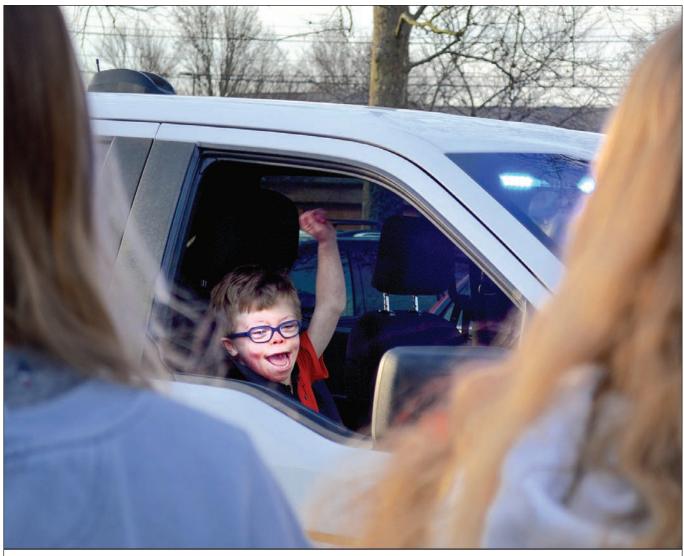
BAYSIDE & GAZETTE

MARCH 21, 2024

BERLIN • NORTH WORCESTER COUNTY• OCEAN PINES

EREE



BETHANY HOOPER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Conor Pellinger waves to fellow students and teachers as he arrives at school with a police escort in honor of his 11th birthday.

Police give boy real joy ride

11-year-old gets big gift from his law enforcement friends: escort to school

(March 22, 2024) Local law enforcement came out in droves last week to celebrate a Berlin Intermediate School student with special needs.

Last Friday, members of the Ocean City Police Department (OCPD), joined by other local law enforcement agencies, gathered at Berlin Intermediate School to celebrate Conor Pellinger's 11th birthday.

The fifth-grade student – the twin brother of Will, also a student at BIS — is one of OCPD's biggest fans and won the silver award at the Worcester County Public Schools Media Expo event last month for his picture of the police department's mounted unit during the Oceans Calling Festival.

"There were a lot of huge smiles and cheering going on this morning," said Ashley Miller, deputy communications manager for OCPD.

"It was the best way to start the morning and celebrate our dear friend Conor."

The OCPD was joined by members of the Worcester County Sheriff's Office, Maryland State Police, Wicomico County Sheriff's Office, Berlin Police Department, Fruitland Police Department and the Maryland Natural Resources Police.

Pellinger, who has Down's syndrome, along with his twin brother Will, arrived at school Friday morning with a full police escort and was greeted by students, teachers and local law enforcement officials lining the front of the building.

He also got a chance to meet the OCPD's mounted unit.

Proposed Microtel protested

Planning commission asks developer to come back with something better

By Charlene Sharpe

Associate Editor

(March 21, 2024) While residents objected to the location of a proposed hotel, planning officials told the developers it needs architectural improvements if it is going to be built in Berlin.

Developers approached the Berlin

Planning Commission last week with plans for a four-story, 78-unit Microtel on Route 113 near Franklin Avenue. Several citizens, most who said they lived near the proposed location, said they didn't want to see a hotel so close to a

'This doesn't suit our identity, it doesn't come close.' Ron Cascio,

Planning Commission

daycare and a school in an already busy area. Commission members were quick to express their concerns regarding the appearance of the hotel.

"This doesn't suit our identity, it doesn't come close," commission member Ron Cascio said. "It's got to reflect the ambiance of the town."

Heather Morrison of Fisher Architecture presented the commission with plans for the proposed Microtel, which is being considered for a five-acre site near the intersection of Franklin Avenue and Route 113, near the former South Moon Under property. She said the property was zoned for commercial use and the proposed hotel met the town's 45-foot height limit.

Matt Stoehr, chair of the commis-See NEIGHBORS Page 6



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MDE again grants flush tax exemption to Ocean Pines

By Charlene Sharpe

Associate Editor

(March 21, 2024) State officials have granted Worcester County's request for a flush fee exemption in Ocean Pines.

The Maryland Department of the Environment granted a request from Worcester County to exempt residents in the Ocean Pines Sanitary Service Area from paying the Bay Restoration Fee for calendar year 2024. Residents should see savings on their water and sewer bills this year because nitrogen and phosphorous levels at the Ocean Pines plant didn't exceed certain thresholds.

"The water and wastewater staff worked very hard to ensure the exemption would be reinstated," Commissioner Chip Bertino said. "This will greatly benefit ratepayers."

Historically, Ocean Pines residents have not had to pay the Bay Restoration Fee. The fee, commonly referred to as the flush tax, goes to a dedicated fund used to upgrade publicly owned wastewater treatment plants throughout Maryland with enhanced nutrient removal (ENR) technology.

In years past, low levels of nitrogen and phosphorous at the Ocean Pines plant have earned it an exemption from the fee, which amounts to about \$15 a quarter for residents.

In 2022, however, a mechanical issue caused those levels at the plant to increase and the county was denied an exemption. The following year, a shortage of chemicals, caused by supply chain issues, resulted in slightly higher phosphorous levels at the plant. The state denied the county's request for an exemption because the phosphorous level exceeded the eligibility requirement by 0.015 mg/l.

Worcester County applied again in 2024, however, and officials have been advised that the exemption has been granted. Dallas Baker, the county's director of public works, said the plant's recent nitrogen and phosphorous levels show that it's reliable when there aren't mechanical problems or supply issues.

"It shows that when conditions are normal the plant is more than capable of meeting bay restoration limits," Baker said.

