a stage near the Taylor House Museum. The parade starts at The Berlin Welcome Center and proceeds north to the Berlin Fire Company. The judging stand is located on West/Baker Street.

Veterans of the event know to expect big crowds, similar to Ice Ice Berlin, and Wells anticipates about 5,000 people will attend the parade.

Turnout for Ice Ice Berlin was far beyond that of any other year, Wells said, with some stores having to insti-

tute a one-in, one-out policy to manage the crowd sizes in their shops. While most stores will not be open during the parade, most restaurants will be. Visitors are advised to plan ahead if they want to eat at a restaurant in town.

Main Street will be closed from 5-10 p.m. from Roadie Joe's Bar and Grill to the Berlin Library, according to Allison Early, the administrative assistant for the economic and community development department. Visitors to town should park at the Berlin Intermediate School on

Franklin Avenue, where a shuttle bus, sponsored by the Casino at Ocean Downs, will take them to the parade viewing area.

For those making plans to bring in the new year, Berlin with its two ball drops will be the place to be. The first drop will be for the kids at 6 p.m. and the other will be at midnight. The New Year's Eve party will feature laser shows, dancing and more. The event is free.

"New Year's Eve will probably be just as crowded and just as much fun," Wells said.

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Poll shows Berlin residents happy with town's services

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(Nov. 30, 2023) An overwhelming majority of residents are satisfied with the quality of life provided by the Town of Berlin, according to a survey of the public's view of municipal services conducted by BEACON (The Business Economic And Community Outreach Network) at Salisbury University.

The survey, which was mailed out in residents' utility bills, was conducted as phase one of a strategic planning process embarked by the town.

After much debate over the success of phase one, the Town Council voted Monday to allow BEACON to proceed with phase two of the strategic planning process, with Councilmembers Steve Green, Jay Knerr and Dean Burrell voting in favor and Councilmembers Jack Orris and Shaneka Nichols voting against it.

The concern raised by Orris and Nichols was the survey's low level of response.

"I would have preferred to see a little more outreach for the strategic plan," council member Jack Orris said.

Nichols noted that those receiving the utility bill are property owners, but could be renting the home to a resident who then did not receive the survey.

BEACON received 111 survey responses from Berlin residents, a 2 percent return.

Mayor Zack Tyndall reminded council members that that was a larger rate of response than the turnout in the last town elections.

"BEACON has done a fabulous job with phase 1. Phase 2, that's where it will start to take shape," Tyndall said.

Green noted that there were no surprises in the survey's results, so he was not too concerned about the low response rate.

Ninety percent of respondents said they were either satisfied or very sat-

isfied with the quality of life in Berlin, the survey found.

BEACON surveyed residents and conducted a separate phone survey of council members and two Worcester County commissioners, with residents and the elected officials providing similar responses.

Both residents and elected officials noted strengths such as the small town charm of Berlin, sense of community and safety.

Elected officials also noted customer service, unique town events, and transparency by the local government.

Similar to residents' responses, the elected officials surveyed said they were concerned about parking, affordable housing, an aging infrastructure and stormwater management.

Elected officials thought town priorities should include building a new community center, plans for Heron Park and the skate park, stormwater management, sidewalks, and funding for infrastructure and the fire department.

When asked what specific community services or facilities are lacking, 60 percent of those polled identified recreational facilities and 32 percent said affordable housing.

Sixty-three percent of the respondents thought the local government involved residents in the decision-making process.

When residents were asked what specific goals the town should prioritize in its strategic planning, the most mentioned objective was environmental conservation. Historic preservation and fiscal responsibility tied for second and infrastructure and services came in third.

BEACON also convened a stakeholders meeting with representatives from Atlantic General Hospital, the Worcester County Board of Education, Berlin Police Department, Tourism and various town employees.

During the session, the representa-

See SURVEY Page 4



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CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Berlin council members discuss an employee wage structure with Kelsey Jensen, the director of human resources for the Town of Berlin during their Monday meeting.

Berlin worker salaries adjust

Continued from Page 1
will have the opportunity to comment on them.

Employees can expect wage/step increases on their anniversary date and will be able to see and know that increase by looking at a grade and step chart. Current employees will be placed in a grade based on their positions and Jensen and Bohlen will determine their step based on the length of time in the position and in the town's employ.

Those with long-term tenure could max out on the steps and at that point, only get cost-of-living or COLA increases in their salary. Bohlen esti-

imated that there are less than 10 employees who are in that position.

New employees will be placed on the grade scale based on their position and then the step will be determined based on their experience, training and if they held a previous position in the town.

The pay structure should be in place for next fiscal year, according to Jensen. The town attempted a similar structure years ago but did not fully implement it.

"We need to make sure we are implementing what we are putting out there," Councilmember Shaneka Nichols said.

Survey results identify town strengths and weaknesses

Continued from Page 3
tives discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the town with the team from BEACON, with the results mirroring those of the residents and elected officials replying to the survey.

In addition, the representatives noted a limited workforce to fill positions in public services and concern over infrastructure, including fiber optic internet.

The group then drafted examples of vision statements for the town. One example of a vision statement created said, "At the heart of the Town of Berlin lies our unwavering commitment to fostering a community that embodies a clean, safe, enjoyable, and affordable environment for residents, workers, and visitors alike. We envision a town where these core values serve as the foundation for a vibrant and thriving community, creating a harmonious balance between tradition and

progress."
Based on the discussion with the council, BEACON will delay its public meeting, scheduled for Dec. 4 to January. The hope is that after the holidays attendance will be greater. Two meetings will take place, one at the Berlin Library and one at St. Paul's UMC on Flower Street. Dates and times have yet to be set.

The meetings will give residents another opportunity to share their thoughts. BEACON representatives will be asking the same questions as those provided in the print survey in hopes of getting more perspective from residents.

"The public will have multiple options to comment throughout the process," Tyndall said.

Also included in phase two is a half-day strategic planning retreat for a targeted group of officials and constituents. Phase 3 will be the development of the strategic plan.

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CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Berlin Council Briefs

By **Cindy Hoffman**
Staff Writer

(Nov. 30, 2023) The Berlin mayor and Town Council discussed events, police pension funding and roads during their Monday meeting.

Events

A motion was approved for two changes to the 2024 town event schedule. The Fall Cruisers event was moved to Saturday, Oct. 12 to coincide with the Ocean City Fall cruisers event. That move caused the Oktoberfest to move to Saturday, Oct. 19 with a rain date of Sunday, Oct. 20.

LEOPS

A motion to phase out the planned use of casino funds for Law Enforcement Officers Pension System (LEOPS) was tabled until the December council meeting.

Currently, the town covers all of the expenses for LEOPS with casino

funds in its multi-year spending plan. This was approved earlier this month by the Local Development Council (LDC) of Worcester County, with the caveat that the town would agree to phase out relying on casino funds for LEOPS in its next multi-year plan.

But Mayor Zack Tyndall noted that the council cannot legally bind future councils, obligating the council to table the motion so members can look at language that will acknowledge the request of the LDC without locking in a future council to a decision.

Roads

In an email poll vote, the council unanimously approved proceeding with Straight Line to perform striping and related work on Seahawk Road between Route 50 and Flower Street. The cost of the project is \$20,000 and will be covered with reallocated money from this year's budget.

CHRISTMAS IN BERLIN

(Left) Hundreds of people join the Delmarva Chorus in singing Christmas tunes during the tree lighting event at White Horse Park on Saturday night. (Right) A cheery archway entrance to the 50 decorated trees sponsored by local businesses and organizations in White Horse Park.

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Mailloux lawyers file brief affirming dismissal

Appeals case about Knupp hit-and-run charges sees arguments over court code

By Hunter Hine
Staff Writer

(Nov. 30, 2023) The appeals case of Tyler Mailloux, 23, of Berlin, continues moving forward with the filing of an appellee brief that argues the state's attorney charged the defendant in the wrong court.

On Nov. 17, the Appellate Court of Maryland filed received brief from Mailloux's defense team, Natasha Dartigue, public defender from the state's appellate division, and Celia Anderson Davis, an assistant public defender.

In the document, the two assert that Dorchester County Circuit Court Judge Brett W. Wilson correctly dismissed all 17 of the counts Mailloux faced after Worcester County State's Attorney Kristin Heiser charged him as the driver in the hit-and-run that killed Gavin Knupp, 14, of Ocean Pines in July 2022.

Wilson decided to dismiss the charges at a motions hearing on Aug. 18 at the Worcester County Circuit Court in Snow Hill. The dismissal came ahead of the September trial date in the case, thus removing it from the

docket.

Four of the 17 charges against Mailloux were felonies, and two carried a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. All the charges were related to Mailloux's alleged failure to stop at the scene or report it later.

At the hearing in August, Wilson agreed with Mailloux's attorney, George Psoras Jr., of Rice Murtha & Psoras LLC in Lutherville, who filed a motion to dismiss the charges based on the claim that Worcester County District Court had "exclusive original jurisdiction" over the first eight counts, which are classified as violations of Maryland's Transportation Code.

