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CHARLENE SHARPE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Berlin OKs pay grade, step system

New program incorporates 2.5% increases between rungs in employee ladder

By Charlene Sharpe
Associate Editor

(Feb. 15, 2024) The Berlin Town Council voted unanimously this week to approve a step and grade system for town staff.

The council on Monday approved a step and grade system recommended by Berlin's human resources director. Implementing the program is expected to cost the town

'What you have in front of you today is bringing everyone to a grade, to the nearest step plus one.'

Kelsey Jensen

\$211,000. "It puts our employees at ease because they know how to plan," Councilman Dean Burrell said.

After increasing pay so that current positions are at 35% of the market value, in November, town officials reviewed plans for a step and grade system for municipal employees. Officials advised Kelsey Jensen, the town's human resources director, to move forward with plans for a scale of 25 grades and 21 steps, with 2.5% between steps.

Since then, Jensen has been placing the town's current employees at the appropriate positions on the scale. She presented officials with the proposed fiscal year 2025 step and grade scale this week.

"What you have in front of you today is bringing everyone to a grade, to the nearest step plus one," she said.

When asked for the total cost of that, Jensen said it would cost about

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WEATHER BREAK

Air temperatures in the 60s brought a solid crowd to Berlin last Saturday and some visitors took advantage of free carriage rides that were offered.

Pickleballers in fit of pique

Say dues increase not fair when other racket sports memberships don't change

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Feb. 15, 2024) The Ocean Pines Association hosted a town hall budget meeting to discuss the revenues and expenditures the community expects to see in the 2025 fiscal year.

The focal point of the assembly was pickleball memberships, as attendees expressed their discontent with the proposed increase in annual dues.

OPA General Manager John Viola told the audience that between the

2023-2024 fiscal and the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the associate individual fee for the growing racket sport, pending board approval, will increase 12% from \$250 to \$280, and the assistant family rate is expected to rise 11% to \$455 from \$410.

The regular family package will surge 10% to \$325 from \$295, and the individual plan is growing 11% from \$180 to \$200. There is currently no recommended price change for tennis and paddle tennis memberships, which still sit at \$100 higher than pickleball.

The 10-12% increase is due to the costs associated with upkeep.

"There is a [misconception] that pickleball courts do not require main-

tenance like tennis does," Viola said. "That might have been true 10 years ago, but it's not the case today."

To preserve the pickleball courts, they have recently been resurfaced, and the general manager expects cracks to be filled in every year. Annual assessments will help determine the level of care they need. Alternatively, according to Viola, an expert and evaluator told OPA that the paddle tennis court cracks did not require repair.

"Tennis and platform tennis lose money and get no increase in fees," Ocean Pines resident Darryl Noble said. "Why does the only sport that shows a profit get nailed with an in-

See MEMBERSHIP Page 6



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Record Store Day added to Berlin 2024 event calendar

Sound Storm Records proposes day of live music, vendors for Sat., April 20

By Charlene Sharpe
Associate Editor
(Feb. 15, 2024) Town officials approved the addition of Record Store Day to the 2024 Berlin events calendar.

On Monday, the Berlin Town Council voted 3-1 to approve Record Store Day on Saturday, April 20. The event will be a collaborative effort between the town and several downtown businesses.

“Sound Storm Records celebrates this every year, they just wanted to do something a little more this year,” said Ivy Wells, the town’s economic and community development director.

Wells told the council that during the last merchant meeting, the connections of Sound Storm Records suggested the idea of celebrating Record Store Day in Berlin. According to Wells, the concept has grown in recent years and the day is marked by record stores around the country.

“We really liked the idea,” Wells said.

She said the event, which will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., would include street closures on Pitts Street and Gay Street.

“What we are asking for is to have Pitts Street closed from 410 Social, the intersection of William Street, to the end where Main Street begins. Main Street would not be closed to traffic,” Wells said, adding that a portion of Gay Street, near Sound Storm Records, would also be closed.

She said Pitts Street would be filled with music related vendors and a musician would be providing live entertainment. In addition, Sound Storm Records will be hosting musician Cal Toner, either on Gay Street or in The Globe. Wells said the event would not cost the town anything.

Councilman Dean Burrell asked if Record Store Day was on the list of

2024 events that was approved last year. Wells said it was not but was being proposed as a last minute addition.

“I have been under the impression that when things come up and we already approved the list of events, this could be something we could consider for the upcoming year but not immediately,” Burrell said, adding that he remembered a woman who’d proposed a parade on Flower Street who had been told her event could be considered for the following year because it wasn’t on the event list.

Councilman Jay Knerr said he was aware of Record Store Day and expected it to bring people to Berlin.

“I have no doubt it will be very successful,” he said.

Wells agreed. Burrell, however, maintained that in order to be consistent in treating everyone the same he’d suggest the event be considered for 2025. The council voted 3-1, with Burrell opposed and Councilwoman Shaneka Nichols absent, to approve the event for April 20.

Berlin eyes audit of IT services at town hall with RFP

By Charlene Sharpe
Associate Editor
(Feb. 15, 2024) The town is moving forward with hiring someone to perform an audit of Berlin’s existing Information Technology (IT) services.

The Berlin Town Council voted unanimously on Monday to approve a proposed Request for Proposals (RFP) from companies interested in providing audit services for the town’s existing IT contract and system. Officials want to evaluate the town’s current IT systems to see if they’re meeting Berlin’s needs.

“We have not gone to bid for IT serv-

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Berlin proceeds with \$500k grant request

Having failed to rally other towns to join its campaign, town seeks own increase

By Charlene Sharpe
Associate Editor

(Feb. 15, 2024) Berlin will seek an increase in its unrestricted grant funds from Worcester County. Though Mayor Zack Tyndall’s attempt to organize a unified grant request among the county’s municipalities failed to gain traction, municipal officials agreed this week

the town would seek \$500,000 in unrestricted grant funds, an increase of a 7.5%, from the county for the coming fiscal year. “I don’t think our \$500,000 request is outlandish,” Tyndall said. During Monday’s town council meeting, elected officials indicated they supported the letter Tyndall said he’d be sending the Worcester County Commissioners regarding the town’s grant request for fiscal year 2025. The letter says the town will be seeking \$500,000 as well as \$10,000 to assist with quarterly promotional

videos for the downtown business district. “This bubbled up through the business roundtable we had hosted by the mayor’s office and economic development,” Tyndall said, adding that merchant meetings also revealed that business owners would like some help with promotion during the change of seasons. The letter also outline the efforts the Town of Berlin made to improve safety on Seahawk Road. The town contracted with a vendor to restripe the road, including directional ar-

rows, crosswalks and no parking zones, as well as a sidewalk extension. While the road is a town road, Tyndall said because of the markings needed for Stephen Decatur Middle School and Stephen Decatur High School, the cost of het project increase. The town is asking the county to reimburse the town for \$16,000 of the project cost. Councilman Jack Orris asked if the commissioners had even been aware of the work the town was having done on Seahawk Road.

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Town adopts pay grade, step increase plan

Continued from Page 1
\$170,000 for the salary adjustments, or about \$211,000 when fringe benefits were worked in. In her staff report, Jensen recommended the council implement the salary scale as well as a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), as it would help keep Berlin in line with the market going forward. She added that she’d reached out to other jurisdictions to see if they were planning to provide a COLA and had been advised that most were planning a 3-6% COLA. She added

that she knew the council had asked how tenure would factor into the salary scale but said that she hadn’t yet determined the ideal way to do that. When asked how much more money a COLA would cost, Jensen said she hadn’t brought that figure. Mayor Zack Tyndall pointed out that by moving all employees up one step, they were already getting at least a 2.5% increase in the coming fiscal year. Councilman Steve Green re-

mind his peers that last year, their concern was that bringing positions up to 35% of market value hadn’t impacted every employee. “This does. No matter where you are everybody will be impacted because of that step increase ...,” he said. “I like the direction we’re headed for sure.” Tyndall said that with a step and grade system, it would be clear how much funding was needed for employees each year as the town started the budget process. “This puts the employees at the front end every year,” he said. “We know what our costs will be, the only difference is what we are going to do movement wise on COLA.” Councilman Jack Orris said there was no code enforcement officer, a position officials have talked about in recent years, on the scale. “This doesn’t include positions that don’t currently exist,” Town Administrator Mary Bohlen said. Green said he thought incorporating tenure into the scale would be difficult.