In the wake of last year's supply chain issues, he said his staff had tripled the volume of the necessary chemicals kept on hand in case of future supply chain issues. He expects the plant to continue meeting the eligibility threshold for the Bay Restoration Fee.

"It's always our goal to hit this and keep costs down for people," he said.

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Police announce new website

(March 21, 2024) The Ocean Pines Police Department this week announced the launch of a brand-new website, oceanpinespolice.com.

The site features an extensive FAQ on issues ranging from traffic rules and regulations, to noise complaints and ways to make anonymous tips.

There is also a contact field for nonemergency issues, a staff directory, and information about employment opportunities. The starting salary for entry level Ocean Pines Police officers, after field training, is now \$63,500.

Police Chief Tim Robinson said in

a news release that funding for the site came from a Police Accountability, Community and Transparency Grant received last fall through the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention.

He said a local vendor, Salt Water Media of Berlin, created it.

"We are just excited about the modernization of our webpage," Robinson said. "The new site will allow us to get info out to our community quickly, and provide us with a mechanism for the community to contact us easily in a convenient format for any nonemergency issues."







CHARLENE SHARPE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

MARKET BROWSERS

With spring's arrival this week, the vendors and attendance to the weekly Ocean Pines Farmers and Artisans Market at White Horse Park will continue to grow. An attendee is pictured last Saturday with a four-legged friend.

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Planners to return to deliberations of Wawa design

Commission seeks style more reflective of town

By Charlene Sharpe Associate Editor

(March 21, 2024) The Berlin Planning Commission is expected to resume discussion of a Wawa proposed for the intersection of North Main Street and Route 50 next week.

The commission will meet Wednesday, March 27, at 5:30 pm to review updated plans for a Wawa proposed for the Athena Properties site on Route 818. While officials said the proposed building didn't fit Berlin, some residents are eager to see the business set up in Berlin.

"I get what you're trying to do, make something look nice, 100% for it," resident Andy Grunden told the commission last week. "But I hate to throw the baby out with that bathwater. Please don't stall that to the point where it dies on the vine."

Last month, after nearly three hours of discussion, the commission voted 4-2 to give the Wawa site plan preliminary approval. They made it clear, however, they wanted the developer to return with revised elevation drawings showing elements that tie the architecture to what is already seen in Berlin.

"I don't want to lose this project...," commission member Pete Cosby said at that meeting. "Take a bow to us is all I'm saying. Make the box pretty somehow."

At the most recent meeting of the commission, Grunden took the opportunity to appeal to the commission to support the project. He said in speaking with people in the community he'd heard a lot of support for the project.

"A lot of us get up early to go to work," he said. "A lot of us have no option but to go to West O to get something from that Wawa. There's nothing for us except for Royal Farms and this is not a slight at Royal Farms but no thanks. Anybody who eats breakfast on the way to work probably agrees with me."

He said many people had been excited when they learned that the site initially approved for a 7-Eleven was instead slated to become a Wawa. Based on the commission's comments on the project, though, he said he was afraid it wasn't going to happen.

"It looked like if you're not putting road blocks up you're doing everything you can to put your brake foot down," he said.

Commission member Austin Purnell said he wanted to see the Wawa built but wanted it to look a little better. Commission member Ron Cascio said that he didn't like the looks of the

See DESIGN Page 7

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Neighbors object to new hotel

Continued from Page 1

sion, pointed out that this was the second hotel proposed in Berlin in the last few years and questioned the need. Developer Tom Zambetis said Microtel saw a need based on its occupancy rates in West Ocean City. He added that Route 113 was heavily traveled and the Atlantic Hotel in Berlin only had 16 rooms.

Commission member Pete Cosby acknowledged the need for another hotel in Berlin but said that Route 113 was a main corridor in Berlin.

"I've got a real problem with your architecture, with the look of the building," he said. "I'd like to see something special."

Cosby said he was aware the town didn't have specific guidelines to offer developers but stressed this was an opportunity for architects to be creative. "We're asking you guys to step up," he said.

His peers offered similar comments.

"This looks like it could be anywhere in the country," commission member Austin Purnell said.

Citizens in the audience at Wednesday's meeting said their primary problem with the proposal was the location. Councilwoman Shaneka Nichols said the proposed hotel was right around the corner from her house and that the corridor was already extremely busy.

"I just don't think that location is a safe spot," she said.

Gabe Purnell said sexual predators could be among the hotel's guests. Councilman Dean Burrell said he doubted anyone would want the Microtel in their neighborhood and said it would impact quality of life for



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

As presented on March 13, the 78-room Microtel Hotel will be situated perpendicular to Route 113 on the east side of Berlin.

those who lived in the area.

"I am of the opinion this building is not representative of the Town of Berlin or my neighborhood," he said. "To have this building in my neighborhood I think is not a consideration to be made."

Resident Chrissy Ehrhart, who operates a business near the proposed location, expressed concern about the potential 28-day stays permitted at the hotel and the dangers of sex trafficking. She also expressed concern about drug use at the hotel and questioned how low its rates would be

Project representatives said there were hotel training courses related to sex trafficking and that room checks were done regularly to ensure no one was doing anything they shouldn't be doing in the hotel. They added that it cost about \$50 a night per room to operate a hotel and that the facility certainly wouldn't be setting rates so low they weren't making money.

In response to Ehrhart's concern that the tall building would cast a shadow over her garden and nearby businesses, Zambetis said the building would be tucked up against the woods so it wouldn't obstruct anything. He said the majority of the five-acre site was woods.

Resident Andy Grunden said he felt there was a need for hotel in Berlin but didn't think the proposed location was ideal. He pointed out that it was across Route 113 from downtown Berlin, which is a draw for visitors.