Wilson cited a section from the Maryland Code's Courts and Judicial Proceedings article that said district court holds exclusive original jurisdiction over these types of violations, whether they are a felony or misdemeanor.

By Wilson's reasoning, prosecutors should have filed the charges in district court first instead of going straight to circuit court.

The Worcester County State's Attorney's Office filed an appeal of the decision the same day.

The appellee brief further declares the validity of Wilson's decision and rebuts an appellant brief from Mary-

land Attorney General Anthony Brown that outlines the state's objection to the dismissal of charges, which was filed into the appeals case on Oct. 19.

In the new brief, Mailloux's defense says that the state is basing its argument on section 4-302(d)(1) of Maryland's Courts and Judicial Proceedings article, which says that district court has concurrent jurisdiction with circuit court when the penalty of a charge is three or more years in prison or a \$2,500 or greater fine.

Counts one through eight met that threshold, according to the state's appellant brief from October. With concurrent jurisdiction, the charges could have been filed in either court at the prosecutor's discretion.

Mailloux's attorneys have base their counter-argument on section 4-301(b)(17) of the same courts article, which says that district court has exclusive original jurisdiction over both felony and misdemeanor charges against anyone 18-years-old or over who is charged with a violation of the transportation article.

The public defenders say in the brief that section 4-301(a) further helps their case since it says district court has exclusive original jurisdiction over vehicle law violations when

the defendant is at least 16 years old.

"This court is tasked with determining which of the two statutes takes precedence at the charging stage," according to Mailloux's appellee brief.

The defense says that since 4-301 is the "first and more specific" of the two sections should take precedence and supersede the exception given to charges that meet the penalty threshold outlined in 4-302.

"The state would have the exception swallow the rule," according to the brief from Mailloux's lawyers.

Arguments in the brief also say that prosecutors stripped Mailloux of his Fourteenth Amendment right to a fair trial by filing the charges in circuit court.

If prosecutors had originally charged Mailloux in district court, he would have had the choice to continue the trial in district court or move the case into circuit court for a judge or jury trial. Defense attorneys claim that the state deprived Mailloux of his right to choose by deciding for him.

"Given Maryland's two-tiered trial court system, there could have been concurrent jurisdiction for trial of the misdemeanors and felonies charged, but not for charging them," according to the defense's brief.



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CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Numerous ice sculptures, sponsored by local business and organizations lined Main Street for the annual Ice Ice Berlin holiday event on Friday.

TREE LIGHTING

Thousands turned out for Ice Ice Berlin on Friday night to bring in the holiday season.

Sports betting generated \$5.8M for state

(Nov. 30, 2023) Maryland's sports wagering market had the best month yet this October, with the 13 retail and 12 mobile sportsbooks combining to generate more than \$5.8 million in contributions to the state.

Each sportsbook, including the retail establishment at Ocean Downs off of Route 589, pays 15 percent of taxable wins to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund, which supports public education programs.

According to a news release, statewide handle in October totaled more than \$483 million, with mobile handle accounting for almost 96 percent. Mobile wagering delivered over \$5.5 million in contributions to the state, while retail sportsbooks contributed \$310,717.

The release said the latest contribution was the best single-month total by a margin of 9.5 percent, surpassing the more than \$5.3 million generated in March.

October's handle was Maryland's second-best single-month total, trailing only December 2022. Through the first four months of Fiscal Year 2024, sports wagering has contributed more than \$14.9 million to the Blueprint fund.

"People love to bet on football, and that is certainly reflected in the handle this time of year," Maryland Lottery and Gaming Director John Martin said in the release. "The Ravens' success and college football are contributing factors, and there is a convergence of the seasons in October, with the

baseball playoffs and World Series and the start of hockey and basketball. From an overall perspective, the results show that a robust market has taken shape here in Maryland and is making a steady contribution to the state's education programs."

A detailed summary of each sportsbook's October 2023 results, including handle, hold percentage, prizes paid, promotional play, taxable win, and contribution to the state, along with a summary of statewide

handle and hold by sport is available for viewing and download at mdgambling.com.

Maryland's sports wagering market launched with five retail locations, including Ocean Downs, in December 2021. The first seven mobile sportsbooks launched in November 2022. As of the end of October, the release said the state had a total 13 retail locations and 12 mobile operators. More retail and mobile sportsbooks are expected to launch in the near future.

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'Tinsel & Twine' OP holiday farmers markets

Prepare for the season with baked goods, gifts, fresh produce, oysters and more

(Nov. 30, 2023) Throughout the month of December, the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market will host

"Tinsel & Twine" markets featuring holiday cheer, family friendly activities, fresh local produce and hand-made gift items.

Market Manager David Bean said in a news release that the holiday-themed markets will be held every Saturday, from Dec. 2-23.

"The winter holiday season at the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market is a wonderful time of year," he said. "Come get all the trimmings at the market for the most delicious holiday meal ever, and don't forget to get your fresh produce, floral arrangements, and goodies while you're here."

Bean said market merchants are taking special orders for the holiday season, and the marketplace is full of great holiday gift ideas.

"Homemade jams and jellies make a wonderful gift for a co-worker or neighbor," he said. "Guys, you'll find that one-of-a-kind, hand-crafted jewelry she'll cherish for years to come."

He added that bakers have selections of homemade goods, from cookies to made-from-scratch pies.

Fresh, local oysters are another holiday favorite. The release said Dize Seafood will stock oysters each week, just hours out of the local waters and sold both shucked and in the shell.

On Saturday, Dec. 9, there will be a candy cane scavenger hunt.

"Shoppers will receive a scavenger hunt clue board that will direct them to participating market merchants, community partners and artisans," Bean said. "When the shoppers follow the clues and arrive at the market location, they'll be rewarded with a small token, like a mini candy cane or some other small gift."

Once the scavenger hunt clue board is filled out, shoppers can return their board to special market guest Miss Ginger, the head baker from Santa's workshop at the North Pole.

Local singer and keyboardist

Logan Oluvic will be on the market stage performing holiday music. Peatl Moon Facepainting will offer special holiday facepainting as well.

Bean added that his office recently confirmed with the North Pole that Mrs. Claus plans to attend the scavenger hunt.

"Mrs. Claus shops at the Ocean Pines marketplace each year to gather items for her holiday dinner needs," he said. "It's a big honor for all of us."

This year, Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Mondays. Because of that, Bean said in the release that there would be no disruption to the market's regular schedule.

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market is open 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays in White Horse Park, next to the Ocean Pines Administration Building and Police Department.

For more information, visit ocean-pines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market.

Town of Berlin Public Notice



TOWN OF BERLIN REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP # 2024 - 01

Heron Park Building Demolition

Due Date: Wednesday, January 3, 2024
Time: 3:00 PM EST

The Town of Berlin is seeking Proposals for building demolition of designated areas, removal of debris on the interior, and site clearing of designated areas. Work also includes closing up of existing openings in buildings to remain and flashing/sealing the edges of roof lines exposed after demolition, and all other work as described in the plans and specifications entitled Heron Park Building Demolition, prepared by Davis, Bowen, & Friedel Inc, dated November 2023. There is a mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 11:00 AM. Qualified contractors are encouraged to visit the Town of Berlin website at berlinmd.gov/government/request-for-proposals/ or contact Town Administrator Mary Bohlen at 410-664-4314/mbohlen@berlinmd.gov for the official RFP. EEO.

OCD-11/30/2t

Marine Debris Summit set Dec. 6

(Nov. 30, 2023) The Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean's 2023 Mid-Atlantic Marine Debris Summit will be held at the Ocean City Convention Center Dec. 6 and 7.

According to a news release, the event is free to attend and open to the public, though pre-registration is essential due to limited capacity.

Organized biennially by regional council, the release said the summit aims to foster collaboration among a diverse range of stakeholders tackling marine debris and its sources. The agenda is designed to spark dialogue on inclusive strategies, enhance coordination efforts, explore current and future marine debris concerns, and spotlight prevention and reduction solutions.

The comprehensive program will cover topics such as the impact of microplastics and nanoplastics on humans, wildlife, and ecosystems;

strategies for managing debris from coastal storms; and discussions on large-scale removal initiatives and policy development.

In a blend of education and entertainment, the release said a Marine Debris Trivia Night will be hosted at 6 p.m. after the first day of the summit at Seacrets.

The Maryland Coastal Bays program has also invited students and early-career professionals to participate in a dedicated poster session at the summit.

The release said the session allows participants to showcase innovative research and contribute to the broader conversation on marine debris solutions. It is not only a chance to gain visibility for the participants' work, but also to receive valuable feedback and foster connections.

Details on submission guidelines and deadlines can be found on the

summit's registration page.