“Not all tenures are created equal,” he said, adding that perhaps tenure should be considered on a case-by-case basis. “When you manage people for a living, I think you realize that. I think the case-by-case approach is going to be a big part of it.” Green said he supported giving employees a cost-of-living adjustment but wasn’t sure at what level. He added that the town could also be flexible with the date of the increase and could start it January 1, which would be halfway through the fiscal year, to help with the budget. “Everybody did get moved up a step,” he said. Tyndall said officials could review the cost of the salary scale and potential cost-of-living adjustments as the budget process progressed. “We should have time for the council to be able to evaluate this in conjunction with the budget and potential COLAs during the general fund work session before we have to introduce any potential changes,” he said.

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Combined school meeting to inform parents on budget

Officials to share details on fiscal 2025 spending plan later this month at SDHS

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(Feb. 15, 2024) Worcester County Public Schools officials and the School Improvement Advisory Committee are hosting a meeting open to parents of Berlin Intermediate School, Stephen Decatur Middle School and Stephen Decatur High School students at 5:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 26. The event will take place in the SDHS cafeteria.

WCPS Public Relations Coordinator Carrie Sterrs said Superintendent Lou Taylor and Chief Financial Officer Vince Tolbert will present their fiscal year 2025 school system budget. Attendees can ask questions and hear information on educational needs and resources.

The system budget has been on the minds of school officials, as they anticipate a \$5,000,000 drop from FY2024. In a January board of education meeting, Tolbert confirmed

that the county commissioners are likely to fund WCPS through the maintenance of effort (MOE) formula, the minimum monetary support allowed by state law.

Changes to the education system are also expected to add to the county's struggles. Tolbert said the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, a plan to improve the state's quality of learning, mandates that a teacher's starting salary reaches \$60,000 by 2027. The school system worries that similar stipulations and cost-of-living adjustments could dig the county into a \$10 million hole.

These concerns are likely to be addressed at the Feb. 26 parent meeting. Officials are hopeful the event will provide parents with a deeper understanding of the budget, inform attendees of school needs and avenues of support, and offer a forum to ask questions.

Tolbert gave the same presentation to the Snow Hill area's School Improvement Advisory Committee in January, and to another group earlier this week at Pocomoke Middle School.

Town to issue proposal request

Continued from Page 3

ices for some time," Mayor Zack Tyn-dall said. "It keeps things competitive."

Mary Bohlen, Berlin's town administrator, said the town was interested in having a company examine IT systems and contracts "to determine if improvements can be made, if things are as they should be, if there are areas that need improvement." She said the next step, if needed, would be for the firm help develop an RFP for IT services if the town wasn't satisfied with what it had. She noted that the firm doing the evaluation and helping draft the RFP would not be able to bid on providing the town's IT services.

"You have to have someone who knows what they're doing help you

develop that RFP but then prohibit that vendor from bidding," she said.

Councilman Steve Green asked if the town would be able to get out of its current IT contracts if it opted to find a new provider. Bohlen said the town would be able to do so.

"I think this is a splendid idea to get an independent opinion as to the status of our IT," Councilman Dean Burrell said. "I think this is the way to go. We don't have that expertise or that knowledge. Someone may come in and say that based on IT what we have is appropriate and will last us down the road. They also may come in and say what we have is lacking in several areas. I think getting an independent opinion is the way to go."

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Ocean Pines resident Roelof “Dutch” Oostveen speaks to members of the Ocean Pines Association during a public budget meeting last Tuesday. Community members were encouraged to share their concerns, many of which involved increases in pickleball membership dues.

TARA FISCHER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Membership dues rise for pickleball in new OP budget

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crease?”

Pickleball is likely to pull in a profit of around \$27,000 this year. After depreciation, tennis is projected to lose \$82,000, and paddle tennis is estimated to lose \$11,000. Added together, OPA anticipates a loss of \$65,000 from racket sports, the general manager said.

“When we do the pricing, I’m not necessarily looking to raise more revenue,” Viola said. “I want to do it organically. I want the customer experience. We want to have the best possible and realistic facilities, and maintenance is included in that.”

In discussing other budget matters, Viola said the proposed budget allocates more spending for drainage than it did five or six years ago at roughly \$200,000. The focus will be on the main pipes that have not been touched or serviced.

The Tiki Bar is being expanded and will serve increased capacities at the yacht club and pool. The hope is to be done by Memorial Day, and officials maintain that this timeline is on track. Viola also accounted for the planned gazebo at the Veterans Memorial Pavilion in the budget.

The next OPA Board of Directors meeting open to the public is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 17, at the Clubhouse Meeting Room on 100 Clubhouse Drive.

Funding sought for road striping

Continued from Page 4

“As far as increased cost, this would be the first time they’re seeing this cost in front of them,” Tyndall said.

Councilman Steve Green said the roadway improvements had done a lot to increase the safety of the road. He asked what responses Tyndall had received from other municipal leaders when he’d sent the unified grant request concept around. Tyndall said the mayor of Ocean City had indicated the resort already received more than \$500,000, as did the mayor of the Town of Snow Hill. Tyndall encouraged councilmembers to attend the March 5 meeting of the Worcester County Commissioners with him to present the grant request.

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County officials oppose public comment plan

Commissioners vote 5-2 against resolution to add time for input at meetings

By Charlene Sharpe
Associate Editor
(Feb. 15, 2024) The Worcester County Commissioners opted not to add public comments to their meetings last week.

Though they instructed staff to find a vehicle for public comment at meetings last month, the majority of the commissioners last week voted against a motion that would've added public comment to meetings. A motion to adopt staff's recommendation to give speakers three minutes each at the end of commissioner meetings failed with just Commissioners Joe Mitrecic, Diana Purnell and Ted Elder in support.

"It's a dead issue, which is certainly a loss for the citizens of Worcester County, not being able to voice their issues with the full board of commissioners," Mitrecic said after the meeting.

It was Mitrecic last month who made a motion to have staff find a way to work public comment into the commissioners' meetings. Chief Administrative Officer Weston Young presented the commissioners last

week with a recommendation to hold a public comment section at the end of meetings that would give speakers three minutes to address the commissioners. The memo Young provided to the commissioners stated that speakers would have to follow rules, which he pointed out in must jurisdictions included identifying their name and address, refraining from remarks unrelated to the business of the county, refraining from conduct that's not civil and understanding that the public comment period was "not a question-and-answer time."

"As it is handled now, the emailing of questions and comments ahead of the meeting is always encouraged," the memo reads. "The commissioners@co.worcester.md.us email address goes to all the commissioners."

Mitrecic said he'd read the memo. "I found no problem with any of the points made," he said. "I'd make a motion we adopt a public comment period."

Purnell seconded the motion but it failed with just three commission-

ers—Mitrecic, Purnell and Elder—in support.

Mitrecic said after the meeting that he didn't expect the issue to come back up, as typically that only occurs when one of the commissioners who voted against a motion asks that it be reconsidered.

Commissioners Eric Fiori and Caryn Abbott, who both supported Mitrecic's motion to find a method for public comment last month, said they were in opposition last week because the staff recommendation and the motion were too vague.

"The motion was too incomplete," Fiori said. "What was documented was such a range of options there was nothing to vote on there."

Abbott said the recommendation was basically a compilation of what other counties did and wasn't a Worcester-specific concept.

"They didn't present a way for Worcester County to do it," she said. "There was nothing to vote on."

Fiori said he expected staff to come back with concrete examples of

how Worcester County could implement public comment effectively into meetings. Fiori referenced the public comments permitted at Worcester County Board of Education meetings.

"We solve problems differently than the board of education," he said. "A two-minute comment with no action plan I feel is counterproductive. I don't want to see a dozen people come up with all the problems they have with no action plan, no interaction."

Fiori said that until staff hammered down a specific template for Worcester, he didn't think the commissioners should change the meeting format. He also said there is opportunity for public comment at commissioners' meetings but only currently during action items that require public hearings.

Abbott also referenced board of education meetings, as she has spoken during the public comment period there in the past.

"I find it very ineffective," she said. "That got me nowhere with the board of education. I recognize that, and I think that format doesn't work."

Abbott prefers one-on-one communication with her constituents.

"The people most vocal about wanting public comments have never

See CITIZENS Page 9

'A two-minute comment with no action plan I feel is counterproductive. I don't want to see a dozen people come up with all the problems they have with no action plan, no interaction.'
Commissioner Eric Fiori

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Students seek to highlight SkillsUSA at championships

American Spirit contest to showcase local efforts at Worcester Technical High

By Charlene Sharpe
Associate Editor
(Feb. 15, 2024) A trio of Worcester Technical High School students will work to highlight the efforts of the school's SkillsUSA program as the state and national championships loom closer.