"What you're left with is a game of frogger for pedestrians," he said. "I think the need is there but you're in the wrong spot."

He also brought up the possibility of the hotel being used as a homeless shelter.

"We do not want to import that nightmare into this town," he said.

Resident Tony Weeg said he didn't want to see the neighborhood changed in a way it could "never come back from" and stressed that the hotel should fit the town's character. In response, Zambetis said Wyndham corporate was pushing the design.

"We're under a lot of pressure to keep it this prototype...," he said. "We're not doing this because we want to do it."

Resident Alphonso Holden said he felt there were better locations in town for a hotel.

When asked by Gabe Purnell about the price of the project, Zambetis said it was about \$10 million.

"Us folks on the east side, we're a whole different animal. We're working class people," Purnell said. "You said that it would increase property values. We don't necessarily want our property values. We want to survive. We don't need it on the east side. We're trying to do things now to protect that part of the community because of gentrification. Let's go somewhere else."

Resident Samantha Pielstick said she supported the hotel project. She said residents needed a place for their visitors to stay and added that it would be able to serve families of those in the hospital or those visiting the cancer center.

Commission member Newt Chandler said the property years ago was occupied by a tomato canning factory

See MICROTEL 7

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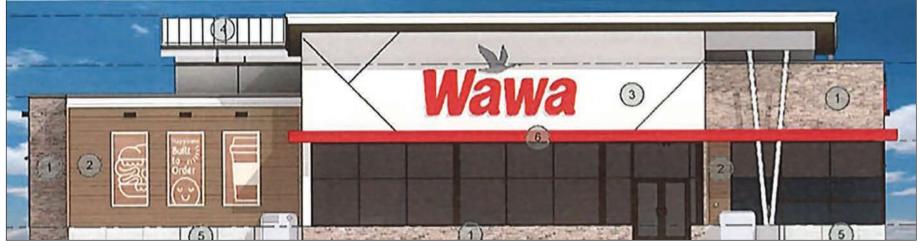
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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Major revisions to the design of a proposed Wawa convenience store, pictured, were sought at last month's Berlin Planning Commission meeting. The store is proposed as part of a redevelopment project for the property at west corner of Route 50 and North Main Street.

Design changes to Wawa eyed

Continued from Page 4

building that had been proposed and worried about the negative effect the development would have on traffic at the already busy intersection.

"Build a building that welcomes us to Berlin. If Wawa's not the one that wants to play the game we'll find somebody else who does," Cascio said.

Commission member Matt Stoehr pointed out that last month's discussion was the second the board had had with Wawa representatives. He said the commission had voiced concerns with the project the first time it was presented and suggested changes.

"They came back here in a tizzy, in a rush, and made .2 of those five changes," he said.

Grunden pointed out that the property had been home to nothing more than the remnants of two burned down houses for the past three years.

Microtel asked for more details

Continued from Page 6 and what was proposed was less intensive.

"It just doesn't fit my palate well to have this building around the corner from where I live," Burrell maintained.

Cosby said Berlin was a compressed community with commercial and industrial uses abutting residential homes. He said he lived near the ice plant.

Because last Wednesday's hearing was just a concept plan review, Stoehr suggested the developer come back with information to address the concerns shared by the public as well as with a few options for designs that would be more suited to Berlin. Austin Purnell thanked citizens for attending the meeting to voice their concerns.

"Keep showing up," he said.

"What are we supposed to do?" Cascio said.

"Approve the Wawa," Grunden responded. "There's a great many people that would like to see it."

Dave Engelhart, the town's planning director, said last week that Wawa had submitted revised elevations. The commission will review those at its March 27 meeting.

"What I see, those of you who are asking for something better, they did it," Engelhart said. "That's my opinion. I'll send them to you as soon as I can."

Town of Snow Hill announces deadlines for election in May

(March 21, 2024) Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 7, at the Snow Hill Train Station on 200 Belt Street for the town's general, in-person election.

On the ballot this year are the seats of the mayor and Eastern District Council members.

Interested candidates must email application requests to Carol Sullivan, town hall's executive administrator at csullivan@snowhillmd.com. The deadline to submit applications to town hall is 4:30 p.m., March 28.

Residents can register to vote by

contacting the Worcester County Board of Elections at 410-632-1320, emailing Worcester. Elections@maryland.gov, or visiting 201 Belt Street, Suite C in Snow Hill. The deadline to register to vote is also 4:30 p.m., March 28.

Those who want to vote by absentee ballot can call town hall, or email Sullivan to request absentee ballot applications. The deadline to submit requests for absentee ballot applications 4:30 p.m., April 19.

For more information, email Sullivan or call at 410-632-2080.





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PLEASE GET YOUR SCREENINGS

Pines taps long-time coach to be head of racquet sports

By Tara Fischer Staff Writer

(March 21, 2024) Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola announced last week that a tennis coach from Ocean Pines and Worcester Preparatory School will become the director of racquet sports, effective immediately.

The role has been vacant since the previous director, Tim Johnson, abruptly announced his departure in January. The former position-holder joined the Ocean Pines community in April 2023 as the racquet sports manager but resigned in October. He was brought back a week later and promoted to director, where he served for less than a year.

Terry Underkoffler was named as Johnson's successor on Friday, March 15. According to OPA Director of Public Relations and Marketing Josh Davis, the new director has been involved in Ocean Pines Racquet Sports for approximately ten years.

Underkoffler, a United States Tennis Association-licensed teacher, was appointed OPA Tennis Director in 2020. While maintaining this position, he also taught the sport at Worcester Preparatory School. Davis said the racquet expert has been coaching since



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

As Ocean Pines continues to accommodate tennis and pickleball players, the association welcomed Terry Underkoffler as director of racquet sports after the role remained vacant for over a month.