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Council has limited space for nonprofit organizations and universities to showcase projects at exhibit tables during the two day-summit. The release said there is no cost to table for universities and nonprofit organizations and opportunities will be on a first come first serve basis.

Visit midatlanticocean.org/2023-mid-atlantic-marine-debris-summit/ to see the full agenda and to register for the summit.

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program encourages all residents and community groups to attend the summit to learn more about marine debris to better understand the impact on the region's coastal bays.

For questions or sponsorship opportunity inquiries, email mcbp@mdcoastalbays.org or info@midatlanticocean.org.

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Be 'Santa to a Senior' and bring joy this holiday season

(Nov. 30, 2023) The Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department is participating once again in the countywide "Be a Santa to a Senior" program, organized by Home Instead.

Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue said in a news release that the program helps brighten the hearts of seniors in the community by giving thoughtful gifts they might not otherwise receive.

In Ocean Pines, ornaments with the names of local seniors are placed on a Christmas tree in the Community Center lobby. Each ornament includes a list of requested items for each senior.

Crystal Heiser, who coordinates the program, said last year nearly 900 local seniors received gifts

through the program, with almost 200 coming from the Ocean Pines community.

"This cause is important because these seniors are asking for essentials – not for what they want," she said in the release. "That said, most of the 'Santas' that take a tag will tuck in a special treat or item that wasn't asked for to make the giving more personal."

Anyone interested in participating in the program can stop by, pick up an ornament, buy the requested items, wrap them, and bring them back to the community center by Dec. 6. Home Instead will do the rest.

For more information, email Heiser at crystal.heiser@homeinstead.com.



A tree with wish list items for seniors stands outside the East Room in the Ocean Pines Community Center. The Pines rec and parks department is once again hosting a "Be a Santa to a Senior" program that hooks donors up with senior citizens to provide Christmas gifts.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/
BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Coastal Hospice offers grief support for loss of loved one

(Nov. 30, 2023) Coastal Hospice now offers grief support to family and friends of loved ones who have lost their lives due to overdoses.

A news release said the free program focuses on providing grief support and resources to people in the four counties the organization serves, regardless of whether they are directly supported by Coastal Hospice.

"With this program, families from the four counties we serve will be able to receive specialized grief support for the loss of a loved one related to an overdose death," Program Coordinator Alvin Harmon said in the release. "When a death of this nature happens in a family, it is often sudden, traumatic, and can be surrounded by stigma for survivors. Our goal is to provide them with a safe space to process these losses and offer them resources to help them develop coping skills to deal with grief." Coastal Hospice Bereavement Counselors are available to provide:

ordinate support and resources

- Compassion, fatigue and sensitivity training
- Mental health provider education.

- Up to three sessions of private grief counseling
- Grief support groups
- Information about ongoing support and resources
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Members of the Pine Tones Chorus pose during their Christmas concert last year.

Pine Tones Chorus Christmas concert Dec. 8

(Nov. 30, 2023) Members of the Pine Tones Chorus will hold their annual Christmas concert at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 8, at the Atlantic United Methodist Church in Ocean City on Baltimore Ave. and Fourth Street. The concert, "A Very Jazzy Christmas," will feature "spirited and synopated selections as well as some

with dream-like harmonies," according to a news release.s "My favorite song is our arrangement of 'It Came Upon the Midnight Clear' with its jazzy, spirited sound," Chorus President, Dave Holloway said in the release. Other songs set to be performed include "Perfect Christmas Night"

from the movie "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," and a "rollicking version" of "Joy to the World." From "A Charlie Brown Christmas" comes the song "Christmas Time is Here," a well-known popular theme. Other songs reflecting mellow, contemporary harmonies will include "White Christmas" and "I'll be Home for Christmas." The Pine Tones Chorus is made up of about 50 singers from Ocean Pines, Ocean City, and nearby areas. The chorus is under the direction of Jenny and Pete Anderson. Guest mu-

sicians will accompany the chorus with Tom Baione playing string bass and Frank Pasqualino adding percussion. Admission is free and an offering will be received. After the concert, guests may enjoy refreshments in the church social hall. The Pine Tones Chorus has been entertaining local audiences in the Ocean Pines and Ocean City areas since 1984. For more information, call Holloway at 410-641-5672, or Jenny Anderson at 443-655-5636.





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Buckingham Farm to School month event

(Nov. 30, 2023) As part of Worcester County Public Schools' celebration of National Farm to School Month, students at Buckingham Elementary School recently met a local farmer, received nutrition lessons and sampled fresh kale from Cross Farms.

In 2010, Congress declared October National Farm to School Month in recognition of the role farm-to-school plays in promoting well-being among children and building strong local economies. According to a news release, the program helps cultivate the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers.

The release said it is important for students to have a greater understanding of where their food comes from and how agriculture has an impact on their health. Farm-to-school empowers children and their families to make informed food choices, which leads to a healthier community.

As part of the celebration, Buckingham Elementary School welcomed Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education Educator Caitlin Daw and local farmer Carol Cross to school last week to provide lessons in nutrition and host a school-wide taste

test of local produce.

The release said Daw told the students the importance of making healthy meal choices to build a healthy lifestyle that can last through their entire lives. Using tools like the U.S. Department of Agriculture's MyPlate, students learn how balanced meals can keep their bodies fit and ready for activity such as sports and play.

Cross, who owns and operates Cross Farms in Berlin, brought kale from her farm to provide a school-wide taste test of a sweet potato and kale salad. Worcester County Public Schools recently incorporated Cross Farms' naturally grown produce into school breakfasts and lunches. The collaboration helps students gain access to healthy foods and also strengthens the local economy.

"Giving students the opportunity to taste nutritious foods in school at an early age is vital to establishing a lifelong commitment to a healthy lifestyle," Coordinator of Food Service Odtis Collins said in the release. "We're grateful to both Cross Farms and the SNAP-Ed program for enabling us to bring such a wonderful experience to the children of Buckingham Elementary."



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Pictured, from left, are local farmer Carol Cross from Cross Cross Farms in Berlin and Assistance Program Education Educator Caitlin Daw addressing Buckingham Elementary School students about nutrition and healthy lifestyles on Oct. 18 in recognition of National Farm to School Month.

DNR Police hosting toys for tots drive Dec. 2 in Berlin

(Nov. 30, 2023) The Maryland Department of Natural Resources Police is conducting its annual Boatload of Toys drive at several locations in the coming weeks, including one in Berlin.

Locally, the drive, which is part of the national United States Marine Corps Toys for Tots initiative, will be set up for collection of new, unopened toys for children in need from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Dec. 2, at the Berlin Walmart on Ocean Gateway.

According to a news release, members of the police volunteer reserve

officer program and staff will collect the toys at drop-off locations in each region of the state — southern, eastern, central, and western.

New additions to the program this year include an increase in donation drop off points and a partnership with Amazon, which is offering Marylanders the opportunity to donate toys online through a Toys for Tots Registry hosted on Amazon's platform. Donations can be added to an Amazon cart, choosing the "NRP Safety Education Unit" gift registry address listed.

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Snapshots



HONOR SOCIETY

The Charles R. Jenkins Chapter of the National Honor Society at Worcester Preparatory School recently inducted 30 new members. Pictured are the inductees after the ceremony. They are, front row from left, Angeline Todorov, Frank Miller, Sydney Tingle, Lydia Schwartz, Avery Roselle, Emma Zajdel and Danielle Carr. Second row, from left, are Abigail Ament, Lindsay Bruner, Nazli Unal, Aurora Holland and Nathan Montague. Third row, from left, are Jayden Scopp, Lucas Nicastro, Michael DePalma, Owen West, Landon Schul, Ryan Mann, Edward Martikyan, and Aleksey Klimins. Back from, from left, are Travis Netting, Ryan Lenox, William Wells, Jackson Fernley, Allen Zhang, James Haley, Jack Lynch, Benjamin McGovern, Dillon Scopp and Andrew McCormick. SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



PHOTO COURTESY DAVIS J. LANDIS SR.

RED KETTLE AWARD

The Salvation Army kicked off its 2023 Red Kettle Campaign in the Civic Center in Salisbury on Nov. 8 with the organization's annual breakfast and 2022 award presentations. The Kiwanis Club of Ocean Pines-Ocean City and the club-sponsored Key Club at Stephen Decatur High School both received awards for first place in the Bell Ringer Civic Group. Pictured, from left, holding the awards are Kiwanians Tom Southwell, Diane Denk, Diane Spartzak and David J. Landis Sr.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

BEACH RESPITE DONATION

Members of the Eastern Shore Association of Golf Course Superintendents recently donated \$11,000 to the Believe In Tomorrow beach respite program on the Eastern Shore. Pictured with the check are John Bartlett and Joe Perry with the golf association and Mary Decker Brown and Amanda Koontz from Believe In Tomorrow.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

TRIP TO PARSONS

Worcester Prep kindergartners recently took a field trip to Parsons Farms in Dagsboro, Delaware. The students rode the tractor to the pumpkin fields and picked their own pumpkins to take home, learned about different crops grown at the farm and the lifecycle of pumpkins, visited with the animals, and played games. Pictured, kindergartners Will Rafinski, Carter Grahn and Barney Hall ride the tractor out to the pumpkin fields.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Kindergartners Winslow Ross and Arden Pyne show off their pumpkin picks.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Kindergartner Harper Hunt gives Fiona the horse a kiss during the field trip.