Worcester Tech students Catherine Miller, Julia Knerr and Maddison French are hard at work tracking the array of activities underway by the school's SkillsUSA students. Through the "American Spirit" competition, they'll showcase how local SkillsUSA students have worked to promote the program.

"American Spirit highlights what your organization has done throughout the year," said Worcester Tech's Tammy Hearne.

The nonprofit SkillsUSA, a partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives working together to ensure the country continues to have a skilled workforce, helps make sure students are career ready when they leave high school.

Through SkillsUSA, local students in the various programs at Worcester Tech—criminal justice, welding, culinary arts, etc.—have the chance to compete at the local, state and even national level. In addition to program specific competitions, there are also chapter-wide competitions like American Spirit.

For the American Spirit challenge at the state competition, Worcester Tech's team will have to present the local chapter's activities related to community service, citizenship and promotion of career and technology education.

"The American Spirit team will put all the projects together in a book to present at states," Hearne said.

They'll include information about projects local SkillsUSA students did in Worcester County, such as the sex trafficking presentation held at local high schools in the fall of 2023 to raise awareness of the issue, and the Valentine's Day cards they gave to residents at the Berlin Nursing Home this month. The group will also highlight the way students in the Worcester Tech early childhood program have apprenticeship opportunities at The Nest Early Learning Center.

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Citizens voice disappointment

Continued from Page 8
emailed me," she said.

She added however that she would support incorporating public comment into the commissioners' meetings if it could be done in a way that worked. In the meantime, she said citizens were welcome to call her or set up a meeting with her.

"If they have real issues, you'd think they'd want to speak to us directly," she said.

Mitrecic, however, said the issue with one-on-one communication was the fact that the whole board of commissioners might not be aware of an issue. Unless the commissioner shares the constituent's concerns with the whole board, the rest of the commissioners won't hear about it, he said. That's why he wanted to offer the public the chance to speak at meetings.

"This would've been a chance for the citizens of Worcester County to come and address the entire board of commissioners," Mitrecic said. "How can that be a bad thing? Most decisions are made behind closed doors by the four of them."

Mitrecic pointed out there was no discussion before last Tuesday's vote on the public comment motion.

"Look at their votes," he said. "It's very clear they don't want any input from anybody. They've made up their

minds before they walk through the door."

Bishopville resident Kate Hulme, who attended the meeting hoping to see the commissioners approve the inclusion of public comment at future meetings, said she was also upset by the lack of discussion. She noted that Abbott and Fiori last month voted for having staff find a vehicle for public comment.

"At no point during the motion did any commissioner in opposition to the recommendation offer feedback, concerns, or otherwise," she said. "They had no discussion. The commissioners advocate for transparency and yet are in direct conflict of this initiative when it could negatively impact their motives."

Hulme said she personally spoke with several of the commissioners in recent weeks to express her desire to see public comment at meetings and even shared links from other jurisdictions to show how they handled public input.

"Not once did any of the commissioners reference hearing from constituents in support of public comment," she said. "They chose to disregard the voice of their constituents. They avoided allowing constituent concern to be publicly recorded. That is why we need public comment."

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Rev. Dawn Hobson points to a damaged beam inside Tyree AME Church in Berlin. The church is fundraising to pay for nearly \$600,000 in needed repairs.

CHARLENE SHARPE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Historic church building eyes major restoration

By Charlene Sharpe
Associate Editor

(Feb. 15, 2024) A Berlin church is in need of support as the congregation embarks on extensive improvements needed to keep the historic building structurally sound.

Members of Tyree AME Church, located on Germantown Road in Berlin, have launched a fundraising campaign to help cover the cost of much needed repairs to the 109-year-old structure. While they’ve raised about half of the roughly \$600,000 needed, they’re hoping the community will give what they can to help move the project forward.

“The community needs churches just like Tyree, reaching up to God and reaching out to people,” said Rev. Dawn Hobson, pastor of Tyree AME Church.

Hobson, who was appointed in 2021 as pastor, still remembers the first time she walked into the church, passing inspirational posters in the hallway before being greeted by a choir in the sanctuary singing sweetly in front of the stained glass windows.

“I just felt this is a place I need to be and this is a place that needs to be in the community,” Hobson said.

Tyree AME Church was built in 1915 after a small group left New Bethel United Methodist Church. The group, which included relatives of the Rev. Dr. Charles Albert Tindley, founded Tyree African Methodist Episcopal Chapel. On Nov. 15, 1915, Bishop Evans Tyree preached the dedication sermon at the new church, which was then named in his honor. In 1992, following a generous donation from Buddy Jenkins, the church was expanded to include Faith Hall, an education center.

The church’s 100-plus year history, which included busy camp meetings in the early 20th century as well as countless weddings and funerals for area residents, along with Sunday services, has taken a toll however. After roof repairs were made a few years ago, church officials realized the building also had water damage, beams in need of replacement and a structurally unsound bell tower. They’ve had an engineer identify the issues and have had architectural plans drawn. Now the church just needs to come up with the funding to pay for the repairs. While grants are expected to assist and the church will appeal to a few foundations that might be able to help, the congregation at Tyree AME is also asking the public for donations via <https://www.gofundme.com/f/tyree-ame-church-historical-renovation>.

Tyree AME hosts soup kitchens, holds food drives and provides space for community events. Terry Smith, a

See FUNDRAISING Page 12

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DNR accepting specialty crop block grants

Farms across state can apply for chunk of \$400K available to preserve land

(Feb. 15, 2024) The Maryland Department of Agriculture is accepting proposals for its Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.

The reimbursement grant program aims to enhance the competitiveness of Maryland's specialty crops. The department anticipates that roughly \$400,000 will be available.

Department officials are seeking applications from eligible nonprofit

organizations, government entities, for-profit companies, and other organizations for projects that promote or enhance the production of and access to Maryland specialty crops.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines specialty crops as fruits, vegetables, culinary herbs and spices, honey, hops, grapes, maple syrup, Christmas trees, and nursery crops.

Competitive grants will be awarded for projects, with a minimum of \$15,000. Grants have historically ranged from \$15,000 to \$140,000. Funds will be awarded for projects lasting up to two years in duration and concluding by Nov. 15,

2026. Proposals will be evaluated based on potential for the greatest impact on Maryland specialty crop producers.

Applicants must be Maryland residents, or their business or educational affiliation must be in the state. Proposals can be completed online through Maryland OneStop. The deadline to apply is 11:59 p.m., March 31. All applications submitted by the deadline will be reviewed by the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program manager and review committee.

The Maryland Department of

Agriculture administers the program, and funds derive from then U.S. Farm Bill through the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service.

An informational Zoom webinar about the program will be held at 3 p.m., Feb. 22.

For questions about Maryland's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program or the application process, contact Karen Fedor at scbgp.mda@maryland.gov or 410-841-5773.

More information about the program is also available on the department's website.

Fundraising efforts underway

Continued from Page 10

church member for more than three decades, wants to make sure that continues.

"We want to be a support for the community," she said.

Hobson agreed the church was an important part of the community and she's hopeful the funding needed can be raised to bring the building back

into prime condition.

"It's going to be exciting to see it when it's all done," Hobson said, adding that services were currently being held in Faith Hall rather than the sanctuary because of its condition. "People want to see this restored."

More information about the church and its history is available on its website, tyreame.org.

Trio compiles SkillsUSA book

Continued from Page 9

"The Nest has created opportunities for them to use their skills daily," Hearne said. "They're making lesson plans in the classroom and then they can implement them when they're helping with the kids."

Knerr, who is in the early childhood program at Worcester Tech, said she wanted to help with the American Spirit competition because she liked doing good in the community.

"I enjoy helping out in the community, especially stuff that has a direct

impact on people," she said, adding that she was looking forward to handing out Valentine's Day cards at the nursing home. "By hand delivering them ourselves we get to see their reactions. It's heartwarming."

Miller said she felt the American Spirit competition would bring even more awareness to the topics various school programs found to be important in the community. As a criminal justice student, she was involved in the sex trafficking presentation.

"We're bringing light to it so it can be an easier conversation," she said.

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Md. DNR seeking input on hunting seasons, bag limits

Public can view proposed changes, comment online now through end of month

(Feb. 15, 2024) The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is accepting public comment on proposed changes to the 2024-26 hunting and trapping seasons, and proposed 2024-25 migratory game bird seasons and bag limits.