1977, including a distinguished career as a soccer coach winning more than 500 games at Worcester Prep as well as at schools and clubs in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Given the department's recent turbulence, OPA is relieved to have the role filled by a leader in the sports field.

"Terry answered the call when the GM and Ocean Pines had a need," Viola said in a press release issued by Davis. "He's a team player with the

See UNDERKOFFLER Page 9

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Free health fair announced April 2 at convention center

(March 21, 2024) Atlantic General Hospital, the Town of Ocean City, and Ocean City AARP Chapter #1917 are co-sponsoring a free health fair for the community.

The event, which is free and open to the public is set 8 a.m. to noon, April 2, at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center in Ocean City.

Free health screenings will be offered for carotid, respiratory, bone density, hearing, blood pressure, skin cancer, medicine review by AGHRx RediScripts pharmacists, lipid panel, blood glucose (a 12-hour fast is required), and more.

At 8:30 a.m., Atlantic General Internal Medicine Dr. Edwin Castañeda of will discuss antibiotic stewardship, followed by a presentation on vaccines by AGHRx RediScripts pharmacist Jordan Hines at 9:30 a.m. The final speaker of the morning will be Atlantic General Women's Health Dr. Michael DiClemente, who will discuss a range of topics related to women's health at 10:30 a.m.

Underkoffler started last week

Continued from Page 8

necessary skills, and we felt he was the ideal person to help bring us to the next level."

The general manager also assured in the press release that Underkoffler would receive assistance from Membership Supervisor Ruth Ann Meyer, Deputy Public Works Director Nobie Violante, and Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue as he took on the opportunity.

"I've put a lot of my heart into the racquet center, between teaching and coaching and playing there for almost 10 years," the new director said in the release. "I love the variety that the Racquet Center provides and the kind of instruction that we have. I think it's just going to grow, and it's only going to get better."

Underkoffler is looking forward to maintaining and enhancing the racquet center.

"My vision is that we're looked at as a premiere destination for pickleball, tennis, platform tennis, Timeless Tennis and Spec Tennis, and all kinds of recreation that families can enjoy," he said

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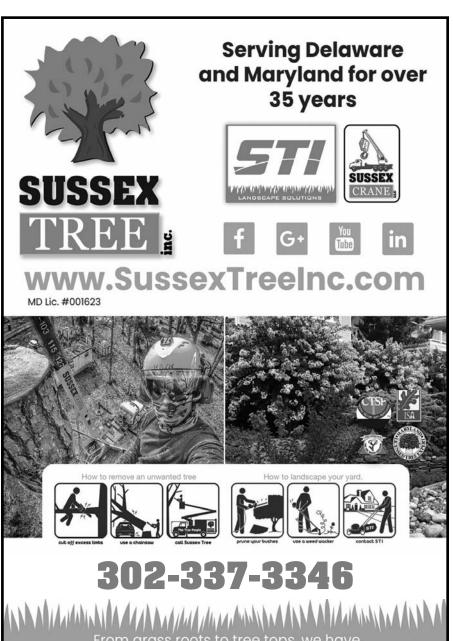
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OP kicking off Easter events with kids bunny breakfast

Community egg hunts planned for March 30 along with carnival games

By Tara Fischer

Staff Writer

(March 21, 2024) Ocean Pines gears up to celebrate Easter, and the warming weather as the community allows residents to hop over to different springtime events.

The Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department is hosting Breakfast with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, March 23. Attendees can choose their meal from a pre-determined menu, which includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, assorted pastries, fruit, orange juice, milk, and

The event is free for children three and under, \$6 for kids aged four to ten, and \$10 for anyone 11 and older. The spring occasion will kick off at 8 a.m. at the Ocean Pines Community Center and continue until 11 a.m.

The following week, on Saturday, March 30, the Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks group will welcome residents to their Spring Celebration and Easter Egg Hunt at White Horse Park. The holiday-themed function will offer carnival games, food, a petting zoo, pony rides, face painting, and a special Easter Bunny visit.

The event is free for guests and will include three Easter Egg hunts, differentiated by age. The one, two, and three-year-olds will begin their search at 11:30 a.m., the four to sixyear-olds will start at noon, and the seven to ten-year-olds will round out the hunts at 12:30 p.m.

The spring festivities continue in Ocean Pines as the annual Easter Magic celebration returns to the Farmers and Artisans Market on Saturday, March 30. Early spring produce, flowers, and baked goods will be available for purchase.

New and returning merchants are

expected to bring an abundance of fresh and homemade seasonal goodies to the event.

According to Ocean Pines Association Director of Marketing and Public Relations Josh Davis, DelVecchio's Bakery will offer Easter eclairs, breads, and scones. The booth will sell cookies, pies, cupcakes, and hot

Belinda White of Pies Etcetera will have handmade chocolate-dipped peanut butter eggs, and Maureen Meushaw, owner of Pocket Farm, will sell fresh eggs from her pastureraised laying hens.

Snyder's Produce and Beautiful Things will return to the farmer's market on Saturday, March 23. The vendor will also be at the March 30 Easter Magic celebration, where owner Debbie Snyder will offer spring bedding plants, Easter flowers, and patio planters.

New sellers plan to participate in this year's Easter celebration. Fika Coffee will provide shoppers with a variety of coffee beans, Davis said. Salt Marsh Dry Goods and owner Michelle Kemp will also make their first Easter Magic appearance.