Local public schools get foundation grants

(Nov. 30, 2023) Ten Worcester County public schools are equipped to enhance programs and educational resources thanks to the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore.

According to a news release, schools in Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties have been awarded a total \$116,144 through the foundation's education grants program.

The grants are issued annually to schools that have developed innovative programs to enhance education and improve the social, emotional and physical wellbeing of students and communities.

The release said a "record-breaking number of requests" came in this year for the funds, which are awarded in conjunction with National Education Week through a competitive process to public and private schools on the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland. The requests covered a wide variety of needs at each of the county schools.

A total of 40 programs within the counties, 10 of which are in Worcester County schools, were ultimately chosen to receive grants.

"The Community Foundation is proud to offer support to our schools, educators and students," Community Foundation President Erica Joseph said in the release. "When we invest in education, we are building long

term impact for the future of our local community and the success of our future leaders."

In Worcester County, the following schools and programs received grants for the 2023-24 academic year:

- Ocean City Elementary will provide targeted enrichment instruction for Tier 1 students through literature text sets, improve the school's library collection and increase student engagement in recreational reading.
- Stephen Decatur Middle will expand the library's nonfiction resources and build a collection of books written in Spanish.
- Showell Elementary will install a book vending machine to promote excitement about reading and buy iPads and Lego education kits to enhance the school's makerspace.
- Berlin Intermediate will stock the school's house store with incentive items for their positive behavior program.
- Cedar Chapel Special School will purchase adaptive tricycles for students with diverse abilities and use a curriculum that teaches students with diverse abilities about boundaries and self-awareness.
- Snow Hill Elementary will expand the school library's picture book and chapter book selections to engage readers.
- Snow Hill High School will boost



PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Ocean City Elementary School students, staff and parents walk into school on the first day of the 2023-24 academic year in September. The school was one of ten countywide that recently received grants from the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore for a variety of programs and resources.

the school's positive behavior program with rewards and incentives and host a Friday Night Book Club that allows students to select titles from current and engaging themes.

• Snow Hill Middle's RISE and program will allow at-risk students to practice life skills and social etiquette in real-world social settings. The school's Pathways to Resilience initiative will fortify the library's Social-

Emotional Learning resources.

• Pocomoke Elementary School will install a book vending machine to promote excitement about reading and create a diverse outdoor classroom space for art, music, physical education, and STEM lessons.

• Pocomoke High School will partner with Cedar Chapel Special School to bring awareness and acceptance of those with special needs.

Josh Alton celebration and toy collection set for Dec 16

(Nov. 30, 2023) The Ocean Pines Yacht Club will host a Christmas event this year in honor of 18-year-old Ocean Pines resident Josh Alton, who passed away of cancer last December.

The Celebration for Josh is set for 5 p.m., Dec. 16, at the yacht club.

The event will feature a DJ playing Christmas songs, hot chocolate and cookies, and Santa riding in on a fire truck.

Organizers will also be collecting toys for local shelter Diakonia.

Anyone who would like to donate cookies to the event is asked to contact Colby Phillips at santaphillips@yahoo.com.



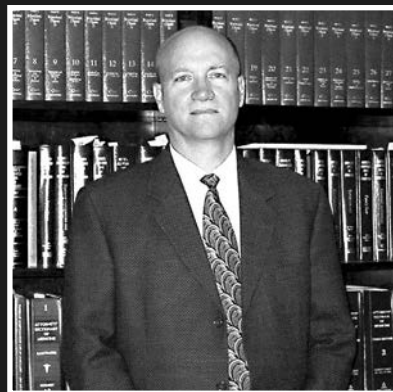
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Ocean Pines resident Josh Alton, who passed away last December after battling cancer, accepts gifts from Santa during a Christmas-themed event in September 2022.

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Opinion

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

Pay studies find what officials already knew

For many people, it often seems that no matter who conducts a government pay study, the findings will show that the pay scales aren't what they should be. Almost as frequently, the researchers conclude that the pay plan should be restructured.

Skeptics might opine that the first conclusion arises out of the research firm's desire to produce something to justify its efforts, or because it employed a formula out of sync with the local economic circumstances.

But no, that isn't it at all. The reason is that the consulting company found what the customer, in this case the Town of Berlin, already knew: that its wage scale was off as compared to similar government and private enterprise operations.

What the mayor and council needed from their consultant, PayPoint HR, was independently produced evidence to bolster their argument that something needs to be done. In other words, contracting for a pay study follows the trial lawyer's rule of never asking a question in court without knowing in advance what the answer is going to be.

Because the difficulty in raising wages for government employees is not about what government can afford, but what the taxpaying public is willing to afford, pay studies are used to convince the public they need to afford these changes if they wish to continue to maintain the level of service they now enjoy. This isn't a criticism, it's an unpleasant fact in the relationship between local governments and their constituents.

As for the second of the pay study's two findings — that the compensation plan needs to be restructured — that just makes sense. The matter of who gets paid what can become less orderly over time and both the public and the employees need a better idea of where things stand.

In business, pay disparities are easier to deal with, providing the money's there. In government, not so much. Taking care of the public's money and public employees at the same time can get complicated. Pay studies help by taking some of the pressure off the decision-makers.

OCEAN PINES ASSOCIATION REPORT

Beware of holiday scammers

A message from the Ocean Pines Police Department

Ocean Pines Police are reminding homeowners and residents that the holiday season is often a time when online scammers are especially active. Because of that, it's important to use caution, check your bank balances regularly, and only shop on trusted websites when possible.

Ocean Pines Police Chief Tim Robinson offered the following safety tips for online holiday shopping:

- **Always know where you're shopping online.** Major sites like Amazon.com and Walmart.com offer shoppers an extra layer of security, but some scam sites try and mimic the appearance of trusted sites. Check your browser and make sure the URL (such as www.amazon.com) matches up.
- **Monitor your bank account and regularly verify your credit card statements.** If fraudulent charges appear or you think your account has been compromised, contact your financial institution right away.
- **Change any passwords regularly.** Resetting your password is often as easy as sending an email. Also, avoid common or easily guessed passwords.
- **Beware of unsolicited emails.** Es-

pecially this time of year, people will get emails from companies pretending to be Amazon and saying a payment has been declined and needs to be verified. Never send credit card or bank information by email, and always make sure the sender's email address matches the site they claim to be from.

When scheduling package deliveries, Robinson recommends doing so on days when you'll be at home. If possible, request a signature upon delivery.

"If you won't be at home, a lot of places will allow you to make a schedule modification like to a neighbor's house," Robinson said. "Many companies, like Amazon, will also give you notices if you sign up that tell shoppers when their packages are in transit, and even send notifications upon delivery."

Robinson said residents should also report suspicious activity around the neighborhood.

"If you see a stranger going up on other people's porches, call the police department, we'll come check it out," he said.

Report any potentially fraudulent activity to Ocean Pines Police by calling 410-641-7747.

OP doubles up holiday decorations

Residents enjoy extra lights and seasonal decor in community

(Nov. 30, 2023) Ocean Pines Public Works is leading an effort to make the community merry and bright this holiday season.

General Manager John Viola said in a news release that spending was increased for holiday decorations this year, thanks to a reallocation and repurposing of budget funds.

The effort includes about 25,000 lights, seven large and illuminated Christmas trees, and live trees at both the north and south gates.

Public Works also put in

more than 50 live trees at White Horse Park, ahead of the annual Hometown Christmas tree lighting.

The release said the community response to the increase in decorations has been overwhelmingly positive.

"I'm just so impressed with the decorations and the whole place," resident Peggy Sedor said. "I rode through yesterday and I said, 'this is the best place in the world to live!' It's just beautiful and the decorations are just exquisite. Everybody is saying it."

Public Works Director Eddie Wells credited Tony Howard and his team for putting up decorations around the community.

"Tony is a valued employee, and he has a great eye for landscaping and decorating," Wells said in the release. "He and his crew have done an awesome job with everything so far, and there's more to come over the next several weeks."

Viola said roughly double the holiday decorations are going up this year.

"We are getting many, many positive comments about all the new decorations, and it's a credit to Public Works," he said. "We hope everyone in the Ocean Pines community enjoys all the new displays, and we hope everyone has a very merry Christmas and holiday."

