



CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

LOOKING UP

New Year's came early in Berlin. The streets were packed all evening as the town did a ball drop and laser show at 6 pm and again at midnight on New Year's Eve.

Tyndall reviews town improvements in '23

Town's 2024 calendar set to rival last year's in terms of planned public events

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(Jan. 4, 2024) The end of the year is a time of reflection and of looking forward to the year ahead for Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall, who highlighted four accomplishments for which he is most proud.

The first is securing funding and implementing the Law Enforcement Officers Pension System, or LEOPS, for the Berlin police officers.

"Public safety is crucial to us," Tyndall said. "If you are not safe, if you are not healthy, then you cannot have an active commerce."

Town officials consider securing funding for LEOPS to be critical to re-

cruitment and retention of police officers.

Currently, this funding is coming from casino funds (called Local Impact Grant or LIG funds). While the Local Development Committee, or LDC, the committee that reviews how local jurisdictions use their casino revenues, approved the use of these funds for LEOPS, it also asked the town to phase out reliance on casino funds for this purpose. As a result, the town council passed a motion in December to do just that in the next multi-year plan.

Tyndall also said he was proud of the town's investment in its aging infrastructure. That includes drilling and bringing water well #3 online and the installation of LED lighting at the Dr. Williams Henry Park basketball courts through Maryland Depart-

See BERLIN'S Page 4

Flush with cash, OP seeks improvement

Racquet club, tiki bar will be enhanced, golf course will install spray irrigation

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(Jan. 4, 2023) Under the direction of President Rick Farr and General Manager John Viola, the Ocean Pines Association has been going full steam ahead with projects to enhance amenities and make improvements in the community.

At the end of the year, the board approved expenses to expand the tiki bar at the Yacht Club, start a three-year effort to replace the irrigation system at the golf course and rehab the racquet sports building.

"We are flush with cash and will generate revenue off of that," Farr said.

The golf irrigation project is a major undertaking and certain holes on the course will be closed off during installation. Most work will be done in the off-season to reduce the impact this work will have on revenue generation, according to Farr.

The tiki bar will be expanded by 240 square feet so it can provide additional bar service on both the pool and Yacht Club sides.

Racquet sports enthusiasts are getting everything they wanted, according to Farr, with the rehab of the racquet sports building, including a pro-shop, office, upgraded bath-

See OCEAN Page 4

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Heat lessens on Worcester Co. chamber name change

'In Ocean Pines' added after board received blow back from partners, others

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(Jan. 4, 2024) The heat has been turned down a degree or two after the recent tweak to the name change for the newly minted Worcester County Chamber of Commerce in Ocean Pines.

The Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce announced in December it was changing its name to the Worcester County Chamber of Commerce. After concerns were raised by other chambers, elected officials and the Ocean Pines Board of Directors, Ocean Pines was added to the name.

"We heard what people had to say and we understood that we needed to keep Ocean Pines in the name. Our chamber of commerce is the best chamber around. We concentrate in Ocean Pines but we are trying to get more economic development and people to come and use Ocean Pines," Don Boger, a member of the board of directors of the chamber, said. Boger is also a resident of Ocean Pines and owner of Home Instead.

The addition of Ocean Pines to the name did not change the mind of Worcester County Commissioner President Chip Bertino, who originally stated "county government should not support, encourage, promote or engage in any activity or effort by the newly named Worcester County Chamber of Commerce that undercuts or diminishes the roles of the other chambers within their individual communities or interferes with the objectives of Worcester County Economic Development and Tourism or attempts to co-opt the relationships county government has with local, regional, state and federal partners and businesses."

But Melanie Pursel, Director of Tourism and Economic Development at the Worcester County Economic Development and Tourism did not have significant reservations about the name change.

"Our team at the Worcester County Office of Tourism and Economic Development takes tremendous strides to work cooperatively

and effectively with all of our stakeholders throughout the county, region and state in an effort to provide an exceptional level of service and resources to our new, existing and potential businesses."

"We want to continue to foster and grow those relationships, so regardless of any partner organizations change in scope or name change we maintain a high level professionalism and spirit of cooperation."

Rick Farr, president of the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors remained opposed to the name change.

"But we will continue to have a relationship with the chamber and support its events. Just because we don't support the name change does not mean we are not going to support them."

Others in the Ocean Pines community expressed their support for the chamber.

"The Chamber of Commerce that we have here, often bridges between the different chambers of commerce. They

don't just stay in their own neighborhood. They have performed a great support for this community. It is a valuable organization. I don't believe a name change will negatively impact anyone in Ocean Pines, our residents, our businesses or the work that they are doing in our community," Patti Stevens, a resident of Ocean Pines and representative of the biking community for the Maryland Commission on Transportation Revenue and Infrastructure Needs (TRAIN).

Worcester Chamber of Commerce in Ocean Pines will host an Open House at the Delmarva Discovery Museum in Pocomoke on Jan 23 from 5-7pm. All are welcome.

"We heard what people had to say and we understood that we needed to keep Ocean Pines in the name. Our chamber of commerce is the best chamber around..."

Don Boger, a member of the board of directors of the chamber

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Berlin's Tyndall reflects on '23 achievements

Continued from Page 1

ment of Natural Resources Community Parks and Playground grant.

Tyndall also noted the substantial savings residents received in 2023 on their electric utility bills through lower Power Cost Adjustment Charges, thanks to state legislation.

The way Tyndall sees it, Berlin not only has invested in its employees, infrastructure and recreation, it continues to be invested in being the "Coolest Small Town in America."

The town is known for quirky events like the bathtub races and traditional Christmas tree lighting and the popular Ice Ice Berlin. Tyndall credited the people of Berlin with the success of these events, from the employees to the residents.

"People see a beautiful downtown, rich with people who are kind and welcoming and I think that is what people are seeking out," Tyndall said.

The Berlin calendar is chock full of events starting in May, with the opening of the Berlin Farmers Market, the Jazz and Blues, Wine and Brews Festival, Spring Cruisers and the Memorial Day Parade.

It would not be June without the annual Berlin Bathtub Races and Independence Day fireworks light up the sky in July at Heron Park. With the heat of summer comes the August

Peach Festival at the Calvin B. Taylor Museum. September rocks with the Small Town Throw Down Country Music Concert and the Fiddlers Convention.

The cruisers will be back in October along with Oktoberfest. Halloween cannot be beat in Berlin with dozens of homes decorated to the nines and thousands of dollars in candy distributed to a multitude of princesses, ghouls, dinosaurs, monsters and other creatures of the night.

This year marked the first official Hanukkah celebration in the town of Berlin, with Tyndall and council members lighting a menorah on the grounds of Inn Berlin.

"I think what we have to do is create more things that can attract folks in our down time, so we keep folks coming to Berlin all year round," Tyndall said.

He reminded folks that restaurant week is coming up Jan. 9-15.

He does admit that doing so many things is a "delicate blend."

"Full throttle all the time is hard on our staff," he said. "It's always a work in progress to continue to help promote our businesses and get people into our shops."

Looking to the future, Tyndall said he is excited for the future of Heron

Park and to see what the building looks like when the partial demolition is complete.