"Kemp creates reusable products for the kitchen and home," market manager David Bean said in a press release issued by Davis. "For those looking to replace paper options for cooking and cleaning, Salt Marsh Dry Goods has sustainable options. Their home-sewn sustainable items include reusable replacements for paper towels, napkins, baby wipes, makeup removers, coasters, trivets, and crochet dish cleaners.'

The Ocean Pines Farmers and Artisans Market occurs each Saturday in White Horse Park. Shoppers can browse the booths and vendors from 8 a.m. to noon. More information regarding Ocean Pines' springtime and Easter activities can be found on the official Ocean Pines Association web-





Berlin's Spring Celebration set to take over downtown

Easter egg hunts, bonnet parade, live music among returning holiday activities

By Charlene Sharpe

Associate Editor

(March 21, 2024) Breakfast with the Easter bunny, a bonnet parade and an egg hunt highlight this month's Berlin Spring Celebration.

The town will kick off a busy season of events with the Berlin Spring Celebration on Saturday, March 30. The popular annual event runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in downtown Berlin.

"We are thrilled to announce the return of one of our favorite family events, and all of the fun that comes with it," said Ryan Nellans, executive director of the Berlin Chamber of Commerce.

"We are welcoming back lots of familiar faces, including the Shake it Up Jam! and children's book author Katie Ruskie. Our egg hunt on the Taylor House Museum lawn and our Midway on Main Street are back and better than ever with even more prizes, all made possible by our sponsors, Bradley Atlantic Insurance Management, Taylor Bank, and Jolly Roger Amusements."

The day kicks off early, with the Berlin Fire Company hosting "Bunny Brunch" from 8 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. The event, which is \$5 for kids under 10 and \$10 for adults, will be held in the

upstairs event hall at the station on Main Street. All-day parking will also be available at the firehouse, where cash donations will be accepted.

The Spring Celebration itself will begin with some fanfare, as a bonnet parade will run from the firehouse to the festival grounds on Main Street at 10 a.m. There, the best bonnets will win prizes and then children will be invited to visit the games that will make up "Midway on Main Street." An egg hunt is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on the lawn of the Taylor House Museum.

The Spring Celebration will also include live music from Shake it Up Jam! and appearances by Lollipop the Clown.

In the days leading up to the Spring Celebration, Nellans noted that the town's paper egg hunt was still underway.

"If you don't already know, our paper egg hunt is still going until we draw two winners, who will each receive a \$100 gift card to the best Ice cream in the United States - Island Creamery," he said. "Forms for the hunt are available at the Berlin Visitors Center at 14 S Main St."

For more information, visit the Berlin Spring Celebration event page on Facebook. Nellans said volunteers are still needed for the event and those interested should call 410-641-4775 or email berlinmdchamber@gmail.com.



FILE PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETT

The lawn at the Taylor House Museum in Berlin is pictured during last year's egg hunt.



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Annual Arbor Day ceremony eyes return to Ocean Pines

(March 21, 2024) The Ocean Pines Garden Club will host its annual Arbor Day Memorial Ceremony at 10:30 a.m., April 11, at Pintail Park in Ocean Pines.

The club will plant a tree in the park to honor friends and family members who passed away in 2023.

The ceremony will also include the Pine Tones choral group, bagpiper Mike Castoro, dignitary declarations, and poetry and historical readings. All are welcome

In case of rain, the ceremony will be held in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center on 235 Ocean Parkway.

Garden club members will also host their annual Mother's Day flower arrangement sale at the Ocean Pines Farmers Market on May 11 in White Horse Park.

Club members create affordable, small-to-medium-size flower arrangements perfect for Mother's Day celebrations.

For more information on the garden club, contact Gail Philippi at gail-philippi@gmail.com.



Officials testify against Md. wind farm bills

By Bethany Hooper

Associate Editor

(March 21, 2024) Officials in both Ocean City and Worcester County continue to oppose legislation that would facilitate the evaluation and approval of revised offshore wind projects. The Worcester County Commissioners recently voted to send a letter opposing House Bill 1296, cross-filed with Senate Bill 1161, which would require the Maryland Public Service Commission, as of June 1, to open a revised round-two proceeding to evaluate certain offshore wind proj-

ects

The measure also would authorize certain offshore wind projects to submit certain revised plans for project schedules, sizes, and pricing, including offshore wind renewable energy credit pricing, among other things.

"It's a change, it's allowing the wind farms to rebid," Commissioner Joe Mitrecic said. "With that will come higher numbers."

In a Feb. 29 hearing before the House Economic Matters Committee, Del. C.T. Wilson, the bill's sponsor, said its main objectives are to facilitate the evaluation and approval of revised offshore wind projects in rounds one and two and to set a clear

'We can produce more power

today from the proposed

project than we thought just

a few years ago'

Jeff Grybowski,

US Wind CEO

target for achieving the state's goal of 8,500 megawatts of offshore wind energy capacity by 2031.

While the state has passed legislation and set goals for renewable en-

ergy, he said economic challenges have hindered offshore wind developers' ability to meet scheduling and pricing requirements set by Maryland law

"One of the successful bidders in rounds one and two, US Wind, remains committed to working with us to overcome these challenges," he told the committee. "Revisions outlined in House Bill 1296 seeks to streamline the approval process for revised project schedules and pricing, ensure the project is located in the authorized wind energy area, and those possessing offshore wind renewable energy credits can move forward expeditiously. Moreover, the bill does not restart the process for the projects. Merely, it allows limited alterations to already approved plans, including the adjustment to turbine placement, generating capacity, installation dates and pricing within the existing statutory limits."

Wilson added that the proposed legislation does not increase the price of offshore wind beyond the statutory rate caps set within state law.