“We have been working diligently to develop these proposals with our staff and our stakeholders, who represent a diverse group of citizens,” Wildlife and Heritage Service Director Karina Stonesifer said in a news release. “The current concepts, now available for public comment, are the

results of that process and have been revised based on stakeholder input. We look forward to receiving comments from the public to help us further refine and finalize our proposals.”

The public can view the proposed regulations and comment online, and view and comment on the proposed migratory game bird seasons and bag limits now through Feb. 26.

The department is also accepting feedback by phone at 410-260-8540; by fax to 410-260-8596; or in writing to: Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage Service, 580 Taylor Avenue, E-1, Annapolis, Maryland, 21401.

Questions should be directed to the Wildlife and Heritage Service at 410-260-8540.



A hunter and a dog in a Maryland field. PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND DNR

Sports betting numbers for January skyrocket statewide

(Feb. 15, 2024) Sports betting in Maryland generated nearly four times more this past January for the state than in 2023, with a total 23.4% increase in overall revenue.

According to a Maryland Lottery and Gaming news release, the state’s sports wagering market provided more than \$8.2 million last month from a total nearly \$545 million handle to the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future Fund, which supports public education programs.

The \$8.2 million total surpassed the previous single-month high of \$6.5 million in December and was nearly four times more than the over \$2.1 million generated in January 2023, a change that gaming officials credit to the NFL playoffs.

“The calendar is always the driving force in sports wagering, and the football playoffs in January reliably produce strong numbers,” Maryland

Lottery and Gaming Director John Martin said in the release. “The AFC Championship game didn’t go the way Ravens fans were hoping or expecting, which may have contributed to the results we saw. It’s a reminder that unforeseen outcomes happen, so it’s always best for anyone who wagers to set a budget, have a plan and stick to it, and keep the focus on having fun.”

Maryland has a total 13 retail sportsbooks, including Ocean Downs Casino off Route 611, and 12 mobile.

Sports wagering data is tracked and reported based on the state’s fiscal year, which runs from July 1 through June 30. During the first seven months of Fiscal Year 2024 (July 2023 through January 2024), the release sports wagering contributed more than \$32.8 million to state education programs. February totals, which will include wagers on the Super Bowl, will be reported on March 11.

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Neil Young retrospective set for Feb. 22 at Pines Library

(Feb. 15, 2024) The life, history and songs of renowned singer-songwriter Neil Young will be the subject of a program later this month at the Ocean Pines branch of the Worcester County Library.

According to a news release, staff members Frank DeLucco and Harry Burkett will host the event at 2 p.m., Feb. 22, at the library on Cathell Road.

They will detail Young's 1960s beginnings with Buffalo Springfield and his success as a member of Crosby, Stills, Nash, & Young. The release said Young's most memorable song, "Ohio," became an instant anthem, marking the tragic killing of four students during an anti-Vietnam War protest at Kent State University.

"Delving deeper into his career, we began to appreciate that Neil Young can't be categorized as just rock, folk, or country," DeLucco said in the release. "He's an artist in the purist sense of the word, always finding new mediums to express himself or communicate a feeling."

Young's landmark album, "Harvest," — featuring his biggest hit single, "Heart of Gold"—came out in 1972, and his 1989 hit single, "Rockin' in the Free World," included several domestic critiques amid the fall of the Berlin Wall.

While Young experiments with various genres, ranging from rock and folk to blues and electronic, the release said his raw and pioneering guitar work, indelible lyrics, and unique voice have remained his hallmarks. His frequent collaborations with Crazy Horse are considered the core of his sound.

"Neil Young once said he wanted to merge Bob Dylan with the Rolling Stones," Burkett said in the release "He's done that and much more."

For information on all Worcester County Library programs, check out the Events page at worcesterlibrary.org.



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The Gupta family, pictured, was named Family of the Year at the county's 4-H awards ceremony.



Seidon Shaffer of the Voyagers and Whaleyville Country Critters 4-H clubs, and Ramses Almodovar-Casiano of the Pocomoke Fun Fact Explorers 4-H Club pose with their Jeff Grey Memorial Horizon awards they won at the recent Worcester County 4-H awards ceremony.

Worcester 4-H members get awards for accomplishments

Members receive honors for contributions to local organization during 2023

(Feb. 15, 2024) The University of Maryland Extension Worcester County 4-H Youth Development Program celebrated the 2023 accomplishments of 4-H members at an awards ceremony earlier this month at the Snow Hill Lions Club Community Center.

The ceremony consisted of recognitions of 4-H youth for their 2023 achievements, and the naming of the local 4-H Family of the Year.

According to a news release, 4-H is America's largest youth development organization, open to kids and teens ages 5-18.

Bill Reddish from U.S. Rep. Andy Harris' office and Del. Charles Otto attended the awards ceremony on Feb. 4, along with Worcester County Commissioner Eric Fiori.

Reddish presented letters of congratulations from Harris, as well as Certificates of Special Congressional Recognition to the major award winners. Otto presented proclamations to recipients on behalf of the Maryland Delegation, which also consists of Sen. Mary Beth Carozza and Del.

Wayne Hartman.

The Jeff Grey Memorial Horizon award was presented to Seidon Shaffer of the Voyagers and Whaleyville Country Critters 4-H clubs, and Ramses Almodóvar-Casiano of the Pocomoke Fun Fact Explorers 4-H Club.

The Albert Dickerson Memorial Award for record-keeping was presented to the best 4-H Project Record Books. The awards were presented to Frankie Maratea in the junior age group, Anna Lynn Wainwright in the intermediate group, and Kaydin Knappenberger in the senior group.

The H awards are given in three age groups. They represent the four H's of the 4-H Pledge – Head, Heart, Hand and Health.

The junior Head award was given to Maratea and Silas Wood of the Nature Adventurers 4-H Club. Scott Wainwright of the Nature Adventurers and Nidhish Gupta of the Voyagers earned the award in the intermediate age group.

Romeo Kramer of the Nature Adventures took home the junior Heart award while Voyager Club members Elianna Fiori and Mary Ann Rutzler received Heart awards in their age groups.

The Hand awards went to Robi
See SPIRIT Page 17

See SPIRIT Page 17

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Two Albert Dickerson Memorial Awards were presented to Frankie Maratea in the junior age group, Anna Lynn Wainwright in the intermediate group, and Kaydin Knappenberger in the senior group, who are pictured with their honors at the recent Worcester County 4-H awards ceremony.

Spirit, other awards presented

Continued from Page 16

Almodóvar-Casiano of the Pocomoke Fun Fact Explorers, Seamus Betz from the Nature Adventurers and Voyagers Club member MadaLynne Rutzler.

Gabrielle Wainwright of the Nature Adventures received the Health award in the junior age group. Ewan Betz of the Nature Adventurers and 4-H Shooting Sports Clubs was the Intermediate Health award winner.

The Spirit award is given annually to the most well-rounded, enthusiastic 4-Her.

Paisley Campbell of Worcester County's newest club, Whaleyville Country Critters, was the junior winner. There were two intermediate aged 4-Hers who won the Spirit award — Pip Decker and Indyana Southward, both from the Nature Adventurers 4-H Club.

The Spirit award winner in the senior category is a graduating high school senior who has had a stellar 4-H career.

Knappenberger, the president of the Voyagers Club, received the award, along with the True Leader Award, and was named a Thomas Johnson Jr. Memorial Scholarship winner.

The Guptas were named Worcester County 4-H Family of the Year.

Shriya Gupta is a co-leader of the Voyagers 4-H Club and his brother, Nidhish, serves as the club's vice president. Shriya also started a drone club this year, in which both Nidhish and their brother, Saish, participate. Last spring, father Amit Gupta joined his sons at the Worcester County 4-H Ham Radio club meetings. All three took and passed their ham radio license test, with Saish being the youngest person in Maryland to receive a ham radio license.

For more information about 4-H in Worcester County, visit extension.umd.edu/locations/worcester-county/4-h-youth-education.

See Page 18



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Indyana Southward from the Nature Adventurers 4-H Club, one of the winners of the Spirit award in the intermediate age group, is pictured at the recent Worcester County 4-H awards ceremony.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Paisley Campbell of Whaleyville Country Critters, pictured, won the Spirit award in the junior age group at the recent Worcester County 4-H awards ceremony.




SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE
Kaydin Knappenberger, the president of the Voyagers Club, pictured, won the Sprit award in the senior age group at the recent Worcester County 4-H awards ceremony.