By January or early February, bids should be coming in and those will be open, reviewed and go before the mayor and council for selection.

He is also excited about the strategic planning process and the comprehensive plan which will help guide the growth of the town and its zoning structure. Residents and the business community are encouraged to engage in both processes.

The biggest challenges he sees on the horizon relate to state funding.

"We have been fortunate with state grants, but we are going to be entering into a new phase that is going to be challenging for us," Tyndall said.

His goal is to hold ground with the

gains the town has made and to get creative in looking for new funding opportunities.

Last year, the town was not successful in obtaining construction funds through the M-DOT Bikeways for Rails to Trails. Tyndall does not see an opportunity to advance that project at the state level this year.

He is looking for ways to pivot and is looking at the bipartisan infrastructure bill to address interconnectivity throughout the town, including the barrier of Route 113 for bicycle and pedestrian safety and to connect all town residents with vital services.

"We are just thinking creatively, which is key."

The council and the mayor expect to provide a formal snapshot of the year's goals and a retrospective on the past year in the near future.

Ocean Pines plans to pursue major improvements in 2024

Continued from Page 1

rooms and more.

Drainage will continue to be a priority, and that includes cleaning out pipes. Ocean Pines is responsible for pipes that drain into the canals and under road surfaces. Residents are responsible for ensuring their ditches are clear of leaves and debris.

Mailboxes will also continue to be replaced. Beautification efforts are continuing around the community, including the repainting of signs, plantings and new seasonal banners. Farr also noted that the beach club is getting a refresh by the Matt Ort Company.

Company.

Farr said he is proud of the way the new board is operating and engaging with its advisory committees.

The committees are involved in the planning for the Ocean Pines Seasonal Kickoff and Expo scheduled for April 20, from 3-7 p.m. at White Horse Park.

"The kickoff is a great function for Ocean Pines," Farr said.

The event will provide an opportunity for residents to learn more about the many amenities, activities, clubs and businesses in the community.

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Diakonia blessed with much community support all year

Volunteers, nonprofits, local civic groups, businesses support those in need

By Cindy Hoffman
Staff Writer

(Jan. 4, 2024) Diakonia, a shelter and food pantry in West Ocean City, is a hub of activity 365 days a year, but during the holidays, the volunteers, businesses and organizations that support the organization go into overdrive.

A special group that has been committed to Diakonia for more than a decade is United Tour Riders (UTR), a local motorcycle organization involving enthusiasts from Kent and Sussex in Delaware and the Maryland Eastern Shore.

Every year UTR has a Santa Run that takes gifts to the children living at Diakonia. This year other fundraising efforts also led to Diakonia being presented with a check for \$2,500.

UTR, while mainly a riding club of about 70 members, has made Diakonia its charity of choice since 2008

and in total has donated over \$25,000, according to Sandra Venable, one of its members.

UTR raises most of its money within its own group, conducting club auctions a couple of times a year and raising member donations.

Each year, members gather to bring cash toys and food for the pantry, said Venable. Susan Blaney, the community coordinator for Diakonia, said the pantry at Diakonia is so good that people travel miles just to access it.

Food comes from various companies throughout the region, including Chick-Fil-A, Starbucks and Wawa.

Whatever the shops don't serve, volunteers pick up and bring to Diakonia. Food Lion provides produce, bread and meat.

Food drives over the holidays help Diakonia bulk up the pantry for the year.

All that food means a lot of organizing and that is where another important volunteer comes in: Barbara Peletier: a daily presence at Diakonia.

She discovered Diakonia through the Kiwanis Club. When her husband, Dan, was helping paint the thrift shop. She has been in the pantry ever since.

"Barbara works eight hours a day in the food pantry as if she were on the clock," Blaney said.

She has been organizing the food pantry for four years, with breaks to head south for the winter.

"It's a nice feeling to be able to help out a bit," she said.

"They tease me because all the cans are facing the same direction. I like things organized," Peletier said.

She organizes all the food and puts it all away. She also bags food for monthly pickup for those in need.

"It's a rewarding feeling. Giving a cookie to a child, and getting a smile. It makes you feel good."

Anyone looking to give back in the new year can contact Diakonia here www.diakoniaoc.org/volunteer/ or call 410-213-0923

Berlin schedules listening sessions for strategic plan

(Jan. 4, 2024) Members of Salisbury University's Business Economic and Community Outreach Network, or BEACON, are seeking input from Berlin residents on a new, developing strategic plan.

Town residents are invited to community listening sessions to share their opinions and ideas as town officials plan for the future.

The sessions are set for:

- 10:30 a.m. to noon, Jan. 10, at the Berlin Library at 13 Harrison Ave.
- 6-7:30 p.m., Jan. 17, at St. Paul United Methodist Church at 405 Flower St. in Berlin.

Network members are helping town officials through a three-phase process to assess community sentiments and goals to develop an action plan of projects and initiatives.

For more information, call 410-546-6001 or email the network at beacon@salisbury.edu.



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Wor Wic Community College welcomes new staff in 2024

(Jan. 4, 2024) The following staff members recently began working at Wor Wic Community College:

Karsin Bachran

Karsin Bachran, of Berlin, instructor of biological science.

Bachran has bachelor's and master's degrees from Salisbury University and has held various positions in research and teaching.

Andrew Canter

Andrew Canter, of Parsonsburg, science laboratory coordinator.

Canter has a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and has four years of experience as a laboratory technician.

Kelly Daubach

Kelly Daubach, of Pittsville, assistant professor of nursing.

Daubach has an associate degree in nursing from Wor-Wic, as well as bachelor and master's degrees from Frostburg State University. She worked as a health occupations instructor at Parkside High School in Salisbury for 11 years and as a registered nurse for 14 years.

Jon Fish

Jon Fish, of Salisbury, associate professor of social science.

Fish has a bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and a master's degree from Florida State University in Tallahassee.



Karsin Bachran



Andrew Canter



Kelly Daubach



Jon Fish



Mustapha Habibi



Ann-Marie Lanius



Colby Price



Kristen Ross



Mike Ross



Phil Speed

Mustapha Habibi

Mustapha Habibi, of Salisbury, assistant professor of physical science.

Habibi has a bachelor's degree from Cadi Ayyad University in Marrakesh, Morocco, a master's degree from the University of Louisville in Kentucky and a doctorate in physics from the University of Nevada, Reno. He has more than five years of experience teaching physics in higher education.

Ann-Marie Lanius

Ann-Marie Lanius, of Berlin, assistant professor of early childhood education.

Lanius has a bachelor's degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania.

Colby Price

Colby Price, of Snow Hill, visual resources coordinator.

Price has a bachelor's degree from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, and has held various roles in the communications industry since 2018, most recently as a photographer/editor for WBOC-TV.

Kristen Ross

Kristen Ross, of Salisbury, instructor of criminal justice.

Ross has a bachelor's degree from University of Maryland College Park and a juris doctorate from the University of Baltimore School of Law. She has been a part-time instructor at Wor-Wic since 2016 and worked at the office of the State's Attorney for Wicomico County for 12 years, including serving as senior state's attorney. She also worked as an associate attorney at Friedman Framme & Thrush for three years prior to joining Wor-Wic full-time.