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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PAPER COMPOSITION/PAGE DESIGN Susan Parks

GRAPHIC ARTISTS Kelly Brown, Jane Leibowitz

PUBLISHER..... Christine Brown

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Gini Tufts

The Bayside Gazette is published weekly by FLAG Publications, Inc.
11934 Ocean Gateway, Suite 6, Ocean City, Md. 21842.
The Bayside Gazette is available by subscription at \$75/year or \$40/6 mos.
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Hardwire in Pocomoke City earns economic dev. award

(Nov. 30, 2023) Members of the Rural Maryland Council recently announced that Hardwire, a manufacturing organization in Worcester County, was selected to receive the Outstanding Rural Economic Development Award at the 2023 Maryland Rural Impact Awards.

According to a news release, the awards, hosted by the Rural Maryland Council, recognize individuals and organizations that have made noteworthy contributions to communities throughout rural Maryland. The awards ceremony was held Nov. 13, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Annapolis.

Hardwire, a HUBZone Small Business based in Pocomoke City, specializes in protective armor systems for

military, law enforcement and civilian applications. The company has created a number of jobs and significantly impacted economic development through innovative and creative solutions, according to the release.

The release added that the company's commitment to a life-saving mission, demonstrated by the development of protective armor systems, caught "the attention and admiration" of members of the Rural Maryland Council.

Hardwire CEO George Tunis expressed his gratitude for the award and recognition in the release.

"We are honored to receive the 2023 Maryland Rural Impact Award for Outstanding Rural Economic De-

See COMPANY Page 17

Frontier Town recognized at hospitality conference expo

Western-themed park earns high honor at event held in Kansas City in early Nov.

(Nov. 30, 2023) Blue Water Development recently announced that Sun Outdoors Frontier Town off of Route 611 in Berlin has earned a Mega Park of the Year Award at the 2023 Outdoor Hospitality Conference & Expo in Kansas City.

According to a news release, the award is a testament to Frontier Town's "dedication to providing an exceptional outdoor hospitality experience to its guests."

The release said the Western-themed park, founded in 1959, has been a destination for outdoor enthusiasts, campers and nature lovers for years.

Visitors are treated to daily Western-themed shows by performers from throughout the country.

Along with the performances and reenactments, the park offers a ropes and zip line courses, as well as camping. The campground features a recently renovated mini-golf course, full-service ice cream parlor, an oversized arcade, restaurants, stores, boat docks and piers, jet ski

rentals, daily activities, nature trails, charter boat fishing, a dog park and more.

"We are thrilled to receive the Mega Park of the Year Award at OHCE2023," Frontier Town General Manager Nicole Burrell said in the release. "This recognition recognizes our dedication to delivering memorable outdoor experiences that exceed our guests' expectations. Our gratitude goes out to our incredible staff, our loyal guests, and everyone who has contributed to Sun Outdoors Frontier Town's outstanding reputation."

The awards ceremony took place on Nov. 8 in Kansas City, Missouri, where Blue Water Development was presented the award in front of an audience of industry leaders, and fellow park operators.

The award was presented by Outdoor Hospitality Industry, formerly known as the National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds. The release said the award acknowledges Blue Water Development's continuous efforts to enhance park facilities and amenities.

For more information about Sun Outdoors Frontier Town, or to plan a trip, visit the park's site online.

Sen. Carozza participates in national leadership forum

(Nov. 30, 2023) Sen. Mary Beth Carozza (R-38) recently participated in the National Conference of State Legislatures Emerging Leaders Forum in Philadelphia.

According to a news release, she was tapped by Sen. Pres. Bill Ferguson to participate in the leadership event along with Sen. Alonzo Washington (D-22) and Del. Tom Hutchinson (R-37B).

"This leadership conference has been a tremendous opportunity to meet colleagues from across the country and discuss creative ways to communicate, persuade, and solve the many challenges we each face in our individual districts and states," Carozza said in the release.

She added that she appreciated the



Mary Beth Carozza

perspective of former state legislators who have held top leadership positions. A highlight was hearing about the lessons of the Founding Fathers at the Museum of the American Revolution.

The conference is a nonpartisan public officials' association composed of current state legislators from all 50 states, territories and commonwealths of the United States. The group's mission is to advance the effectiveness, independence and integrity of legislatures and to foster interstate cooperation by facilitating the exchange of information.



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Cuisine

Creaming integral part of coffeecake mix

Reprint from Dec. 8, 2022

Recently I started my 15th year in teaching. Four years at Worcester Technical High School was followed by 10 years at Wor-Wic.



By Paul Suplee,
MBA, CEC, PC-3

Now, I find myself on the beautiful campus of University of Maryland Eastern Shore. It has been quite a journey, but I

have enjoyed every step of it. Well, most of it, but that's for a different day.

One of my favorite stories as a culinary educator goes way back to my first year at the high school. The kids knew everything, they were belligerent and angry that they had to deal with the "new guy", and instruction was not necessarily something that they were about to take from me.

So, they floundered in the kitchen. I would try to correct them, and they would snap back in their wonderfully angsty way. So, I did what any self-respecting high school lab teacher would do. I gave them enough rope. More precisely, I broke them into 10 groups of two, facing each other across stainless steel tables that I had strategically lined up.

Between each pair of two students, there was a pan with pan spray, butter, cream, eggs, sugar, cocoa powder and anything else they would need to make a simple brownie using the creaming method.

Each student had a recipe with thorough instructions, and I calmly announced "you guys apparently know what you're doing, so make me brownies. They are due in an hour and 15 minutes. Oh, and it's worth a hundred points."

They all stared blankly at me as I sat in a chair and reminded them of the time restraint. And then it happened. One kid, who obviously did not take the time to read the recipe, unwrapped the pound of butter and placed it in the pan. Then he poured cream on top. Now, no one was laughing, as they were taking this challenge quite seriously. One by one, each group mimicked the actions of the first and poured the cream on the butter.

Then came the sugar, and the first group was banging on the butter with their spoons to get it to mix. Suffice it to say, by the time the eggs, sugar,

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Then came the sugar, and the first group was banging on the butter with their spoons to get it to mix. Suffice it to say, by the time the eggs, sugar,



cocoa powder et al had been added (incorrectly I might add), it was painfully obvious to the students that they perhaps should listen to the new guy. I waited for them patiently, and at last a young lady from Snow Hill announced, "We give up, Chef. What are we supposed to do?"

And that was the beginning of an incredibly productive year for all of us. Did I process-shame them? Yes, I did. Were they better for it? Yes, they were. Was I able to teach them some invaluable skills that semester? Absolutely.

All they had to do was cream the butter and sugar together first. If they had done that, meaning that if they had read the recipe and followed instructions, they would have had a much easier time achieving their goals.

The creaming method is the basic start for muffin batters, and in this case coffee cake batters. It is a rather sophisticated method, so pay attention and let me know if I need to back up and explain it further.

Step one is to soften the butter and place it in a stand mixer, or a bowl with a hand mixer. It doesn't really matter which one. Next you add the sugar, and then you mix it until it is what? You got it! Creamy. As butter

is a water and fat emulsion, the sugar and butter mix and the sugar eventually dissolves in the water in the butter and the homogenized mixture is smooth and creamy. And then you add the other ingredients and Bob's your uncle.

Ah, the halcyon years of instructing. I can only hope that they continue to be as entertaining as they have always been.

And now that you have this process burnt into your brain, you may want to try this cake for your holiday guests and friends. It is the season for entertaining, after all.

Coffeecake

makes 1 tube cake

1 1/2 Tbsp. AP Flour
1 Tbsp. Ground cinnamon
6 oz. Brown sugar
4 oz. Pecans, chopped
1 oz. Butter, melted
4 oz. Butter, softened
8 oz. Granulated sugar
2 large eggs
8 oz. Sour cream
7 oz. Cake flour, sifted
1/4 Tsp. Salt
1 tsp. Baking powder
1 tsp. Baking soda

1 tsp. Vanilla extract

Blend the first five ingredients together in a bowl and set aside while you make your batter.

For the batter, cream the butter and sugar together until they are ... yes, creamy.

Add the eggs one at a time while incorporating well.

Add sour cream and beat until smooth.

Add the flour, salt, baking powder, baking soda and vanilla and mix well.

Spoon half of the batter into a greased tube pan. Top with half of the filling that you set aside earlier.

Put remaining batter in the pan, and top with the remaining filling.

Bake at 350F for about 35 minutes, or until a toothpick comes out clean.

From On Baking 3rd edition by Sarah R. Labensky.

If you don't have cake flour, add a Tbsp. of cornstarch to each cup of AP flour. This increases the starch content and decreases the protein content, thus making it more suitable for tender cakes

Paul Suplee is the owner of Boxcar40 in Pittsville and senior lecturer of culinary arts at UMES.

Obituaries



Joe Wilford

JOE WILFORD

Long Neck

Mr. Joe Wilford, of Long Neck, passed away peacefully at home on Thanksgiving Day with the love of his life, Liz Lindsey, present.