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Sunday 11am-2pm	107 Convention Ctr., Dr. #101B, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$469,900	Monica McNamara/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-2pm	37781 Cedar Rd, Selbyville	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$1,249,000	CarolSue Crimmins/Carefree Real Estate
Sunday 11am-2pm	101 123rd Street #230C3, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$252,000	CarolSue Crimmins/Carefree Real Estate
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Snapshots



REMEMBERING
Members of the Berlin Fire Company and Stevenson United Methodist Church pose together during the organizations' Annual Pennewell Memorial Service. Franklin L. Pennewell, who joined the BFC in 1930, died in the line of duty on Feb. 12, 1934, and members of both organizations have gathered annually for the last more than 89 years. Pictured, front row from left, are David Fitzgerald, fire company president; Joe Pylypczuk, 53-year member; Linda Thomas, Pennewell's granddaughter; Harry Trimble, 53-year member; Charlie Townsend, 53-year member; and David Bloxom, chaplain. Pictured, back from left, are fire company members Phil Simpson, Bill Tilghman and Joe Daw; Joe Sise, chairman of the board of directors; and Troy Croom, board of directors member.
SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



TECH SCHOOL COMPETITION
Eighth and ninth graders took part in a variety of SkillsUSA competitions at the Worcester Technical High School last Saturday. The event served as an open house for the tech school as well.
CHARLENE SHARPE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



ARTS COUNCIL CONTEST
Worcester Technical High School student Jamari Savage poses with Doris Glover, an artist and a member of the Worcester County Arts Council Board, at the council's student art contest on Feb. 9. Savage won the digital category in the contest, which Glover judged, for his work, "Memorabilia." The contest was sponsored by the Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club, which donated \$2,000 in prize money.
PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL



CLUB OFFICERS INSTALLED
The Ocean Pines Garden Club recently installed club officers for 2024. Pictured, from left, are Ann Shockley and Lilanie Geiger, co-presidents; Sandy Gaffigan, co-vice president; Laura Stearman, corresponding secretary; Anita Roberts, recording secretary, and Maria Brown, treasurer. Co-Vice President Barbara Miller is not pictured. The club meets at 10 a.m., the second Thursday of each month, at the Ocean Pines Community Center. New members and visitors are welcome.
PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN PINES GARDEN CLUB



FLORAL DONATIONS
Worcester County Garden Club President Joan LaHayne, left, delivers Valentine's Day floral arrangements to Gull Creek Resident Services Coordinator Jamie Triplett. At a workshop after their most recent meeting, garden club members created floral designs in mugs for the holiday. The arrangements were delivered and shared with Gull Creek Senior Living Community residents.
PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY GARDEN CLUB

United Way raises over \$215K during 20th holiday ball

(Feb. 15, 2024) The United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore recently celebrated its 20th holiday ball at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Resort in Cambridge.

A news release said the event raised more than \$215,000 to support the the organization’s direct programs and nonprofit partners serving Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties.

Randy Scott, from Froggy 99.9’s Whiskey and Randy Show, served as the emcee for the event, which included live music by Gold City, a gourmet dinner, specialty drinks, treats and late-night fare.

Along with an online auction of trips and local specialties, fundraising included a chance to win more than \$2,000 in gift cards, and a new signature item – The Golden Ticket – a limited availability drawing for one winner to receive a choice of four inclusive trips.

“The Holiday Ball is far more than an extra special celebration to usher in the holiday season. This is our largest fundraiser to support United Way’s year-round programs and nearly 40 nonprofit partners annually,” Pam Gregory, the president and CEO of the United Way of the Lower Shore, said in the release. “Over 43% of Lower Shore households struggle each month to meet the very basic needs, often working multiple jobs. This event helps us continue to work alongside our community partners to close gaps and open access to programs and opportunities for every neighbor to thrive.”

Members of the holiday ball committee, led by co-chairs Rush Stehley and Briana Mattern, worked all year with organization staff to make the event unforgettable, Gregory added.

“Along with our incredible committee and sponsors, we also thank the hundreds of guests and online supporters, and extend our gratitude to Gift Card Bundle winner, Cari Ruppert, who donated her winnings back to UWLES to be shared with local teachers,” she said. “Everyone helped make the season of giving shine bright.”

The 2023 holiday ball sponsors were as follows:

Presenting Sponsor – Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort, Spa & Marina

Emerald Sponsor – Avery Hall Insurance Group

Gold Sponsors – Peninsula Plastic Surgery, Salisbury University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and Sonya Whited

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See THIS YEAR’S Page 23



United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore board member Laura Rodriguez, pictured third from left, and friends from PNC Bank pose together during the organization’s 2023 holiday ball, held recently at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Resort in Cambridge.



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PHOTO COURTESY PAIGE ELIZABETH PHOTOGRAPHY
Pam Gregory and Randy Scott announce prize winners at the United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore's 2023 holiday ball, held recently at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Resort in Cambridge.

This year's event set for Dec. 7

Continued from Page 21
M & T Bank, Ocean Downs Casino, Perdue Farms, Pohanka of Salisbury, Pool Tech, Taustin Group, and Tidal-Health
Bronze Sponsors – Atlantic General Hospital, Amy Hasson, Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, PB Packaging, and Wor-Wic Community College
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Auction Partners – AmFund American Fundraising Foundation and HGA Fundraising.
The 2024 holiday ball, celebrating United Way's 80th anniversary, is set for Dec. 7, at the Hyatt. For more information, or to inquire about early bird sponsorships, visit uwles.org, or call 410-742-5143.



PHOTO COURTESY JAMES SEIP PHOTOGRAPHY
Members of the 2023 United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore Holiday Ball Committee pose together during the organization's 20th annual installment of the event at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Resort in Cambridge.

Wor-Wic reverse trade show slated 1-4 p.m., March 6

(Feb. 15, 2024) Contractors, entrepreneurs, and commercial entities interested in doing business with local government agencies are invited to participate in a reverse trade show at Wor-Wic Community College next month.
Set from 1-4 p.m., March 6, at the Guerrieri Technology Center lobby of the Wor-Wic campus in Salisbury, the show will feature representatives from Salisbury University, Wor-Wic, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Wicomico County Public Schools, City of Salisbury, Worcester County Government, Wicomico County Government, and the Town of Ocean City. Attendees will have the chance to meet and interact with the representatives with no fees or registration required.
Worcester County's procurement office, along with procurement representatives from other local government agencies, is hosting the event.



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Chamber Volunteer of the Year: **Billy Apostolou**, Direct Mortgage Loans

Nonprofit of the Year: **Art League of Ocean City**

First Responder of the Year: **Capt. Butch Arbin**, OC Beach Patrol

Young Professional of the Year: **Ricky Pollitt**, Junior Achievement

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Opinion

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

Pickleball subsidizes other racket sports

Look up “pickleball” and “passion” on the internet and the results will fill the computer screen, as this “anyone-can-play” sport doesn’t just have enthusiasts and eager participants, its ranks are increasingly populated by fervent disciples and followers.

That’s why the pickleballers’ protests at last week’s town meeting on the Ocean Pines Association’s proposed budget and its increase in pickleball dues was not that surprising.

Any sport that gains an average of 10.5 million players a year over three years (from 5 million players to 36.5 million as of 2023, according to the Association of Pickleball Professionals), is going to have a large contingent of vocal advocates.

Still, the issue of dues increases, as proposed by OPA General Manager Tom Viola, needs to be looked at from a purely financial perspective.

While it may seem unfair to impose higher costs on the one racket sport that operates in the black, it makes more financial sense to draw income from a growing sport than it does from a declining one.

Obviously, pickleball fans feel they are being penalized — and they are in a way — but the logic applied here is that the most popular pursuit can generate the most money at less cost per individual player than the least popular pastime over the long term.

Producing the same revenue by raising fees for tennis, which apparently is losing money, would require a much heftier per-player charge, and that could spur a more rapid decline in participants and another round of raising fees.

Another way to look at the situation would be to envision establishing a toll road to help support the local streets program. Clearly, the place to set up the toll booth would on the road that carries the highest traffic, rather than on the one that sees far less activity.

This approach won’t make the pickleball crowd happy, but it’s the only one that makes dollars and cents for racket sports overall.

Letters

Pines residents need more access

Editor:

So much has changed since moving into Ocean Pines Section 10 (Sherwood Forest) in 2001.

I have seen the construction of The Parke, The Point, The Woodlands, businesses in the Manklin Creek shopping area, new homes along Ocean Parkway, summer rental homes now occupied year round, and now the opening of the latest development of the Triple Crown Estates.

One thing all of these residents have in common is when we leave our homes in Ocean Pines we all need to exit by way of the four way stop at the intersection of Manklin Creek and Ocean Parkway. I am very concerned about the chaos that would ensue if there was an emergency evacuation and we all tried to exit at the same time.