"The bill only exempts applicants from duplicative payments to the Maryland Offshore Wind Business Development Fund when seeking adjustments on round-two projects," he said. "In conclusion, House Bill 1296 is essential in navigating the challenges facing offshore wind development in Maryland, while ensuring the state remains on track to meet its re-

newable energy targets."

US Wind CEO
Jeff Grybowski said
the legislation
would assist the
company in altering
its project. He
noted that as technology has pro-

gressed, turbines have become more efficient.

"We can produce more power today from the proposed project than we thought just a few years ago," he said. "So that will allow us to essentially upsize our project, all while staying in the ratepayer caps the legislature set a number of years ago. So this is a good news story. These are some technical changes that will allow us to make a new submission to the Public Service Commission, allow us to put a larger project size in front of the commission, and allow us to proceed."

Officials said the proposed legislation would not allow any windmills to be built outside of the company's lease area. They noted, however, that new wind turbines are roughly 150



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OPEN HOUSES

March 21 - 28







DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENCY/AGENT
Fri-Mon, 11am-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2BR/3BR/4BR+	Condos, Towns & SF	-	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Friday 1-4pm	107 Convention Center Drive #117C, Ocean C	City 2BR/2BA	Condo	\$484,900	Lauren Martini/BHHS PenFed Realty
Saturday 10am-12:30pr	n 44 Tail of the Fox Drive, Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$389,900	Lauren Martini/BHHS PenFed Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	38331 Bluebird Lane #368, Selbyville, DE	2BR/2BA	Single Family	\$379,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 12:30-3pm	13 131st Street #105, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$479,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	13 131st Street #105, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$479,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 1:30-3pm	1 66th Street Unit 101, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$499,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 10am-1pm	44 Tail of the Fox Drive, Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$389,900	Lauren Martini/BHHS PenFed Realty

County sends opposition letter

feet or so higher than what was originally planned.

For his part, Del. Chris Adams of Wicomico County asked if the placement of wind turbines off the coast could also be revisited. He asked that language to that effect be added to the bill.

"One of the basic complaints is they're putting these too close to the shoreline ...," he said. "I think we have a chance to revisit it. That's all I'm asking."

Wilson said a change in the placement of wind turbines could set the US Wind project back another five to seven years. He said the only reason the legislature was revisiting the evaluation and approval process was because one of the offshore wind developers, Ørsted, had pulled its project.

"We lost half of the power because Ørsted stepped out," he said. "US Wind will hopefully bring at least a third of what Ørsted has left ... It's about being able to capture some of what has been lost."

During the hearing, representatives with the Town of Ocean City expressed their concerns regarding the legislation. Mayor Rick Meehan said the bill would provide funding to support wind turbines as close as 11.5 miles off the resort's coastline.

"This will destroy the viewshed off Ocean City forever," he said. "Everything you want to accomplish would still be accomplished if turbines were located further to the east. All the jobs would still be created, all the investments in the Baltimore Harbor and Sparrows Point, all of the energy, everything would still be the same, nothing would change. Yet, we've been ignored for seven years."

Ocean City Council Secretary Tony DeLuca said the town has shared its concerns regarding offshore wind since 2010. In addition to turbine sizes, he also touched on the project subsidy.

"HB 1296 as proposed gives US Wind the funding in the form of more expensive subsidies from Maryland ratepayers," he said. "So, unlike most energy projects, where the larger the project the lower the energy cost, under HB 1296 the project gets bigger and the price goes up."

Following the recent hearing, the commissioners last week agreed to send a letter of opposition to both the House and Senate regarding the proposed legislation.

BaysideOC.com
RELIABLE & LOCAL NEWS



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MD 21842



Hospital celebrates Certified Nurses Day

(March 21, 2024) Atlantic General Hospital and Health System celebrated Certified Nurses Day on March 19 by honoring board certified nurses.

According to a news release, Certified Nurses Day is a worldwide day of recognition that occurs every year to celebrate nursing specialty, subspecialty and advanced practice certification, and gives an opportunity to thank certified nurses for their dedication, achievements and deep commitment to patient safety.

The following nurses were recognized for their professionalism, leadership and commitment to excellence in patient care:

Administration: Mandy Bounds Atlantic General Bariatric Center: Angela Simmons

Atlantic General Endoscopy Center: Anne Kay; Terry Moore

Community Care Coordination: Karen Christmas

Emergency Department: Melissa Bennett; Sarah Esh; Eunice Esposito; Mary Mason; Jara Parks; Melanie Smith; Laura Sturla; Andi West-Mc-Cabe; Katie Widdowson

Imaging Department: Jodie Connelly; Angela 'Monique' Welch

Integrated Care Management: Lauren Budd; Chuck Gizara

Intensive Care Unit: Jen Chisley; Paula Dize; Sindy Fletcher; Nicole



PHOTO COURTESY ATLANTIC GENERAL HOSPITAL

Several of Atlantic General Hospital and Health System's certified nurses pose together in honor of Certified Nurses Day, celebrated March 19.

Morris

Medical Infusion: Judy Cowger Medical-Surgical: Candace Con-

way; Laura Krieger; Melissa Thompson; Kayla Wallace

Surgical Services: Christy Berry; Marylou Buck; Bonita Conner; John Goodman; Milette Hacek; Amy Holloway; Anne Lynch; Patricia Ortlip; Ramona Swartz; Brittany Upman; Leanne Wiedner

Regional Cancer Care Center: Stephanie Ellis; Samantha Myszka; Mary Palenchar; Paige Wildmann; Mary Wilgus "I continue to be inspired by the expertise and commitment to excellence of the nurses at Atlantic General Hospital," Mandy Bounds, vice president patient care services/chief nursing officer, said in the release. "A national certification demonstrates a nurse's expertise and commitment to their specialty and life-long learning, and most importantly, continues to elevate excellence in the nursing care for our patients and families who we serve."