Joe was born to Roger Ferdinand Berte Leon Dequick in Brussels, Belgium, on June 3, 1935. After serving one year in the Belgian Air Force as a driver, Joe studied music at the Royal Academy of Music in Brussels and took private guitar lessons from his mentor, Jo VanWetter.

Upon graduation in 1955, he signed onto a radio station and did recordings and live performances, including live shows with Marlene Dietrich and Edith Piaf. Joe played lead jazz guitar in Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Luxembourg and a year

in Jordan from 1965 until 1966, where he played in various venues including King Hussein's Palace with a band from Spain.

After Joe left the Middle East, he lived in England for a few months, then moved to Washington D.C., at which time he married and had one child, Nancy Wilford-Abramson.

While Joe was in Washington, he opened his own restaurant and lounge called the BOCA JO and entertained audiences from all over the world. He also played at the Shoreham Hotel for dozens of well-known artists, including Tony Bennett, Peggy Lee, Toots Thielmans, Gladys Knight, Petula Clark, Johnny Mathis, George Benson, Dionne Warwick and many others. Joe also had the occasion to play for Billy Eckstine at the Playboy Cub in Baltimore, and claimed Billy had the best singing voice in the business.

Music was Joe's whole life and he played with many local jazz combos, big bands, orchestras, live TV, country, and rock and roll: but jazz was king in Joe's musical world. He deeply admired guitarist Jim Hall from New York and had occasion to meet with Jim at his home.

Joe was beloved by many people because he was the epitome of class and European style, generosity and

genuine friendship. He also had a great sense of humor and enjoyed many happy times with people from everywhere. Most of all, he loved his partner of over 30 years, Liz Lindsey, his beloved home in Long Neck and his kitty cats.

He leaves behind a sister-in-law Maureen Cloutier; stepdaughter Frances Cordell, her husband Gregg and their daughter Mary Cordell and Joe's son-in-law, John Abramson. Joe was predeceased by his mother and father Germaine and Omer Dequick of Brussels, Belgium. Any donations should be directed toward your favorite animal rescue.

A celebration will be announced at a future date.

Arrangements are in the care of Eastern Shore Cremation and Funeral Service, 504 Franklin Ave., in Berlin. To send condolences to the family, visit easternshorecremation.com.

MELODY ANN JOHNSON

Berlin

Melody Ann Johnson, 70, passed peacefully into the hands of God on Sunday, Nov. 26, 2023, at Tidal Health in Salisbury.

Melody was predeceased by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Johnson Sr.; and her brother, Edward

Johnson Jr.

She is survived by her brother, Patrick L. Johnson and his wife Carolyn T. Johnson; a niece, Genevieve Lee Johnson; sister-in-law Teresa Quillen Johnson; a niece, Amy J. Holloway; and her step-granddaughter Brittany L. Carey; along with her stepson and wife, Stacey and Karen Carey.

Melody was a graduate of Stephen Decatur High School, class of 1971, and Frostburg State College class of 1975. Her great loves in life were her family, the Stevenson United Methodist Church, hunting and fishing, serving the Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay, serving as a member of the Boggs Disharoon American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Post 123 in Berlin, along with numerous community activities involving veterans and assisting the elderly.

Arrangements are in the care of Eastern Shore Cremation and Funeral Service. Memorial donations can be made to the Boggs Disharoon American Legion Ladies Auxiliary, Boggs Disharoon Unit #123, P.O. Box 412, Berlin, Maryland 21811 or to the Stevenson United Methodist Church Spirit Kitchen, 123 North Main Street, Berlin, Md 21811.

A celebration of her life will be held at a later time.

Company stands out in rural Md.

Continued from Page 15
velopment," he said. "This recognition is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and innovative spirit of the entire Hardwire team. At Hardwire, we believe in the transformative power of technology, collaboration, and community support. This award is a reflection of our commitment to not only creating jobs and driving economic development but also making a meaningful impact on the well-being of our community."

Supporters of Hardwire's nomination include Sen. Mary Beth Carozza (R-38), Worcester Commissioner Caryn Abbott, Worcester County Workforce Development Specialist Nancy Schwendeman, and Melanie Pursel, the director of Worcester County Tourism and Economic Development.

Hardwire also actively engages with local businesses, supports education initiatives, and has played helped address challenges posed by the pandemic by producing over three million face shields and providing jobs to over 100 Marylanders, the release said. The company also donated more than 1,700 Emergency Response Shields to schools in Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset counties for active shooter protection.

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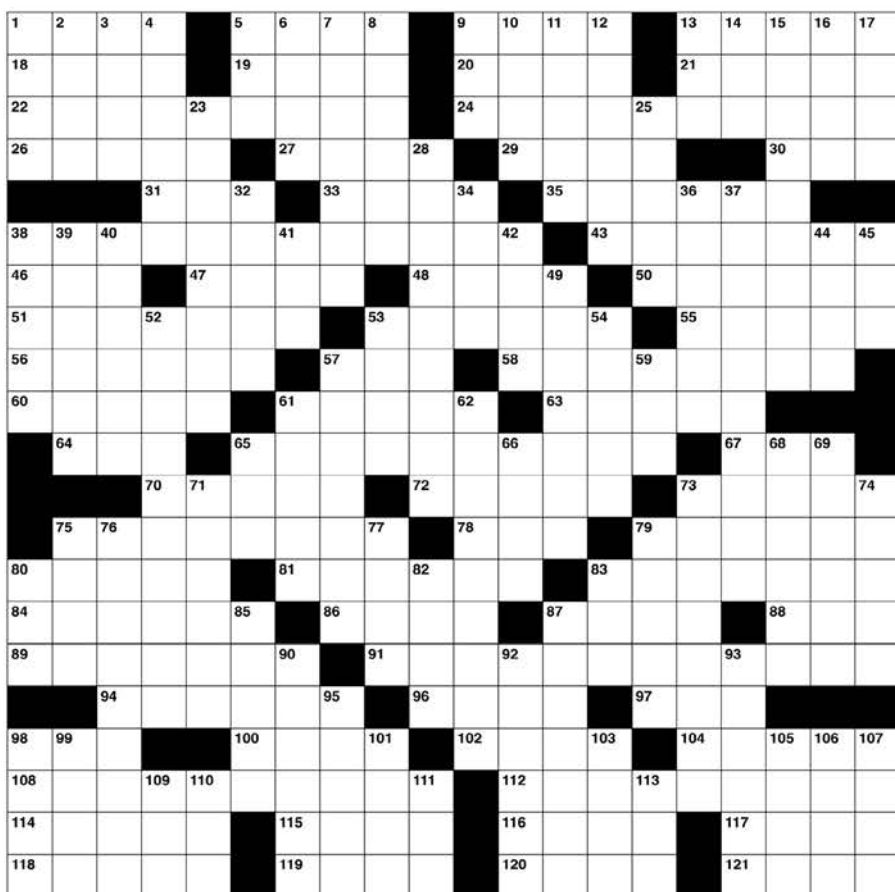
Puzzles