Mike Ross

Mike Ross, of Berlin, information technology safety systems administrator.

Ross has an associate degree from Wor-Wic and nearly 13 years of experience with information technology support and network administration.

Phil Speed

Phil Speed, of Berlin, applied technologies laboratory coordinator.

Speed has an associate degree from Monroe Community College in Rochester, New York, and a bachelor's degree from State University of New York College at Buffalo. He has been operating his own construction and plumbing business since 2012 and recently served as a middle school technology teacher.

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OP public works hours resume

(Jan. 4, 2024) The Ocean Pines Public Works yard has resumed regular hours after extending them through the fall to accommodate residents dropping off leaves.

Starting this week, the yard is only open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Leaves and other yard debris may

be dropped off loose or in paper bags. Plastic bags will not be accepted.

Public Works' annual leaf collection operations also ended last week.

Republic Services will continue to collect bagged yard debris year-round.

For more information, contact the public works department at 410-641-7425.

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CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Supporters of the Art League of Ocean City enjoyed a holiday gathering at the home of Melody Cedarstrom in Glen Riddle. From left, Nancy Dofflemyer, Melody Cedarstrom, Crystal Collins, Barbara Patrick, Amy Ritgernel, Virginia Outten, John Sisson and Bob Rothermel pose for a photo.

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Bringing Art to all serves local community

Residents and visitors alike enjoy classes and exhibits provided by OC Art League

By **Cindy Hoffman**
Staff Writer

(Jan. 4, 2024) The Art League of Ocean City celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2023 and had its most successful year yet, both programmatically and financially, according to Executive Director Rina Thaler.

“Art is so much more than pictures on the wall, art is a service to the community,” she said. “We’ve gone way beyond our walls this year.”

The league reached out to more people than ever before in 2023. Among other things, the art league col-

laborated with Worcester Goes Purple on the “Art of Recovery” project to highlight people in recovery and help remove the stigma associated with addiction.

The project paired artists with individuals in recovery in Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset and Talbot counties. The resulting portraits of each community member include QR codes linked to videos of the subjects telling their stories of addiction and recovery.

The exhibit was hung at the National Institute of Drug Abuse in Baltimore. It will be featured at Salisbury University in January.

The art league has also been to Wor-Wic Community College and area high schools to raise awareness of addiction and mental health issues.

The league’s efforts to support people experiencing grief or trauma occur monthly with its Heart and Soul classes, which are free and provide an opportunity for those in recovery to create their own art so they could express themselves, share their experiences and help others.

In its efforts to expand its reach, the league hosted monthly classes with the Salvation Army, the Worcester County Developmental Center and home-schoolers. Summer camps provide opportunities for all with scholarships.

The league even joined in on the fun at OC Comic Con with a face painting booth featuring artwork from its Manga and Anime Youth Art Show.

“We are one of the few things that deal with the local community, little

children to seniors and the tourist population,” Thaler said. “Art and tourism are so integrated, that’s what we have learned over the past decade.”

The art league will be rolling out its future plans in 2024. Its “new” building is now 20 years old. Thaler said the league will be focused on the outside of the building and looking at expansion options.

The art league is currently planning its 8th annual OC Film Festival on Saturday, March 9, with John Waters returning as the headliner. He will be showing his original film Hairspray and doing a comedic commentary on it.

Other new programs and events, theater performances, writers groups will top its agenda.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

From left, David Harkins, the owner of Harkins Concrete, and Ronald Gale, a graduate of Wor-Wic’s commercial driver’s license program, pose in front of a commercial vehicle. The program celebrated 20 years in 2023.

Wor-Wic CDL program marks 20 years of worker training

(Jan. 4, 2023) For the past 20 years, Wor-Wic Community College has been building a transportation workforce for the Lower Eastern Shore.

According to a news release, the first class of the college’s commercial driver’s license, or CDL, training program was held in August 2003, and has been growing to meet the region’s needs since.

“I’m very appreciative of Wor-Wic and the training it provides – it’s great for our community,” David Harkins, the owner and president of Harkins Concrete, said in the release. “When I hire people out of this CDL program, I know that safety has been stressed. I want all of my people to be safe and conscientious.”

The CDL program has grown from eight graduates in the first year to 129 in 2022. Overall, the program

has added more than 1,000 commercial drivers to the region’s workforce.

Pete Phoebus, the vice president of transportation for Cato Oil in Salisbury, said in the release that having the program is good for local businesses.

“It’s a very useful source of qualified drivers, and Wor-Wic puts out a quality candidate,” he said.

Snow Hill resident Rose Stigall joined Cato after graduating from Wor-Wic.

“I have two sons, so I wanted to drive locally,” she said in the release. “I really love my job. It’s stress free, and Cato is like a family.”

Many participants in the program are eligible for grants and scholarships that defray the cost of tuition. Visit worwic.edu for information about the program.

OP Report now available online

(Jan. 4, 2024) The latest issue of the Ocean Pines Report, the association’s quarterly newsletter, is now available online.

Physical copies should be mailed to homeowners and residents within the next few weeks.

The issue includes a profile on the public works beautification team led by Tony Howard, and a feature on the

local Kiwanis club.

There are also guest columns from Sen. Mary Beth Carozza, Del. Wayne Hartman and more.

Association President Rick Farr, General Manager John Viola and have written updates on Ocean Pines operations.

To view the report, visit ocean-pines.org/web/pages/quarterly-newsletters.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Members of the Pine'eer Craft Club pose at the group's recent installation luncheon, where they named the 2024 leadership members and reported a total \$7,000 made in charitable donations to local organizations.

Pine'eer Craft Club unveils new leadership

Group revealed donation numbers, plans for 50th anniversary at luncheon

(Jan. 4, 2024) At the Pine'eer Craft Club's installation luncheon last month, members unveiled the organization's 2024 leadership and presented thousands in donations and plans for the club's 50th anniversary.

According to a news release, Sharon Puser will continue as club president. She reflected on the club's accomplishments throughout the

year and offered a glimpse into 2024 during the luncheon.

Club treasurer Jane Wolnik also presented a token of appreciation on behalf of the club to Puser for her unwavering commitment and efforts.

The full list of officers named during the event were:

- Puser, President
- Kelly Shoaf Davis, first vice president and publicity
- Linda Brindley, recording secretary
- Michelle Winemiller, corresponding secretary

- Jane Wolnik, treasurer
- Debbie Jiwa and Barbara Herzog, co-shop managers and holiday craft festival chairs

- Carol Quinto and Lois Schultz, shop treasurers

- Bill Lobecker, advisor and Meet the Artisan chair

- Linda Sirianni, advisor
- The members are also supported by Tina Celia and Alison Webb Schweiger in shop display; Diane Denk for Desserts in the Park; Skip Flanagan as the historian; Jackie Choate in hospitality; Sherry Waskey

in membership; Candy Foreman for programs; and Lynn Gabeler in bake sales.

Since forming in 1974, the Craft Club has donated almost \$200,000 to the Ocean Pines community. Over the last year, the release said the club contributed \$7,000 in charitable donations to an array of local organizations.