Over the years I have read that there have been discussions of an exit road that would lead residents out of Ocean Pines to Route 589 via Gum Pt. Road. I think now is the time to really put that plan into effect and with the construction of homes in Triple Crown Estates this would make perfect sense. Not an exit for convenience but one for the safety of all the people who would be affected if an emergency would arise.

I urge the Ocean Pines

board to place this need at the top of their priority list and work with the county to get this road completed as soon as possible.

*Madlyn Scott
Ocean Pines*

Sustainable schools a must

Editor:

As educators at Buckingham Elementary School, a community-based elementary school serving a diverse population, we are proud of the rich learning experiences, the strong community connections, and the authentic relationships among students and adults that are forged here every day. But here’s what you may not know. Our ability to sustain this level of impact on our students is hanging on by a delicate thread.

The strong fabric of our school begins to unravel as a dedicated fourth grade teacher in a portable, watches her instructional minutes fade away. Two of her students leave class to join a lengthy line for a single bathroom shared with over 90 fourth graders, a music class, a physical education class, and an entire cafeteria.

A special education teacher attempts to meet with a small group of her students in the back of the same portable. She lacks adequate areas to support her students who are legally required to have space for

interventions to be delivered without distractions. Her voice overlaps with the boisterous sounds of recess right outside the thin portable door.

With a supply budget cut in half, the art teacher uses leftover materials and relies on the donations of the community that relentlessly stands behind this school. The music and movement teacher has packed up his obstacle course and is now relegated to a mobile cart. He finds creative ways to teach his critical program in a cramped corner of the cafeteria. The tapestry of our school continues to unravel.


Despite all of this, educators continue to hold on tight—for the sake of our children and the future of education in our community. We are all waiting for a fully funded public school system. An approved budget that will not only build our new school but will recruit and retain the passionate educators who will fill it with love and learning.

If we want a strong local economy and thriving communities, we can’t allow our schools and our educators to remain in such a fragile state of sustainability.

We have far, far too much to lose.

Gloria Scafone, BES Fourth Grade Teacher
Melissa Reid, BES Art Teacher
Ali Giska, BES Literacy Coach

BAYSIDE



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Tickets still available for oyster roast

(Feb. 15, 2024) Tickets are still on sale for the 13th Annual Snow Hill Oyster Roast, set from 1-5 p.m., March 24, in downtown Snow Hill.

Hosted by the Snow Hill Area Chamber of Commerce, the event will feature a variety of oyster and seafood dishes, bottomless beer, live music by Margo & Co. and a 50/50 raffle for a

chance to win a large cash prize.

Local restaurants and vendors will prepare oysters in a variety of different ways, including raw oyster bar, oysters Rockefeller, roasted oysters, barbecue bacon cheddar oysters, smoked oyster spread on cucumbers and crackers, oyster tacos, oyster stew, and Old Bay chocolate oysters for dessert.

The menu will also include steamed shrimp, bay scallops, pulled pork and slaw, cheddar biscuit crab cakes, and whipped feta dip with crudites and naan.

To buy tickets (online only) visit snowhillchamber.com/annual-oyster-roast. Tickets are \$65 a person and as of earlier this week there were less than 250 tickets left.

Maryland Coastal Bays accepting grant apps

State organization handing out funds to projects that benefit state watersheds

(Feb. 15, 2024) The Maryland Coastal Bays Program is accepting community stewardship mini-grant proposals and scientific research funding proposals for environmental projects benefiting the watershed.

A news release said the mini grants are available to anyone – groups, schools, organizations, service youths and civic groups – for projects that will raise awareness about the challenges and solutions to restore and provide education about the coastal bays, and engage residents in community-based restoration and protection projects.

The program is designed to support watershed-based community, science, and educational initiatives that align with the organization’s management plan action items. Through the funding opportunity, Coastal Bays officials want to find new applicants and organizations from diverse communities in small-scale projects that enhance communities, engage residents, and, ultimately, improve natural resources.

The implementation grant pro-



Maryland Coastal Bays staff members perform wetland assessment work.

PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND COASTAL BAYS

gram is available to the organization’s partners to help them respond to research needs.

Opportunities include reachable scientific goals and the most effective means for implementing them. Existing and on-going projects that seek to augment or add an additional element to an existing scope of work may also be considered for funding.

Both funding opportunities must align with the Maryland Coastal Bays Management Plan. The plan can be found on the MCBP website at mdcoastalbays.org.

The funding opportunities are provided by the Environmental Protection Agency through Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding. With the funding, the EPA will be making significant investments in the health, equity, and resilience of American communities and taking significant

strides to tackle the climate crisis, the release said.

Mini grant applicants may request up to \$5,000 for their projects. Applicants for the scientific research grants may request up to \$25,000.

Funding details and contact information can be found on the Maryland Coastal Bays website at mdcoastalbays.org/funding-opportunities/. The proposed deadline for both grant programs is March 15.

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Puzzles

PUNCH LINES

BY DANIEL GRINBERG / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Daniel Grinberg, of Philadelphia, researches user experience for a utility company. This is his fifth crossword for The Times. It was inspired at a party when he heard someone with a new haircut cry out [the answer to 47-Across]. To which he thought [the clue to 47-Across] — which became the seed of this puzzle. Apart from the theme, Daniel tried to include new vocabulary in the grid. 1A, 116A, 10D, 15D, 36D and 74D are all appearing in a Times crossword for the first time. — W.S.

ACROSS
1 Pink, purple and blue Pride display, familiarly
7 Hound
10 Kind of opening
13 Frontwoman for the Pussycats
18 Nipple rings
20 Target of an inventory scan
22 Acting like
23 Fault line?
25 Qualifier for a date
26 Olaf's creator in "Frozen"
27 Nickname that drops "An-"
28 A gig has a thousand of these
29 Permitted
30 Permitted
31 Fine line?
35 Atomic number of neon
36 Preserves things?
37 Shaped like a kiwifruit
38 Processes
41 ___ attachment
44 Anatomical stabilizer
45 The Green Hornet's assistant
46 Not down, in a way
47 Fishing line?
53 Mediterranean morsel

DOWN
1 There's a hole in one
2 Gloater's cry
3 One-named indie singer with the 2007 hit "1234"
4 Kinks hit that starts, "I met her in a club down in old Soho"
5 Neighbor of Ctrl
6 Sense of orientation
7 Peacock parent
8 Exclamation of amazement
9 Alternative to nana
10 Shake slightly
11 Ukraine's third-most-populous city
12 Where a lot of lying happens
13 Item in a trunk

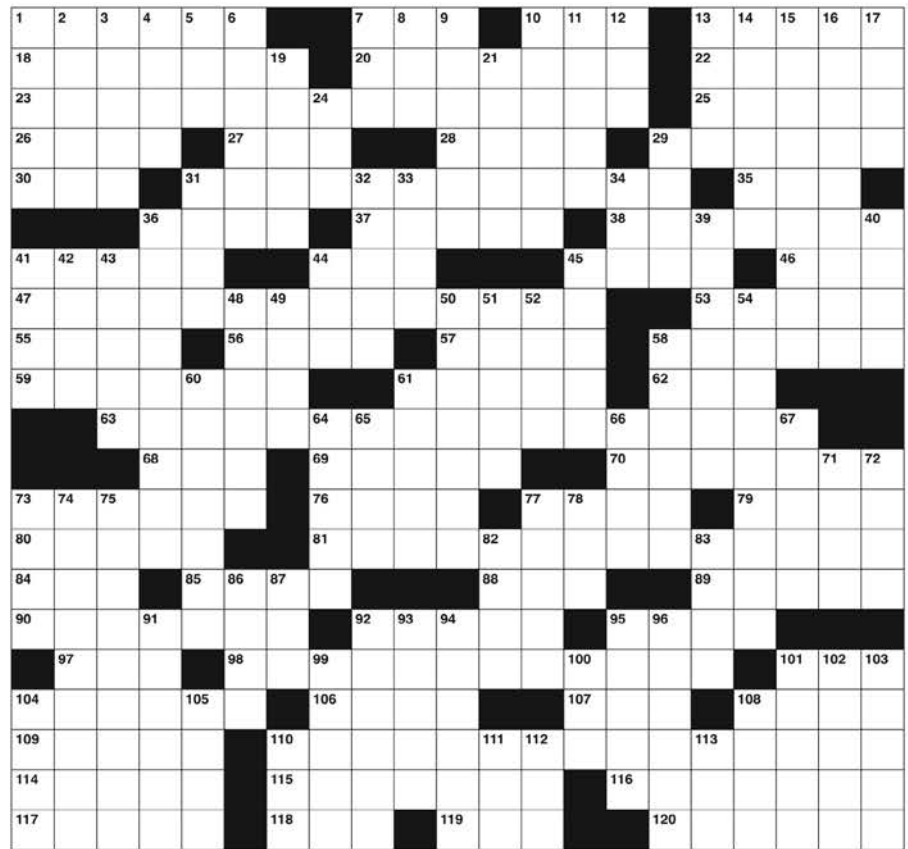
ACROSS
54 Get just right
56 Long-running police procedural, for short
57 Catalan artist Joan
58 Thought the world of
59 "To Kill a Mockingbird" setting
61 Match well with
62 First color-TV manufacturer
63 Subway line?
68 Tittle
69 1970s-'80s Supreme Court justice ___ F. Powell Jr.
70 Scams
73 With an eager spirit
76 Landed
77 Flying formations
79 March ___
80 South American grassland
81 Assembly line?
84 Variety
85 Boxing stats
88 Celestial shape
89 British bottoms
92 Some sports-car features
95 Currency replaced by the euro
97 North American fish with toxic roe
98 Power line?
101 Simple card game
104 Groundskeeping equipment