Atlantic General Hospital and Health System encourages national board certification for all its nurses. Patients are encouraged to inquire whether there are certified nurses on staff when they visit a hospital or their primary or specialty care office.

There are many nursing certification specialties, such as medical-surgical, pediatric, pain management, cardiac vascular, oncology, hospice, case management, emergency nursing and critical care. Many nursing certification bodies exist to serve the full range of specialized nursing care offered in the contemporary health-care system.

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Snapshots



HOTOS COURTESY ART LEAGUE OF OCEAN CITY

YOUTH ART SHOW HELD

The Art League of Ocean City hosted its annual Shirley Hall Youth Art Show on March 1, which displayed pieces by Worcester County middle and high school students. Betsy Hall Harrison, Shirley Hall's daughter, judged the show and awarded \$250 in prizes to students on behalf of her family members. (Above) Betsey Hall Harrison poses with the winners of the show.



Worcester Prep sixth grader Emma Mealy stands with her third place winning entry.



Stephen Decatur Middle School seventh grader Ara Kang poses with her first place winning entry.



Stephen Decatur Middle School seventh grader Elias Baldridge is pictured with her second place winning entry. $\$

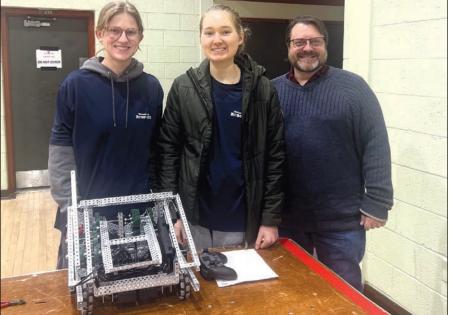


PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER PREPARATORY SCHOOL

ROBOTICS TEAM

Members of Worcester Prep's 2024 Mallards Robotics team pose for a photo during the DelMarVa End of Season Robotics Extravaganza held on Feb. 24 in Wilmington. Pictured, from left, are senior Vanesska Hall, junior Lydia Schwartz, and WPS technology and science teacher Nick Busko.

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Snapshots



PHOTO COURTESY ED PINTO

PARTICIPATION APPRECIATION

DIGITAL ART WINNER

and Stevie Harris, and contest judge Doris Glover.

American Legion Post 166 Commandant Tom Wengert, who serves as an associate member of the First State Detachment of the Marine Corps League, accepts a certificate of appreciation for the American Legion's participation in the 2023 Toys for Tots campaign from program coordinator Sharon Ruest.



PHOTO COURTESY ED PINTO

OFFICIAL SWORN IN

Al Soto, detachment commandant for the First State Detachment of the Marine Corps League, swears in new Junior Vice Commandant Joe Novello at a recent ceremony at the American Legion Post 166 in Ocean City. Novello is now the third-ranking officer in the unit. He served in Vietnam as a mechanic and left the Corps in 1970.



Members of the Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club recently recognized Jamari Savage for winning the digital art division of

their art contest. Savage is pictured holding his artwork at the group's March dinner meeting with his grandparents, Corretta

PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN CITY-BERLIN OPTIMIST CLUB

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PHOTO COURTESY DAVID J. LANDIS SR.

GUEST SPEAKER

Ocean Pines Police Department Chief Tim Robinson was the guest speaker at a recent meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City. Robinson is pictured with Kiwanis Club President Bob Wolfing at the meeting.



RAVENS ROOST CELEBRATED

OC Ravens Roost #44 members present a \$172,000 check to **Atlantic General** Hospital. Each year, the **local Baltimore Ravens** fan club registers a team for the Penguin Swim and collects thousands of dollars in donations for the event. At this year's swim, the group took home the first place prize in the Community Group or Organization category by raising \$9,842. Over the past 16 years, the club has amassed a total of \$172,000 for the hospital. PHOTO COURTESY ATLANTIC

PHOTO COURTESY ATLANTIC
GENERAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

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Opinion

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

Planning commission needs rules to follow

No one can blame the neighboring property owners and residents for opposing the prospect of a Microtel motel on Route 113 near Franklin Avenue. They have legitimate reasons: the traffic, strangers in their midst, the fear of a changing neighborhood, and generations of resentment about being viewed as a repository for things not wanted elsewhere.

The Berlin Planning Commission, on the other hand, has no such justifications, but seems bent on exercising authority it doesn't have in pursuit of a goal it can't define.

It needs to stop, at least until an updated comprehensive plan gives the commission something on which to hang its decision-making hat. Otherwise, it is making calls based on members' personal preferences.

As was seen last week during the commission's discussion of the possible Microtel project and throughout its consideration of a Wawa store on the other side of town, the commission has become more of an architectural review board than the zoning compliance authority it's supposed to be.

Even though commission members have declared their desire for projects that reflect the spirit and style of the town, they can't articulate what that is. Instead, when asked by developers to guide them in their re-design, the commission follows the famous line of the late Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart, who responded after being asked to define pornography, "I know it when I see it."

That line of thinking in planning discussions isn't fair to anyone, since the basis of zoning is what district goes where and what meets a district's criteria and what doesn't.

As it is, maybe the location of the proposed Microtel should no longer be zoned for business, maybe the town needs to re-think what it wants in terms of development, and maybe the commission should wait for that to happen instead of going off on its own.

And maybe, the town should impose a commercial building moratorium until its gets these things figured out and has a plan everyone can follow.