For more information, contact Ocean Pines Association Director of Public Relations and Marketing Josh Davis at 443-366-1844 or jdavis@oceanpines.org.



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CINDY HOFFMAN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

RINGING IN '24 WITH FIRE

Revelers at Windmill Creek Winery celebrated the new year with a giant bonfire and, of course, some wine.

County offering tree recycling

(Jan. 4, 2023) The Solid Waste Division of Worcester County Public Works is collecting Christmas trees now through Jan. 15.

Area residents can drop off their used trees at the central landfill in Newark and the Berlin, Pocomoke, and Snow Hill Homeowners convenience centers at no cost.

Businesses and organizations that

sold trees will not be permitted to drop them off at the convenience centers, but may take them to the central landfill where applicable tipping fees will be assessed.

The trees will be ground into mulch for use at the landfill.

For more info, contact Recycling Manager Bob Keenan at 410-632-3177, ext. 2405.

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PHOTO COURTESY SIZHU LIU VIA MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

An alert deer stops to check out its surroundings in a snowy forest in Maryland in 2019.

Firearm season open this weekend for deer hunting

(Jan. 4, 2023) The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is officially opening the January firearm deer hunting season this weekend.

According to a news release from the DNR, the season opened in Deer Management Region B, which includes all of the state except the westernmost counties, on Friday, Jan. 5. Hunters with valid licenses may use firearms to harvest sika and white-tailed deer during this season.

The season is open Jan. 5-6 in all of Region B. The season is also open through Sunday, Jan. 7 on private and designated public lands in Worcester, Wicomico, Cecil, St. Mary's and Somerset counties, and on private lands only in Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Charles,

Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Kent, Montgomery, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, and Washington (Zone 1) counties. Shooting hours end at 10:30 a.m. in Kent, Montgomery, Talbot, and Wicomico counties.

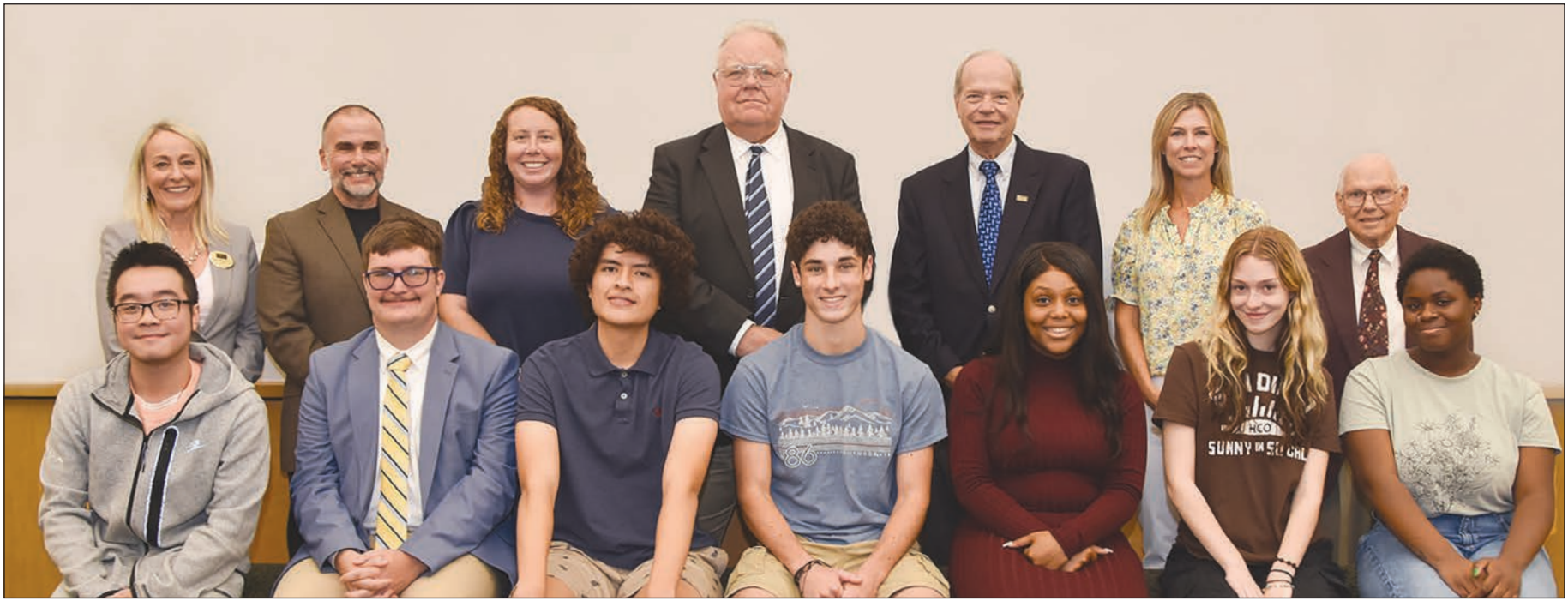
The release reminded hunters that an antler-point restriction remains in effect. Deer hunters may harvest one antlered white-tailed deer within the yearly bag limit that does not meet the requirement of having at least three points on one antler. Any additional antlered deer taken within the established bag limit must meet the minimum point restriction. Licensed junior hunters and apprentice license holders, 16 years of age or younger, are exempt

See HUNTING Page 13

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

The 2023 Wor-Wic Community College board of trustees scholarship recipients, seated from left, are Andy Tran of Wicomico High School, Jonathan Wallace of Stephen Decatur High School, Bryan Lozano of James M. Bennett High School, Gabriel Webster of Holly Grove Christian School, Rakayla Duffy of Pocomoke High School, Toni Hayden of Mardela High School and Lillian Frazier of Delmar Middle and Senior High School. Standing, from left, are Wor-Wic President Deborah Casey, Morgan Hazel, chairperson of the board of trustees, Anna G. Newton, vice chairperson of the board of trustees, and board members Martin T. Neat, Russell W. Blake, Kimberly C. Gillis and Andrew W. Booth. Not pictured are Brandon Anderson of Snow Hill High School, Allison Kirwan of Parkside High School, Adriana Miles of Crisfield Academy and High School and Mariah Morton of Washington High School.

Local high school graduates get scholarships

(Jan. 4, 2024) Members of the board of trustees at Wor-Wic Community College recently awarded scholarships to local high school graduates in Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset counties.

The two-year, full-tuition awards are given to the most academically talented high school senior applicant from each of the 10 public high schools and two of the four private

high schools across the three counties.

To qualify for the scholarship, applicants had to have at least a 3.25 GPA on an unweighted 4.0 scale. They also were required to apply for admission to Wor-Wic before April 1 of their senior years in high school, and complete board of trustees scholarship application forms.

The scholarships are awarded to

the applicant with the highest GPA from each school, followed by the highest total number of credits earned and the earliest admission application. Recipients must maintain a

3.0 GPA.

High school students interested in more information about the scholarship program can call the college's financial aid office at 410-334-2905.

Hunting Jan. 5-7 across county

Continued from Page 12 from the restriction.

New for the current season, if hunters intend to pursue sika deer, they must buy a sika hunting stamp. Sika stamps are available to buy on COMPASS, at a licensing agent, or by calling DNR Licensing and Registration Services at 866-344-8889.