DOWN
106 It's signed after a break
107 Otherworldly creatures, for short
108 Z, to Zeno
109 Illegal offering
110 Subject line?
114 Passage of rite?
115 Two outs left, in baseball
116 Performed really badly
117 Timetable: Abbr.
118 "There's more to the story, right?"
119 "The Shining" prop
120 Quakes

ACROSS
14 Post-surgery prescription
15 Private line?
16 Motivator
17 "Crikey!"
19 Brings in
21 Moved like a cat burglar
24 Word after dead or data
29 Volunteer's declaration
31 Soothe
32 Communal housing arrangements
33 /, in math
34 Director Lupino
36 Co-founder of the Joining Forces initiative, with Michelle Obama
39 One role in a classic interrogation trope
40 Zoomed
41 World Heritage Site in Sicily
42 Ground grain
43 Dame Edna, for Barry Humphries
44 "Enough! I get the picture already!"
45 Capital of Japan until 1868
48 Hostile state
49 Volunteer's declaration
50 Like many retired professors
51 Petty arguments
52 TLC or Run-D.M.C.

DOWN
54 Person of interest?
58 HBO comedy about a sports agent
60 Salamander named after an Aztec deity
61 ___ knife
64 Gives a hand?
65 Hot spot
66 Genealogist's chart
67 Kids and nannies
71 Liberated
72 N.S.A. agents, e.g.
73 Superficial, in a way
74 Rich with metaphor
75 Party line?
77 What might lead to a bridge
78 Subside
82 Second-year: Abbr.
83 Bunny ___ (photo prank)
86 Janitor's ringful
87 Spanish "bear"
91 Kind of clef
92 Switched
93 Actress Thompson of "Westworld"
94 Canadian Tulip Festival location
95 Light-headed sorts?
96 Selling points
99 School name that sounds like a Canadian territory
100 Hip Hop Awards channel
101 Gestational metric
102 First-stringers
103 Posts in a rage, perhaps
104 Degrees for C.F.O.s
105 Bog plant
108 New Mexican tribe
110 ___-cortin'
111 Shot in the arm, slangily
112 Word after stink or pink
113 What's what in Oaxaca

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HARD - 51

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.

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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

S	L	O	T	C	A	R	M	E	S	S	I	P	L	O	S	I	V	E						
R	E	W	R	O	T	E	I	V	I	E	S	R	A	N	A	W	A	Y						
S	I	L	E	N	T	M	D	E	N	I	S	A	N	E	M	O	N	E						
							S	M	A	S	H	I	N	G	S	U	C	C	E	S				
H	A	S	A	B	L	A	S	T	M	E	A	T	H	E	A	D	S							
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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., Feb. 15

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. Appointments required: Robin Rohlfing, 410-641-9726.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: FINANCIAL STATEMENTS WITH SBDC
Berlin Maryland Welcome Center, 14 S. Main St., 8 a.m. Breakfast and coffee provided. Free.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/fls-2024-2945089?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=creatorshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=odslxcollection&utm-source=cp&utm-aff=esch>.

STORY TIME: VALENTINE’S DAY!
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Join in for a story time to celebrate Valentine’s Day. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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

MANAGE YOUR BUSINESS CASH FLOW
Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, 1324 Belmont Ave., Suite. 401, Salisbury, 12-1 p.m. Learn the intricacies of Business Banking and the importance of keeping your business and personal finances distinct. Bring your lunch. Also virtual. Register: <https://marylandcapital.org/education>.

MINDFULNESS AT WORK
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 12:30 p.m. Bring a packed lunch and join in on a “silent lunch” followed by a 20- to 30-minute guided relaxation practice, led by Bevin Jones, with focus on begin mindful of the present moment. 410-957-0878

MOBILE MENTOR
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. One-on-one assistance for those who want to make the most of their tablet or mobile device. Call the Berlin Branch for more information: 410-641-0650. www.worcesterlibrary.org

ZUMBA
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4:30-5:30 p.m. Join licensed, certified Zumba in-

structor 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., Feb. 16

41ST ANNUAL OCEAN CITY SEASIDE BOAT SHOW
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Featuring more than 350 boats, 140 exhibitors and 50 boat dealers. Admission cost is \$10 for adults and \$1 for children 14 years and younger. www.ocboatshow.com

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

BOOK OF THE MONTH: ‘IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK’ BY JAMES BALDWIN
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Copies of the book are available at the Berlin Library circulation desk. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

FRIED FLOUNDER DINNER
Bowen Fellowship Church, 8421 Newark Road, Newark, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Fried flounder, mac & cheese, green beans, corn bread, dessert and beverage. Cost is \$10. Carryouts available.

Sat., Feb. 17

41ST ANNUAL OCEAN CITY SEASIDE BOAT SHOW
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Featuring more than 350 boats, 140 exhibitors and 50 boat dealers. Admission cost is \$10 for adults and \$1 for children 14 years and younger. www.ocboatshow.com

‘VIRTUAL’ WALK WITH A DOC
Visit Atlantic General Hospital’s Facebook Page to watch a brief discussion then go for walk, 9-10 a.m. Share a selfie on social media using #WalkedWith-AGH. 410-641-9268, amarzola@atlanticgeneral.org

OCEAN PINES ANGLERS CLUB MEETING
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 9:30 a.m. The speaker will be Fred Stiehl from the

U.S. Power Squadron. Also, member updates on fishing trips, regulations and all things fishing. All welcome. Jack Barnes, 410-641-7662.

CHICKEN AND FISH DINNER
St. Paul United Methodist Church, 405 Flower St., Berlin, 11 a.m. Fried chicken/fried fish platters, \$10 each; chicken and fish combo, \$15; fried chicken sandwich \$5; or fried fish sandwich, \$7. Sides available. Eat-in or carry-out. All are welcome. 410-641-0270

TEEN JACKBOX PARTY
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 1 p.m. Teens and their families are invited to compete in fun party games on the Nintendo Switch. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

OCVFC LADIES AUXILIARY SPAGHETTI DINNER
1409 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 4-8 p.m. Tickets \$15. Includes spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, beverage and dessert. Dine in or carry out. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$8 for ages 12 years and younger. Tickets: Brenda Parker, 443-235-7693.

BINGO MANIA
Wicomico Civic Center, 500 Glen Ave., Salisbury, 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. for early bird games. Tickets cost \$50: boxoffice@wicomocounty.org. Bring 3 nonperishable items and receive 3 free cards. Proceeds benefit the Mardela Middle & High School bands.

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., Feb. 18

41ST ANNUAL OCEAN CITY SEASIDE BOAT SHOW
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Featuring more than 350 boats, 140 exhibitors and 50 boat dealers. Admission cost is \$10 for adults and \$1 for children 14 years and younger. www.ocboatshow.com

FREE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST
Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, Berlin, 8-9:30 a.m. Worship follows at 10 a.m. 410-641-2186, bethany21811@gmail.com

JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES MEETING
Sundays - Berlin Congregation of Jehovah’s Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 10 a.m. www.jw.org

Tues., Feb. 20

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. The workshop starts with a 20-minute lesson on genealogy research, followed by Q&A. Bring a laptop, tablet or papers containing family information. Registration requested: 410-208-4014.