THANKSGIVING MEAL PREP

BY REBECCA GOLDSTEIN AND RACHEL FABI / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Rebecca Goldstein, of Albany, Calif., is a research scientist at Merck, developing immunotherapies for cancer. Rachel Fabi, of Syracuse, N.Y., is a bioethics professor at SUNY Upstate Medical University. They met via the online crossword community and now hang out on weekly Zoom calls. They both love collaborating. Rebecca says, "Having a second mind can really elevate an idea." Rachel adds that she enjoys having someone to share puns with. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 It grows on trees
 - 5 Dance form featured in the documentary "Kumu Hina"
 - 9 If-then-____ (programming trio)
 - 13 Fruit in the custard apple family
 - 18 Home to Dublin and Toledo
 - 19 Ritual whose name translates to "covenant"
 - 20 Locale for many cabs
 - 21 Common lab culture
 - 22 Stockpile bread?
 - 24 Research hors d'oeuvres online?
 - 26 "Ditto"
 - 27 Tizzy
 - 29 Rural tower
 - 30 Catchy tune, in slang
 - 31 Fighting sport, for short
 - 33 Since
 - 35 "Time to head out!"
 - 38 Selects green-bean casserole, candied yams and mashed potatoes?
 - 43 What a ghost might do to you
 - 46 Chortled syllable
 - 47 Loch Ness monster, apparently
 - 48 Love lines?
- DOWN**
- 1 ____ tea
 - 2 Exclamations of enlightenment
 - 3 Outer layer
 - 4 1988 Beach Boys hit with a geographical title
 - 5 "The White Lotus" network
 - 6 Web addresses
 - 7 Stage name of Montero Lamar Hill
 - 8 St. Francis of ____
 - 9 Official lang. of Guyana
 - 10 Land through which the Mekong River flows
 - 11 Go bad
- 50 Eases
 - 51 Blast from the past, so to speak
 - 53 "Full House" twins
 - 55 Setting in "Nomadland"
 - 56 Kilt folds
 - 57 Alex's partner in the jewelry industry
 - 58 Features of a vacant stare
 - 60 Gets caught
 - 61 Sanctify
 - 63 "Cease!" on the seas
 - 64 Part of a rock band?
 - 65 Debate roasting versus deep-frying?
 - 67 Groove
 - 70 "There ____ enough words"
 - 72 Word with bump or trap
 - 73 Former Florida flier
 - 75 Breaking up
 - 78 Corn unit
 - 79 Inventor Gray who had a patent war with Alexander Graham Bell
 - 80 Martin of Hollywood
 - 81 City on the Kenai Peninsula
 - 83 "Let me join!"
 - 84 Foolish
 - 86 Unspecific amount in a recipe
 - 87 Small game, often
 - 88 Some nail-biters, for short
 - 89 Developing
 - 91 Steers the dessert cart?
- 94 Fame
 - 96 Cupid's counterpart
 - 97 Grabbed a chair
 - 98 Some sex cells
 - 100 Heads of org. charts
 - 102 Part of some pods
 - 104 November birthstone
 - 108 Make cranberry sauce from scratch?
 - 112 Reserve the chardonnay for later?
 - 114 On a bias
 - 115 Off-the-wall
 - 116 Actress Jessica
 - 117 Noted Celtic musician
 - 118 Kind of question
 - 119 Shiny silver sticker?
 - 120 Bid first, say
 - 121 "____?" "____!"
- 12 Quarter backs?
 - 13 Letter before cue
 - 14 Landmark health legislation, for short
 - 15 Certain recyclable, in the Midwest
 - 16 Brand aptly found in "natural pooch food"
 - 17 Tendril
 - 23 "Ba-dum-tss" sounds
 - 25 Led Zeppelin's "Whole ____ Love"
 - 28 Aids in planning
 - 32 Untold millennia
 - 34 G-men
 - 36 Buffalo N.H.L.ers
 - 37 Work on one's whisking technique?
 - 38 Slices and dices
 - 39 "Absolutely not"
 - 40 "Goodness!"
 - 41 Enter a bear market
 - 42 Tournament ranking
 - 44 Clinton and Obama, astrologically
 - 45 Approx.
 - 49 Chuck Taylor All Star, e.g.
 - 52 Pro tip about seasoning stuffing?
 - 53 Length of some fun runs, informally
 - 54 Backed up
 - 57 Having an even score
 - 59 Macy's Thanksgiving ____ Parade
 - 61 Hairstyle that the Brits call "fringe"
 - 62 Captain Marvel, e.g.
 - 65 Start of some countdowns



- 66 Peruse
- 68 Open, as a drain
- 69 Home to Faa'a International Airport
- 71 German candy with a caramel center
- 73 Toddler's time out?
- 74 Parsonage
- 75 Sicilian stratovolcano
- 76 Things behind the Times?
- 77 "____ the night before Christmas ..."
- 79 Pitchers
- 80 Thur. + 3
- 82 Arthur of tennis
- 83 Rage
- 85 Philanthropist Pratt for whom the Baltimore public library system is named
- 87 Measurer of acidity
- 90 Pluck
- 92 Entrance
- 93 Put in a hold
- 95 "For real," in modern parlance
- 98 Go-ahead
- 99 Metaphor for a migraine
- 101 Lucid
- 103 Inspiration for the tribute band A*Teens
- 105 Winter candle scent
- 106 Actress Taylor-Joy of "The Queen's Gambit"
- 107 Ardor
- 109 Ryan Gosling's role in "Barbie"
- 110 Common factor
- 111 It ends when 1/1 begins
- 113 Boyo

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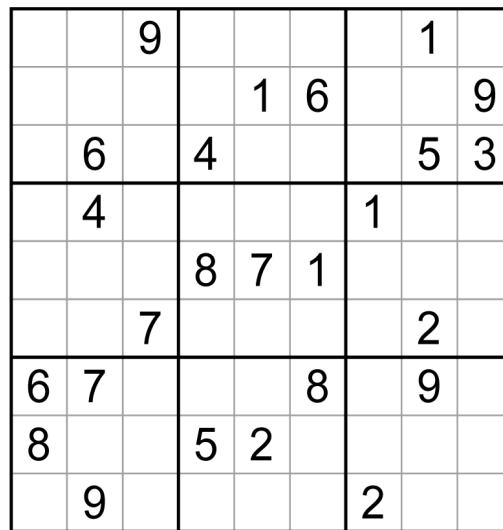
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© Puzzles by Pappocom

HARD - 62

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



Answers to last week's puzzles

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



Calendar

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

Thurs., Nov. 30

STORY TIME: 'I SANG YOU DOWN FROM THE STARS'

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Celebrate Native American and Alaskan Native Heritage Month with this beautiful story by Tasha Spillet-Summer. Follow with a fun craft. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME 'BIG RED BARN'

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Stories, songs and rhymes. 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. Come to the library and bring your boards. All are welcome. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

FIRESIDE CHAT

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 3 p.m. Book discussion featuring books participants have read and want to share. Come find your next great read. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ZUMBA

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4:30-5:30 p.m. Join certified Zumba instruction 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 MEET AND GREET

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

Fri., Dec. 1

FIRST FRIDAY OPENING RECEPTION & HOLIDAY FAIR

Art League of Ocean City - Center for the Arts, 502 94th St., 5-7 p.m. Featuring award winning artists from the past 12 months. Meet the artists, enjoy hors d'oeuvres and see the new exhibits by a variety of local and regional artists. <https://artleagueofoceancity.org>, 410-524-9433

MAHJONG CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Enjoy a fun morning of playing tile Mahjong. Feel free to bring your own tile set. All are welcome. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

FIBER FRIENDS ANNUAL HAT SALE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 12 p.m. Hats, headbands, scarves, cowls and mittens available. All are handmade items to benefit the Friends of the Ocean Pines Library. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

FLIGHT

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Learn about basic principles of flight while building a hovercraft and testing it in the wind tunnel. Experiment with film canister rockets and gliders. For ages 10 years and older. 410-957-0878

THE MAYOR'S OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS EVENING

Downtown Pocomoke City, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Live music, s'mores, hot chocolate and cider, hot dogs, horse & carriage rides, ornament making, Mr. and Mrs. Claus and more. Tree lighting at 6 p.m. Nonperishables and paper products being collected. 410-957-1333, Ext. 111

12 TOURNAMENTS OF CHRISTMAS

Ocean Downs Casino, 10218 Racetrack Road, Berlin. Slot Tournaments: Dec. 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12. Blackjack Tournaments: Dec. 3, 5, 7, 10, 11. Benefits Toys for Tots. <https://www.oceandowns.com/promotions/12-tournaments-of-christmas-2/>

Sat., Dec. 2

40TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE

Proceeds along Coastal Highway from Old Landing Road north to 120th St., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Awards and activities held at the Carousel after parade. <https://oceancitymd.gov/oc/departments/special-events/christmas-parade/>.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK AND CRAFTS

Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, Berlin, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Cookies and other sweets sold by the pound. Christmas wreaths and other craft items for sale. For more information call 410-641-2186 or email Bethany21811@gmail.com.

2023 CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Stevenson United Methodist Church, 123 N. Main St., Berlin, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Vendors, bake table, vegetable beef soup and pulled pork sandwiches, silent auction and white elephant.

FIBER FRIENDS ANNUAL HAT SALE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Hats, headbands, scarves, cowls and mittens available. All are handmade items to benefit the Friends of the Ocean Pines Library. 410-208-4014,

www.worcesterlibrary.org

SATURDAY WRITERS

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

CRAFTY SATURDAY: WINTER WONDERLAND

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Come and make some winter-ful crafts. All ages welcome. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

HOLIDAY ARTISAN FAIR

Art League of Ocean City - Center for the Arts, 502 94th St., 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Shop jewelry, ceramics, fiber art and more from local artists. There will be art activities, a bake sale, raffle, book signings, and community weaving project. <https://artleagueofoceancity.org>, 410-524-9433

HOLIDAY PLAY TIME

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 11 a.m. Kids, 4 years and younger, can enjoy toys and activities in the children's area, make a craft and complete a scavenger hunt for a prize. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

VICTORIAN INSPIRED EARRINGS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 12-2 p.m. Design and make earrings using semi-precious stones and crystals. Limit 15. Registration required: 410-208-4014. www.worcesterlibrary.org

TRIMPER RIDES CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL

Trimper Rides of Ocean City, 700 S. Atlantic Ave., 12-5 p.m. Vendors, indoor rides, 2024 Summer Pass sale, Snowball Brawl in Elf Land, holiday music performers and life-size Trimper Land board game. OCDC fundraiser. www.trimperrides.com, 410-289-8617

LET'S GET LIT

Cambria Hotel Ocean City - Bayfront, 13 Saint Louis Ave., 4-7 p.m. Seasonal local brews and drinks, live music, light fair and prizes for "Most Lit" costumes. General admission cost is \$40. VIP packages available. <https://www.shorecraftbeerfest.com/lets-get-lit.html>, 443-373-4093

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

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

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<https://www.oceandowns.com/promotions/12-tournaments-of-christmas-2/>

Sun., Dec. 3

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Ocean City Life-Saving Museum, 813 S. Atlantic Ave., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free admission, live music and book signing (11:30 a.m.), snack samplings, sand dollar ornament making, artifact scavenger hunt and 20% off purchases in the gift shop. <https://www.ocmuseum.org>

FROSTY FAMILY FESTIVAL

Wicomico Civic Center, 500 Glen Ave., Salisbury, 12-4 p.m. Live music, craft vendors, holiday characters, unlimited access to the bounce house village and more. Cost is \$12 for those 1 year and older. Tickets: www.WicomicoCivicCenter.org and at the door.