The sika deer firearms season bag

limit is three with no more than one antlered. An antlered sika is defined as a deer with at least one antler visible above the hairline. The sika deer season is open in every county.

More information on the firearms season, along with season bag limits and other deer hunting regulations, are available in the 2023-2024 Maryland Guide to Hunting and Trapping.

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1/12 ON THE EDGE 7-10


1/19 THE ROGUE CITIZENS 7-10

1/20 NEIL HELGESON 7-10

1/21 JAARED AROSEMENA 4-7

1/26 ENDLESS EMBERS 7-10

1/27 FIRST CLASS DUO 7-10



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Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

TOY DONATIONS

Worcester Prep upper and middle school students gathered together to load toys collected by the student body to be donated to Worcester GOLD this holiday season. Pictured, front row from left, are Kaylin Zervakos, Rani Yonker, Head of Middle School Megan Wallace, Emery Hammonds, CJ Labin, Reed Corron, Will Schlesinger, Michael Hall, Tyler Phillips, Cooper Staples, Elliot Mason, Elena Kappes, Jack Tunnell, Estelle Damouni, Abby Ferguson and Isabella Forman. Back row from left, are Alex Gjoni, Artur Bogatyrev, Jack Adkins, Avi Bouzaglo, Jack Wells, Darren Lockard, Emma Nordstrom Lara Owens, Jackson Griffin, Kayley Adkins, Haven Harrison, Lily Mathews, Vincent Cappello, Head of School John McDonald and Head of Upper School Carol Evans.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

GARDEN THERAPY

From left, Worcester County Garden Club members Cristie Ammann and Joan Huntt assist Gull Creek residents with making holiday mug arrangements during a recent festive garden therapy workshop at the Gull Creek Senior Living Community in Berlin. Members brought flowers, greens, and supplies to the facility and helped residents make holiday mug arrangements that they could take back to their units.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

BIKE WINNER

A beaming Alex Marginean eyes her new electric bike as the winner of the 2023 First State Detachment of the Marine Corps League electric bike raffle. Marine Corps members sold raffle tickets at events in the Ocean City and lower Sussex County, Delaware areas, with proceeds benefitting the Semper Fi & America's Fund and Believe in Tomorrow Foundation



PHOTO COURTESY JACK BARNES

FISHING TOURNAMENT

At their December meeting, members of the Ocean Pines Anglers Club recognized the winners of the 2023 Walt Boge Memorial Fishing Tournament. The winners, pictured with from left top right, are Greg Donahue, Sea Trout and Spot; Lyal Davidson, Bluefish; Budd Heim, Flounder; Bob Woodward, Croaker; Doug Murphy, Sea Bass; and John McFalls and Walt Klein, who tied with John Jewer for Fresh Water Trout. Also not pictured, Jillian Donahue won the Striped Bass category.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

OPTIMISTS

Past Presidents of the Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club, from left, Jerry Selig and Charlie Smith, wait patiently for the buffet line to open at the club's Christmas lunch on Dec. 9 at the Marlin Club.

Snapshots



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

CRAZY LADYZ

From left, Tammy Patrick, Coastal Hospice director of advancement; and Crazy LadyZ co-owners Jan Patterson and Louise Reardon pose with a nearly \$6,500 check the boutique recently presented to Coastal Hospice. The owners do an annual fundraising trip where they pick a local charity on the Lower Eastern Shore. Crazy LadyZ along with Braemar Travel match half of the contributions from the customers who sign up.



PHOTO COURTESY DONNA GREENWOOD

LIONS FOOD DONATIONS

Ocean City Lioness Lions Club President Ann Runo, Lions 22B District Governor Kathy Crocett, and Billie Terrones pose together after unloading and distributing 70 kid-friendly food boxes for families before Christmas at Buckingham Elementary School.



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID J. LANDIS SR.

NEW MEMBERS

From left, Kiwanian Sponsor Jan Wolfing, Tim Kartisek (sponsored by Jan), Dick Keiling (sponsored by Kiwanian Jim Ulman), Sue Breazeale (sponsored by Jan) and Kiwanian Sponsor Jim Ulman pose after an induction ceremony of the new members.



PHOTO COURTESY KIWANIS CLUB OF GREATER OCEAN PINES-OCEAN CITY

KIWANIAN OF THE MONTH

The December Kiwanian Of The Month, Dave J. Landis Sr., and Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City President Bob Wolfing pose for a photo after Landis was given the designation. Landis serves on the public relations committee by submitting news releases almost weekly, to local newspapers and co-chairs the club's annual lottery fundraiser.



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID LANDIS SR.

KIWANIS SPEAKER

Kiwanis Club President Bob Wolfing and Ilyana Kadushin, the founder/executive director and program director of the nonprofit Stories Love Music, pose for a photo during a recent club meeting. Kadushin spoke to the group about how music helps to care for caregivers.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

ANGLERS CLUB

Believe In Tomorrow Director Mary Brown and Assistant Amanda Koontz were guests of the Ocean Pines Anglers Club who sponsor a summer program for families of children with life-threatening illnesses staying at the Childrens House By The Sea in Ocean City. Captains donate their time and boats to take the families out on the water to fish or explore the bay. Pictured, front from left, are captains Fred Stiehl, Jim Rorke, Claude Lewis and Joan O'Dell, Koontz, Brown, program coordinator Budd Heim, and Scott Carstairs. Pictured, back from left, are John Dilworth, Lyal Davidson, John O' Dell, Ken Thompson.

Opinion

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

Commissioners facing business-friendly test

With the state’s reassessment of property values in the Ocean City tax area this year, the public will get to see just how business-friendly the Worcester County Commissioners are.

The stunning spike in valuations — a 47.7 percent increase for residential properties and 32.5 percent for commercial real estate — offers mouth-watering financial possibilities for county government, depending on what the commissioners do with their real estate tax rate.

With the current county rate of 84.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value, the county stands to rake in millions in new revenue from Ocean City property taxes while taxpayers in the rest of the county would remain relatively unscathed.

Their properties won’t be reassessed until next year for Ocean Pines and northern Worcester and in 2026 for the southern county. Although property owners in these two areas might see incremental increases in their tax bills this year as their earlier assessments continue to be phased in, they would not experience the leaping levy that Ocean City’s new assessments could generate. This is even though the new assessments will be phased in over three years.

It’s far too early in the budget cycle to know what the new county tax rate might be, but nonresident and commercial property taxpayers whose assessment increases aren’t capped by the Homestead Tax Credit are surely worrying about it.

Resort business operators are already facing a challenging year. In addition to the continuing worker shortage — partially because of the lack of affordable housing — the cost of labor is going up as the \$15-an-hour minimum wage takes effect.

Consequently, not only will tourism-related businesses be paying more for supplies because of inflation, they also are facing rising labor and tax expenses.

A business-friendly board of county commissioners would take this into account and do what it can to protect the county’s golden goose as they ponder this year’s tax rate.

AGH joint surgery center recognized

Facility earned Gold Seal of Approval for quality patient care

(Jan. 4, 2024) Atlantic General Hospital’s Joint Surgery Center has earned The Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval for Total Hip, Knee and Shoulder Replacement Certification.