STORY TIME: ‘WHALES’
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and finger plays. For ages 2-5 years. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STORY TIME: COLOR AND LIGHT
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. Songs, rhymes and stories. For ages 2-5 years. 410-957-0878

OC KNITTING GROUP
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Do you love to knit or crochet? Bring whatever project you happen to be working on. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 p.m. The group meets twice a month to discuss selections from the Great Books Foundation. Today’s focus is on “The Children of Light and the Children of Darkness” by Reinhold Niebuhr. 410-208-4014

‘GIVE BACK NIGHT’ BENEFITING THE KIWANIS CLUB
Don’s Seafood & Chophouse, 11310 Manklin Creek Road, Ocean Pines, 4 p.m. Dine-in from 4 p.m. to close and 10 percent of food and non-alcohol beverages go to the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City. www.don-sopines.com

DIVING INTO THE WORLD OF ZERO-WASTE LIVING
Taphouse W. Bar and Grille, 12513 Ocean Gateway, Ocean City, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Join Assateague Coastal Trust and Love Your Mama for an interactive, game-like journey into sustainable living and a zero-waste planet. Cost is \$15. Register: <https://www.actforbays.org/calendar>.
Continued on Page 28



PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

STUDENT ART CONTEST
Members of the Worcester County Arts Council recently hosted a student art contest at their gallery in Berlin. The Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club donated \$2,000 in prizes that were awarded to winning pieces. Pictured are participating students, teachers and friends at the gallery the night of the judging.

Calendar

Continued from Page 27
PAPER BAG BEAR CRAFT
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4 p.m. Make your own bear puppets. For ages 6-12 years. 410-641-0650. www.worcesterlibrary.org

CHRISTIAN CONVERSATIONS
Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 6 p.m. Held Tuesdays, Feb. 20-March 26. A free moderated group discussion based on the works of C.S. Lewis. Everyone is welcome. Explore a great opportunity for Lenten reflection. 410-641-7052

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 part-

ner 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., Feb. 21

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

BACKGAMMON CLUB
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Drop in for a game of strategy that dates back 5,000 years to Mesopotamia and Persia, whether you're an expert or want to refresh your skills. Beginners welcome. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

SENSORY STAY AND PLAY
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Get ready to squish, build, splash, shake and scoop through several fun stations. For ages 2-5 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STROKE SUPPORT GROUP
Atlantic General Neurology, 314 Franklin Ave., Berlin, 3-4 p.m. For stroke survivors, family and friends. 410-641-4765, bglime@atlanticgeneral.org

50+ BOOK CLUB: 'THE LADIES ROOM' BY CAROLYN BROWN
Snow Hill 50plus Center, 4767 Snow

Hill Road, 11 a.m. Pick up a copy of the book in advance at the Snow Hill Library. Meet for a discussion and a craft. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

PUZZLE SWAP
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 1-5 p.m. Bring your gently used puzzles to trade for 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

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP
John H. "Jack" Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center, 9707 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 1-2 p.m. For survivors and current patients battling breast cancer. Women Supporting Women, 410-548-7880

TRIVIA WITH JIM MECKLEY: FURRY FRIENDS, FLAKES OF SNOW AND FEBRUARY FOREFATHERS
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 3-4:30 p.m. Come test your knowledge of all things fluffy and white. Prizes and refreshments provided. Free event. No team too big or small. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

MUSIC INSPIRED ART
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 4 p.m. How does music affect your creativity? Close your eyes, listen to the music and then draw what you imagine. For those 6 years and older. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

CAREER RESOURCES AT THE LIBRARY
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 5:30 p.m. Looking for a job or new career? Learn

about free library resources in this class. Spruce up a resume, learn computer skills, and general professional development. 410-641-0650

HOW TO WRITE A BUSINESS PLAN & CASH FLOW PROJECTIONS - WEBINAR
Basics of writing a business plan, developing cash flow projections, their importance and how to start creating them, 6-7 p.m. Register: <https://marylandcapital.org/education>.

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

CRAFTERS & VENDORS NEEDED FOR FAIR
St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 10301 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, April 13. Requesting a \$20 donation per table. Deadline to reserve a spot is March 8. Linda, 443-604-8068, p.grahe@comcast.net

OCEAN CITY - BERLIN ROTARY CLUB
Don's Seafood and Chop House, South Gate, Ocean Pines, 6 p.m., on the first and third Wednesday of each month. ocberlinrotary@gmail.com

BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK
Pocomoke library, 301 Market St., during February. Choose a mystery date from the display to take home and read. Fill out the brief form inside the book and return it to the library to be entered into a drawing to win a sweet prize. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

Classified

MARKETPLACE

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

Classifieds appear in **OC Today-Dispatch & Bayside Gazette** each week and online at oceancitytoday.com & baysideoc.com



HELP WANTED

Now Hiring Year-Round GM Position. Great starting salary, paid vacation. Must have restaurant experience. **Apply in person at The Greene Turtle West OC on Route 611.**

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Pool - General Maintenance. Outdoor work, lifting heavy objects. Mechanical, basic pool pump & motors, CPO a plus / not required. Able to pass CPO test. Summer includes weekends & long hours; working alone or with others
410-289-4902
ask for Suzanne.

HELP WANTED

BOOKKEEPER NEEDED
Full time. Flexible hours available. Fruitland, MD. Excellent pay. Real Estate & Property Rental. Must have Degree in Accounting. **Please email your resume/contact info to office@fenzelinvestments.com**

Now Hiring Full-Time Dispatcher and Scheduling Person with good people and organizational skills, computer and Quick Books skills are a plus. Paid vacations, holidays, medical, dental, vision and 401K.
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Now Hiring Summer 2024 Positions for Sun Outdoors Ocean City!

Looking for bartenders, cashiers, cooks, housekeepers, activities attendants, front desk agents, security, and maintenance!

Starting at \$15/hour and up!

Call **410-213-0097** or email careers@eoshospitality.com to inquire.

RENTALS

Summer Seasonal Rental, 2BR/1 bath, Garage Apt., Bayside on 26th St. Occupancy six, \$13,000 plus \$1,000 security dep. Comes with A/C, parking for 1, free Wi-Fi and shared laundry facilities. **Resort Rentals, 410-524-0295.**

Looking for four months Summer Rental in Ocean City. Gentleman works on beach full-time downtown for local business. Excellent references. **Call or text Charles, 410-294-1028**

Seeking To Rent. Long term, year-round, unfurnished, 2BR/2BA, ground floor. Ocean City/Ocean Pines area. Great references. **410-726-0169**

Seeking YR & Seasonal Rentals! Call Howard Martin Realty 410-352-5555.

Fully Furnished Townhouse, 4BR, 2BA, Living Room, Dining Room. Water, Electric and Cable not included. \$2100/month. Yearly lease. One month security deposit and one month rent upfront. Located at 438 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines, MD 21011.
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ROOMMATES

Houseshare. Furnished room in South Ocean Pines. All inclusive. \$800 per month. Year-round. No smoking. No pets. **Call John 443-880-2317.**

Year-Round Room For Rent Ocean Pines \$800/month and \$200 security. Fully furnished. All utilities included. **443-880-2317**

RENTALS

YR Apartment, 3BR/2BA - 2 parking spots, Downtown Berlin, \$1,550/month plus utilities, security deposit required. 410-375-1035

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SEEKING ROOM

Seeking Room to Rent: 60 yr. old seeking room to rent on annual basis. Ocean Pines or Berlin area. Have own furniture for room.
443-513-1421

REAL ESTATE

For Sale: 2BR/2BA, Waterfront Condo with deeded boat slip. Open house, 2-16 through 2-18. **Contact Rick, 610-751-5203.**

COMMERCIAL

Industrial Warehouse. Space: 1500 sq. ft. Masonry construction, 18' high ceiling, large garage door, bathroom. Route 90/Bishopville. **Call 443-497-4200.**

Commercial Warehouses 600 and 800 sq. ft. spaces West Ocean City and Bishopville, MD Yearly Leases Only
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Classifieds 410-723-6397

COMMERCIAL

1 Office/Retail Space available in West Ocean City. Approximately 1656 sq. ft.
Call 443-497-4200

BOATS/PWC

Sailboat For Sale. 1976, 27' Catalina Yachts. Best Offer. **Call for details, 443-880-7453.**

PETS

For A, AKC Yorkshire Terrier 8 m Male, UTD on Shots/Heartworms. Only 4 lbs and will stay that small. Open AKC and DNA health tested + clear. \$2200. **302-943-4491**

MISC./OTHER

The hole in my boot Allows the snow to find me Hiding in my sock!

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