TRIMPER RIDES CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL

Trimper Rides of Ocean City, 700 S. Atlantic Ave., 12-5 p.m. Vendors, indoor rides, 2024 Summer Pass sale, Snowball Brawl in Elf Land, holiday music performers and life-size Trimper Land board game. OCDC fundraiser. www.trimperrides.com, 410-289-8617

MID-ATLANTIC SYMPHONY - HOLIDAY JOY

Ocean City Performing Arts Center - Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 3 p.m. Festive selection of holiday music. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$55. Tickets: <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/37162774/mid-atlantic-symphony-holiday-joy-ocean-city-oc-performing-arts-center>.

12 TOURNAMENTS OF CHRISTMAS

Ocean Downs Casino, 10218 Racetrack Road, Berlin. Slot Tournaments: Dec. 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12. Blackjack Tournaments: Dec. 3, 5, 7, 10, 11. Benefits Toys for Tots.

<https://www.oceandowns.com/promotions/12-tournaments-of-christmas-2/>

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

Mon., Dec. 4

STORY TIME: 'WADDLING PENGUINS'

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Stories, music with movement and crafts about penguins. For ages 2-5 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

Calendar

Continued from Page 19

SMALL SOCIETY WORKSHOP

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:30 p.m. Build your business from the ground up during this multi-day workshop (Dec. 4 and 11). Recommended for ages 7 years and older. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 p.m. This group meets twice a month to discuss selections recommended by the Great Books Foundation. Today's focus is on "Masks" by George Santayana. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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

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

12 TOURNAMENTS OF CHRISTMAS

Ocean Downs Casino, 10218 Racetrack Road, Berlin. Slot Tournaments: Dec. 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12. Blackjack Tournaments: Dec. 3, 5, 7, 10, 11. Benefits Toys for Tots. <https://www.oceandowns.com/promotions/12-tournaments-of-christmas-2/>

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.

OVEREATER'S ANONYMOUS

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

Tues., Dec. 5

NOURISH & CELEBRATE: HOLIDAY NUTRITION WORKSHOP

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 9-11 a.m. Learn how to keep your diet and nutrition in check during the holidays with Kathleen Dorsch. She will also do a healthy cooking demonstration. Alyce Marzola, 410-641-9268, amarzola@atlanticgeneral.org

STORY TIME: 'RABBITS'

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and fingerplays. For ages 2-5 years. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME: 'LET'S EAT'

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

OC KNITTING GROUP

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

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

JOINT HEALTH SEMINAR WITH DR. THOMAS BECK

Berlin 50plus Center, 10129 Old Ocean City Blvd., 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Dr. Beck will discuss joint health, the latest in treatments and surgery. Alyce Marzola, 410-641-9268, amarzola@atlanticgeneral.org

MASTER GARDENERS PLANT CLINIC

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

BABY TIME

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

ANIME CLUB

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4 p.m. Come celebrate your appreciation for anime and manga. Monthly themes will include trivia games, Japanese snacks and arts and crafts. For ages 13-16 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

12 TOURNAMENTS OF CHRISTMAS

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VIRTUAL POETRY READING

Held via Zoom, 7 p.m. Wor-Wic Community College is inviting the public to a free virtual poetry reading by D. Nurkse. Visit the events section at www.worwic.edu for more information.

BEACH HEROES-OC

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

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

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

OC KNITTING CLUB

Tuesdays - Worcester County Library -

Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m.

ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE

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

ZUMBA TONING TUESDAYS

Tuesdays - Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 5:30 p.m. Zumba with optional light weights. zumbajoyceoc@gmail.com

Wed., Dec. 6

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

Held the first and second Wednesday of each month. For non-surgical patients. Atlantic General Bariatric Center, 410-641-9568.

PUZZLE SWAP

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 1-5 p.m. Bring your gently used puzzles and leave with new-to-you puzzles. All puzzles must be complete in their original box. Don't have a puzzle but still want one? That's OK too. 410-641-0650

GLASS BLOWN ORNAMENTS

Jeffrey Auxer Designs, 19 Jefferson St., Berlin, 1 p.m. Local glass blower, Jeffrey Auxer, teaches the group to make ornaments in his studio. Limit 12. Registration required: 443-783-6164. www.worcesterlibrary.org

COFFEE AND CANVAS

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 2 p.m. Learn painting basics while sipping coffee and creating a new canvas for your home. Supplies provided, Registration required: 410-957-0878. www.worcesterlibrary.org

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 5-6 p.m. The group provides discussion and education on the topic of diabetes. Darlene Jameson, 410-208-9761, djameson@atlanticgeneral.org

ZUMBA WEDNESDAYS

Wednesdays - Ocean City 50plus Center, 104 41st St., 10 a.m. Dance background not required. zumbajoyceoc@gmail.com

HOLIDAY DECOUPAGE ORNAMENTS

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5 p.m. Decoupage oyster shells. There will be an assortment of themed designs and beads to choose from. All materials included. No experience necessary. Registration required: 410-632-3495.

12 TOURNAMENTS OF CHRISTMAS

Ocean Downs Casino, 10218 Racetrack Road, Berlin. Slot Tournaments: Dec. 1,

2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12. Blackjack Tournaments: Dec. 3, 5, 7, 10, 11. Benefits Toys for Tots. <https://www.oceandowns.com/promotions/12-tournaments-of-christmas-2/>

KIWANIS CLUB MEETING

Wednesdays - Ocean Pines Community Center, Assateague Room, 239 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

ONGOING EVENTS

BOOKS BEHIND BARS

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., during December. Donate books to the Books Behind Bars drive, which helps promote education and enrichment in local facilities. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

TEEN STEAM STATION

Berlin library, 220 N. Main St., during December. Drop-in for fun STEAM challenges. Create jewelry using binary code, construct a flying glider, design your own city out of recycled material and more. Challenges will change each week. For ages 11 years and older. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS AT SNOW HILL

Snow Hill library, 307 N. Washington St., Dec. 4-9. To prepare for the Dickens Weekend in Snow Hill, the Snow Hill library will be decked out in Victorian decor with crafts and activities for all ages. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BUS TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY

Bus departs Dec. 15 from Snow Hill at 5:30 a.m. and Berlin at 6 a.m.; returning at approximately midnight. Spend the day exploring New York City on your own. Enjoy the holiday spirit of the city. Cost is \$100 per person. Register: <https://worcesterecandparks.org/programs/motorcoach> or www.playmarylandscoast.org. Info: Kyle Jarmon, 410-632-2144, Ext. 2519, kjarmon@marylandscoast.org

WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS

Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, Nov. 16-Dec. 31, 5:30-9:30 p.m. Admission cost is \$6 for adults and free to children 11 years and younger. Take the walking tour through thousands of sparkling holiday lights and many animated light displays located along a paved park paths. Sip hot chocolate, take a photo with Santa, try a family craft, visit the gift shop and see the 50-foot Christmas tree. There will be a Winterfest Express tram ride with multiple "trolley" stops to assist guests in making their way around the 58 acre Northside Park. Pets are welcome on Wednesday evenings. Purchase tickets: <https://oceancitymd.gov/oc/departments/special-events/winterfest/>.

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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410-726-5200.

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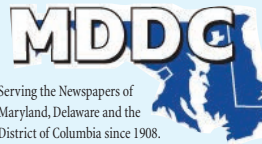
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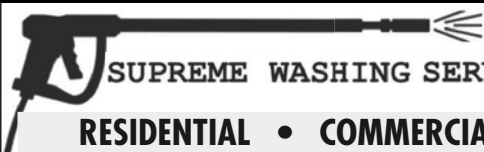
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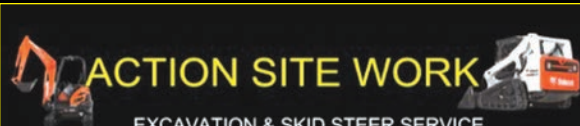
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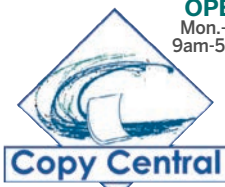
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