According to a news release, the gold seal is a symbol of quality that reflects a health care organization’s commitment to providing safe and quality patient care.

The voluntary certification, offered in collaboration with the American Academy of Orthopedics Surgeons, focuses on the entire continuum of care, from pre-surgical orthopedic consultation to intraoperative hospitalization or ambulatory surgical center admissions, rehabilitation activities, and follow-up visits with orthopedic surgeons.

The release said the Joint

Surgery Center underwent a rigorous on site review on Nov. 9 and 10. During the visit, a joint commission reviewer evaluated compliance with related certification standards and documented performance improvement efforts.

The reviewer also conducted onsite observations and interviews.

“We’re incredibly pleased to receive these certifications from the Joint Commission for our joint replacement program,” Mandy Bounds, the vice president of patient care services/chief nursing officer at Atlantic General Hospital, said in the release. “The awards validate the exceptional care provided by the physicians, nurses, clinicians, and support staff in the care of joint patients in our surgical program. On top of that, the guidelines established by the Joint Commission standards will help us remain consistent in our efforts to become a high relia-

bility organization and achieve excellence in quality, safety, and our patient experience.”

Ken Grubbs, the executive vice president of accreditation and certification operations and chief nursing officer for The Joint Commission, also commented on the commendation in the release.

“Total Hip and Knee Replacement Certification and Total Shoulder Replacement Certification recognize healthcare organizations committed to striving for excellence and fostering continuous improvement in patient safety and quality of care,” Grubbs said. “We commend Atlantic General Hospital and its staff at the Joint Surgery Center for using The Joint Commission certification process to reduce variation in clinical processes and to strengthen its clinical program to drive safer, higher quality and more compassionate care for individuals served.”

Letter

The following is a letter that Ocean City resident Vince Gisriel recently sent to Maryland Gov. Wes Moore regarding a proposed sports complex in Worcester County. The letter references another letter Gisriel sent to members of the Ocean City Sports Complex Task Force opposing the project.

Dear Governor Moore,

Enclosed you will find a letter which I wrote in opposition to the proposed Sports Complex which is being planned for the vicinity of Ocean City, Maryland.

The project is estimated to cost at least \$166,900,000 or more. The Town of Ocean City intends to fund 20% of the cost, and wants the State of Maryland via the Maryland Stadium Authority to fund 80%. A copy of my enclosed letter was sent to every member of a Task Force which was convened by Mayor Rick Meehan of

Ocean City to study the issue.

In 2022, I was asked to chair a Ballot Initiative Committee identified as People For Fiscal Responsibility and organized under the rules established by law under the Maryland State Board of Elections. The committee was formed to place a bond bill in the amount of \$11.2 million dollars before the voters of Worcester County, Maryland. In the Spring of 2022, by a slim majority, the Commissioners of Worcester County voted to go to the bond market for the initial funding to build a Sports Complex in the county.

Over seventy volunteers gathered sufficient signatures to place the bill on the ballot in November, 2022. The voters of Worcester County rejected the bond bill in a referendum vote. Not satisfied with the outcome of that vote, the Mayor & City Council of Ocean City began discussions to pursue the

matter on their own initiative requesting support and funding from the Stadium Authority.

I have studied this project since 2019, and I am convinced that it is not financially feasible, and it will require ongoing subsidy by local and state government, in a similar way the Ocean City Convention Center operates. I request that you review my letter to the Task Force for a detailed explanation of my opposition.

Upon review of this matter, if and only if, you feel that Maryland needs such a Sports Complex, I submit that it may be more feasible in another area of our state. However, I firmly believe that taxpayer dollars can be better spent on more worthwhile projects.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

*Vincent dePaul Gisriel, Jr.
Ocean City*

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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Benjamin earns Crafter of the Month title for January

Pine'eer Craft Club member specializes in needlework, makes popular shop items

(Jan. 4, 2024) The Pine'eer Craft Club recently name club member Erna Benjamin the January Crafter of the Month.

According to a news release, 2024 is the 50th anniversary of the club and events celebrating the milestone will be hosted all year.

While Benjamin only joined the club last year, she has been a long-time crafter. She specializes in needlework, including sewing, cross stitch, quilting, crocheting and knitting. Her colorful rope bowls are very popular in the craft shop.

Benjamin learned how to sew and crochet from her mother. Knitting came along in eighth grade home economics class, with quilting after that. While there have been pauses in crafting time due to work and family, the craft has remained a creative outlet for nearly her entire life.

"I do purchase plenty of yarns and fabrics, but I also repurpose clothing into memory keepsakes," Benjamin said in the release. "I learned how to repurpose scraps after finding the idea online. Now I make Scottie dogs, pillows, quilts, rope bowls, trivets and ornaments that are recycled yet

meaningful."

Benjamin joined the craft club in late summer last year, but she has lived in Ocean Pines part-time since 2005, when she and her husband bought a home in the Parke.

Although she spends most of her time with her husband in Rockville, she loves coming to Ocean Pines to relax and unwind. It was a visit to the farmers market where she spotted the shop, stopped in, and learned more about the Pine'eer Craft Club.

Benjamin was raised and married in Pennsylvania. Following her husband's graduation from medical school, the couple moved to the Bethesda area.

In her spare time, Benjamin enjoys reading, bridge and a leisurely walk. She also knits hats, sweaters and premie baby blankets for charity. Her latest request is "fidget-sensory" mats.

To buy Benjamin's rope bowls, Scottie dogs, crocheted shawls and more, the Pine'eer Artisan Gift Shop is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sundays, except holidays.

The Pine'eer Craft Club is always seeking new crafters and meetings are open to the public, the release said. They are held the third Thursday of the month in the community center.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Erna Benjamin, the Pine'eer Craft Club's January Crafter of the Month, poses with some of her quilted creations.



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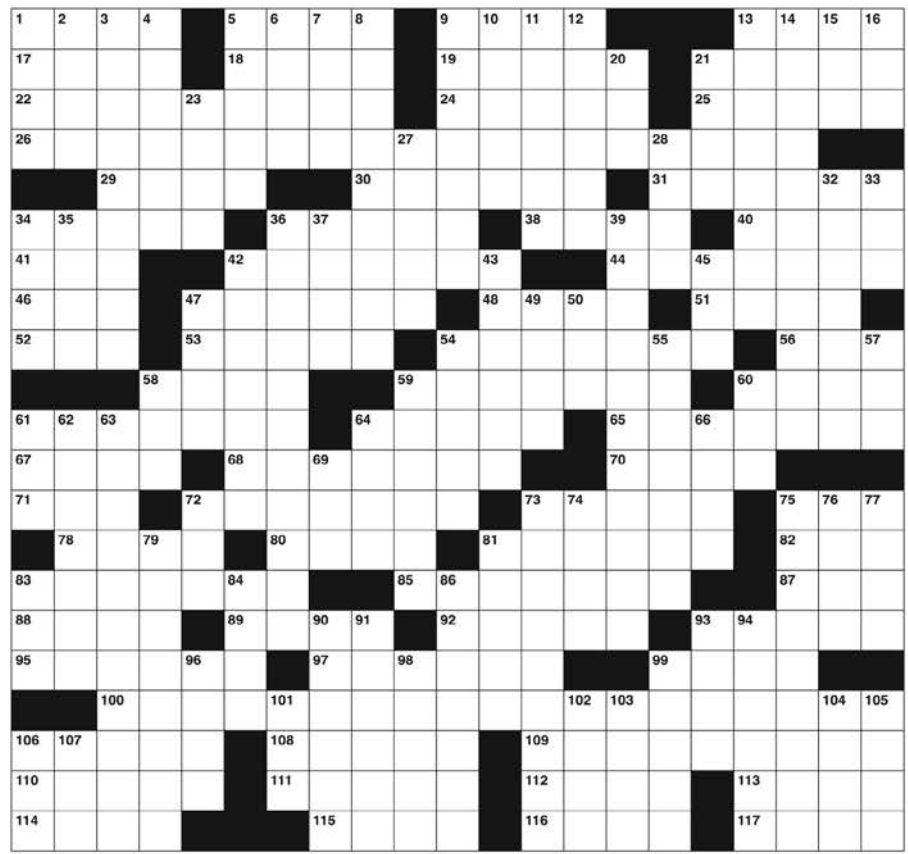
Puzzles

WRAP STARS

BY DREW SCHMENNER / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Drew Schmenner, of Pacifica, Calif., is a technical writer and editor for an education nonprofit. He was formerly an investigative reporter for The Desert Sun newspaper in Palm Springs. This is Drew's fifth crossword for The Times and first Sunday. He and his wife have two daughters, ages 6 and 3, who will be angels this weekend at their church's Christmas Eve pageant in San Francisco. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Using the bow, in music
 - 5 Guesstimate
 - 9 XXX
 - 13 Private retreat, of a sort
 - 17 Charged exclamation during a court trial
 - 18 "La ___ de los Espiritus," debut novel for Isabel Allende
 - 19 Littlest sucklings
 - 21 Contents of a pot
 - 22 Ancient landmark whose name translates to "high city"
 - 24 Shadow
 - 25 Reporter's coup
 - 26 One who's not afraid to brag
 - 29 Fermented honey concoction
 - 30 Let
 - 31 Bygone Seattle hoopsters
 - 34 Sympathize with
 - 36 Computer command
 - 38 What you might get when you purchase Christmas ornaments on Dec. 26
 - 40 Part of a sleigh
 - 41 Contraction that's a homophone of 13-Across
 - 42 Lover of Hero, in Greek myth
- DOWN**
- 43 With significance
 - 44 In the manner of
 - 47 "Ithaca is ___" (punny slogan)
 - 48 Actress Diana of "The Avengers"
 - 51 Arthur Ashe Courage Award, for one
 - 52 Number of lords a-leaping
 - 53 Surprise birthday parties often involve them
 - 54 Quantity of beer ... or monkeys?
 - 56 Max or X
 - 58 Name of Lincoln's favorite dog
 - 59 Branding need
 - 60 ___ buco
 - 61 End of autumn?
 - 64 Highly prized collectibles, in lingo
 - 65 Bad design feature for a Christmas stocking?
 - 67 Fourth word in "Jingle Bells"
 - 68 Hurt
 - 70 Take a risk
 - 71 "Illmatic" rapper
 - 72 Skateboard tricks started by kicking with the back foot
 - 73 Dry, as Italian wine
 - 75 O'er and o'er
 - 78 Bring on board
 - 80 Actress Skye
 - 81 Barks, perhaps
 - 82 Mr. Potter vis-à-vis George Bailey, in "It's a Wonderful Life"
 - 83 "King Lear" daughter
 - 85 Fixes, as broken 93-Down
 - 87 Scary sight at the beach
 - 88 Olympic gymnast Korbut
 - 89 Sign of approval
 - 92 Kim's ex, in tabloids
 - 93 Formal "you," in Spain
 - 95 Muffle
 - 97 Actress Wen of "The Mandalorian"
 - 99 Dude, in modern slang
 - 100 Workers seen in five squares in this puzzle?
 - 106 Make ends meet
 - 108 End of turn?
 - 109 Binds tightly
 - 110 Speedy Northeast train
 - 111 Topples (over)
 - 112 "___ Misbehavin'"
 - 113 Relative of a cassowary
 - 114 Midnight Mass leader
 - 115 Hurdle for a prospective J.D.
 - 116 Some cats, chameleons and chinchillas
 - 117 Locale of the final scene in "Vertigo"
- ACROSS**
- 6 "The Winter's ___"
 - 7 Clearance-sale warning
 - 8 Iconic features of "Under Pressure" and "Come Together"
 - 9 What awaits a tragic hero
 - 10 Bactrian pair
 - 11 Hereditary
 - 12 Walked assuredly
 - 13 Brings to a boil
 - 14 Colorful background
 - 15 Uncle ___ ("Seinfeld" character)
 - 16 Madrid's home, in the Olympics
 - 20 Uncle ___
 - 21 Regarding
 - 23 Tree in "The Twelve Days of Christmas"
 - 27 Dispatches
 - 28 Capital just below the 60th parallel
 - 32 Musical style associated with Harry Belafonte
 - 33 What a filthy mess!
 - 34 Order
 - 35 Magazine based in Paris
 - 36 Record kept on an employee
 - 37 What transforms Bruce Banner into the Hulk
 - 39 Spongy dessert
 - 42 Article of clothing that might be decorated with candy canes
 - 43 Full of sex or profanity, maybe
 - 45 Business-card no.
 - 47 Beam
- DOWN**
- 1 "Regrettably ..."
 - 2 Like Ebenezer Scrooge
 - 3 Sweet custardy concoction
 - 4 Start of a well-known address in Verona
 - 5 Dress down
 - 49 Goddess of the rainbow
 - 50 [I've had enough!]
 - 54 Puts to sleep, say
 - 55 Analyzes, as a metaphor
 - 57 "The Bells" poet
 - 58 Two or three
 - 59 Big name in book publishing since 1817
 - 60 "God bless us, every ___!"
 - 61 1040 fig.
 - 62 Down, at the casino
 - 63 No longer at the top of one's game
 - 64 Destruction
 - 66 Aphrodite's frequent companion
 - 69 "Hustlers" star, familiarly
 - 72 She/___
 - 73 Fictional band fronted by David St. Hubbins
 - 74 Start of a playground rhyme
 - 75 Not custom, as merchandise
 - 76 ___ gras
 - 77 Incline
 - 79 Breezy, as a book
 - 81 Incline
 - 83 Word added to the Pledge of Allegiance in 1954
 - 84 "___ everyone?"
 - 86 Heart diagnostic, in brief
 - 90 Heineken brand
 - 91 Floral symbols of purity
 - 93 See 85-Across
 - 94 First-class
 - 96 Mononymous Irish singer
 - 98 Wafer brand
 - 99 Tops
 - 101 Pose
 - 102 Member of a wet quintet
 - 103 Word with witch or treasure
 - 104 Repentant sort
 - 105 Neuter
 - 106 Hiatus
 - 107 Prefix with friendly



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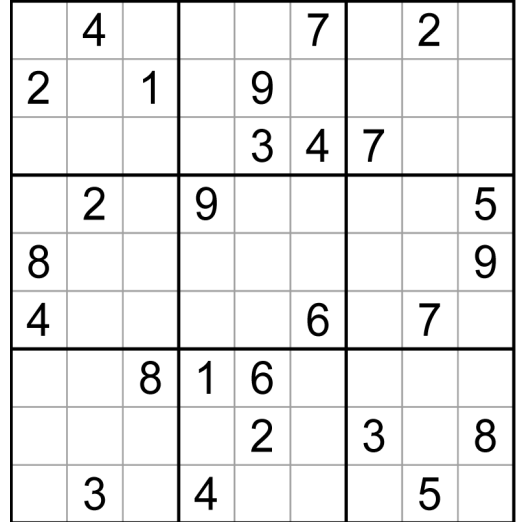
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HARD - 57

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

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





SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Pictured from left to right are Justin Brown, Andrew Brown, Scentsy consultant Amy Brown and Donna Murray, the director of the TidalHealth Foundation, with toys that Brown raised money to buy for Brooke's Toy Closet for Christmas.

TidalHealth's Brooke's Toy Closet receives donations

Mil-Net Inc., consultant for Scentsy bring items and raise money for local cause

(Jan. 4, 2024) Local business and community representatives stepped up ahead of the holiday season to support TidalHealth's Brooke's Toy Closet.

According to a news release, John Weber, the president of Mil-Net Inc., traveled before Christmas to TidalHealth Peninsula Regional from Capital Heights and delivered "a generous amount of toys" to the program.

Mil-Net, Inc., is promotes and enhances positive youth opportunities in suburban, urban and inner-city settings. For the past several years, the organization has supported local children who are patients at TidalHealth's hospitals.

Another release said Amy Brown, a local Scentsy consultant, held a Scentsy Buddy Drive during the month of December to benefit the toy

closet. On Dec. 22, Brown visited The Giving House on TidalHealth Peninsula Regional's campus to deliver the toys for the holidays.

Brooke's Toy Closet is a program at TidalHealth Peninsula Regional and TidalHealth Nanticoke that provides new toys to children in the emergency department and pediatric units that the children can keep and take home upon discharge.

The program was named in honor of Brooke Mulford, a young girl who was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, an aggressive form of cancer, in 2009 at the age of 4. After a tough battle, she passed away in June 2017. Brooke had a vision to give toys to kids in the hospital to make their time a little easier, and the vision sparked the creation of Brooke's Toy Closet.

To learn more about Brooke's Toy Closet and ways to donate to cause, visit tidalhealth.org/toycloset or contact the TidalHealth Foundation at foundation@tidalhealth.org or 410-543-7140.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Donna Murray, the director of the TidalHealth Foundation, and John Weber, the president of Mil-Net Inc., pose with toys that Weber dropped off for Brooke's Toy Closet before Christmas.

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Calendar

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

Thurs., Jan. 4

CPAP MASK FITTING

Atlantic General Hospital's Sleep Disorders Diagnostic Center, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin. Free mask fitting clinic for patients who are having trouble adjusting to their CPAP equipment. By appointment only: Robin Rohlfling, 410-641-9726.

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., Jan. 5

FIRST FRIDAY OPENING RECEPTION

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 5-7 p.m. Meet the artists, enjoy hors d'oeuvres and see the new exhibits by a variety of local artists. Free event. All are welcome. Open receptions also at The Coffee Beanery and the Princess Royale. 410-524-9433

MEAN GIRLS JR.

Ocean City Performing Arts Center - Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City. 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Presented by the Ocean Pines Children's Theater. Tickets cost \$15. Tickets: <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/52993479/mean-girls-jr-ocean-city-oc-performing-arts-center>.

ANNUAL CASH BINGO

Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department, 10709 Bishopville Road, 7 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m., early bird games start at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door. Food, beverages and desserts available for sale. Tickets: 619-922-9950.

Sat., Jan. 6

MEAN GIRLS JR.

Ocean City Performing Arts Center - Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 3 p.m. Doors open at 2:15 p.m. Presented by the Ocean Pines Children's Theater. Tickets cost \$15. Tickets: <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/52993479/mean-girls-jr-ocean-city-oc-performing-arts-center>.

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.

Sun., Jan. 7

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST

American Legion Synepuxent Post 166,

2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 8-11 a.m. Menu includes eggs, bacon, sausage, potatoes, cream chipped beef, French toast, juice, coffee and tea. Cost is \$12 for adults and free to ages 3 years and younger. officealpost166@gmail.com

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

Mon., Jan. 8

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR MARYLAND CITIZENS FOR THE ARTS: SOUTHEAST MD STRATEGIC COMMUNITY GATHERING

To be held Jan. 11 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Art League of Ocean City. Register: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd12YVdfnVOKJ1ahc-L2cM-PCKsm_slGGOyp-UGZB7bYdbG2Ag/viewform, 302-841-7257.

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.

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., Jan. 9

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Neurology, 314 Franklin Ave., Berlin, 3:15-4 p.m. For individuals living with Parkinson's disease and their caregivers. Education on exercise, nutrition, coping techniques, medications and developments in treatment. Kay Kinikin, 410-641-4765

ATLANTIC COAST SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING

American Legion Synepuxent Post 166, 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 6:15 p.m. Guest speaker will be Scott Lenox of "FISH IN OC." The topic will be "Flounder Fishing." Public invited. Food and refreshments available. 410-371-8001

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



COAT DONATION

Bill Hickey, past president of the Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club, poses with Showell Elementary School Counselor Ashley Miller and handfulls of coats the club donated to students.

PHOTO COURTESY ROGER PACELLA

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., Jan. 10

BRUNCH & LEARN SERIES: OCEAN 98.1 FM'S BULLDOG

Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Meet Bulldog, Ocean 98.1 FM radio personality. Seating is limited. Cost is \$10 and includes light brunch. Register: <https://canvas.artleagueofoceancity.org/classes/1209> or 410-524-9433.

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

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

AARP MEETING

Ocean City 50plus Center, 104 41st St., Ocean City, 10 a.m. Social half-hour and refreshments begin at 9:30 a.m. The guest speaker will discuss nutrition and brain health. New members welcome. Bob McCluskey, 410-250-0980

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

ZUMBA WEDNESDAYS

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

ONGOING EVENTS

GERMANTOWN SCHOOL VETERAN EXHIBIT

The Germantown School Veteran Exhibit will run through Jan. 17. The school is located at 10223 Trappe Road in Berlin. The exhibit is open on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Info: 410-641-0638.

OC LIBRARY WINTER TRAIN GARDEN

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, Nov. 15-Jan. 5. Free event. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Sundays and holidays. www.worcesterlibrary.org, oceancity@worcestlibrary.org, 410-524-1818

OCEAN CITY CHAPTER OF THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY

Meets every month (except July and August) at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 9901 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Membership is open to individuals of Italian descent and their spouses. www.sonsofitalyocceancity.com

Classified

MARKETPLACE

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

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



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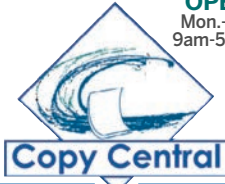
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