BAYSIDE W GAZETTE

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PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

Winners of the Worcester County Arts Council's juried show "Reflections," pose together for a photo at the gallery in Berlin. Pictured, from left, are Clay Reister, WCAC board treasurer; Anna Mullis, WCAC executive director; second place winner Martha Pileggi; first place winner Joanne Guilfoil, third place winner Ellie Scott; honorable mention winners Kathy Huegel and Jiyeong Yun; and Sharon Sorrentino, WCAC administrative assistant.

Art competition winners announced

(March 21, 2024) The Worcester County Arts Council recently announced winners in the juried art competition, "Reflections."

Entries are featured in the exhibit at the arts council gallery and consist of 25 pieces of submitted by 18 artists with work in all media.

Joanne Guilfoil won first place for her "Danzi at Delmar" acrylic painting. Martha Pileggi placed second for "Oxford Fog," an oil, and Ellie Scott won third place for her watercolor painting, "Evening Bay Reflections." Honorable mention awards were presented to Kathy Huegel, Fred Johnson and Jiyeong Yun.

The winning artwork was selected by local artist and University of Maryland

Eastern Shore professor Brad Hudson. Winners were honored at the opening reception held on March 8 at the Arts Council Gallery at 6 Jefferson St. in downtown Berlin.

The exhibit will be on display through April 28. The gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. The artwork is available for purchase.

MCBP to offer college scholarships

(March 21, 2024) The Maryland Coastal Bays Program is offering six \$1,000 scholarships to qualifying high school seniors from Worcester County Public Schools interested in environmental studies.

Two scholarships will be awarded to graduating seniors from each of the three county high schools — Pocomoke, Snow Hill and Stephen Decatur.

Program officials are seeking applicants pursuing degrees at two- or four-year colleges or universities, trade schools, or Corps positions with focus on environmental studies.

"We did not want to restrict these scholarships to those students applying to 4-year universities," MCBP Education Coordinator Liz Wist said in a news release. "Gateways into the environmental world can take different paths, and that might include not attending college



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND COASTAL BAYS PROGRAM

Maryland Coastal Bays Program employees are pictured seining off the coast.

at all.

Eligible applicants must be Worcester County Public School students, graduating high school in the spring of 2024, and must submit a completed application, including two essay questions that will provide the opportunity for the applicant's voice to be heard.

"The essay portion of the application is the most determining element of the ap-

plication," Wist said. "It's a chance for us to hear about the applicant's interest and passion for the environment, and the impact it has had on their own lives."

Applications are due by midnight, April 19. Financial need will not be considered for this program. To read more about this new scholarship program, visit md-coastalbays.org/funding-op portunities/



PHOTOS COURTESY OCEAN PINES VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department crews tend to a fire last Saturday at a home on Castle

Four cats die in residential fire in South Ocean Pines

(March 21, 2024) Members of the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department spent nearly two hours on the scene of a fire last Saturday in South Ocean Pines that resulted in extensive structural damage and claimed the lives of four cats.

According to a news release, crews were called out to tend to the blaze at the 100 block of Castle Drive and learned upon arrival that the person who had been inside the home had evacuated safely. However, visible flames and the presence of portable oxygen tanks inside the home heightened the urgency.

The release said Engine 1102's crew, alongside Chief Joey Widgeon and Captain Chris Rathel, wasted no time launching an interior attack to contain the fire to the front living room area. Despite their valiant efforts, extensive smoke and heat damage affected the remainder of the house.

Simultaneously, the release said paramedics attending to the evacuated occupant learned of four cats still inside the home. After extensive search efforts, responders found the cats, however they all had ultimately succumbed to the fire despite immediate aid and resuscitation attempts.

Operations at the scene persisted for about an 1 hour and 45 minutes before the Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office assumed control for further investigation. The cause of the fire was determined to be from improperly discarded smoking material.

As a reminder to residents, the release said members of the OCVFD emphasize the importance of incorporating personal needs into home escape plans. Vital items such as glasses, hearing aids, canes, or wheelchairs should be kept within immediate reach, ensuring swift access during emergencies.

Local man get 15 years in '22 negligent homicide case

(March 21, 2024) A local man was sentenced to 15 years in prison, with all but five suspended, last week for striking a pedestrian with his vehicle while legally drunk and leaving the scene in a 2022 incident.

Russell Kimball, 63, of West Ocean City, was sentenced to 15 years in the

Division of Corrections after he was convicted of negligent homicide while reportedly under the influence and failing to remain at the scene of an accident involving death. Kimball pleaded guilty to both charges on Feb. 28.



Russell Kimball

Worcester County Circuit Court Judge Beau H. Oglesby imposed a 10-year sentence for the negligent homicide charge, and a consecutive five-year sentence for failing to remain at the scene of an accident involving death. He suspended all but five years of the sentence and placed Kimball on five years of supervised probation upon his release.

The incident dates back to Oct. 6, 2022, when Maryland State Police troopers responded to Grays Corner Road for a report of a pedestrian

struck by a vehicle. First responders arrived to find the victim, Terri Lynn Wattay, lying unresponsive off the roadway and immediately arranged for her to be flown to the University of Maryland's Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore due to the extent of her injuries. Wattay, a former veterinarian in the area, succumbed to her injuries while at shock trauma and was pronounced deceased.

During thee investigation, troopers found a passenger side mirror and a reflective side marker lying in the middle of the road, and then noticed a white Chevrolet Suburban missing a side mirror and reflective marker and with damage to a front headlight parked in a nearby driveway. Troopers knocked on the door at the address and made contact with Kimball, who indicated that he had driven home from a local diner earlier that evening, and that he had swerved to avoid hitting a dog that was in the roadway.

According to the news release from the Worcester County State's Attorney's Office, Kimball failed field sobriety tests and submitted to a breath test, which showed his blood alcohol content was .12. Investigators See WOMAN Page 21



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53

58

89

113

117

121

Puzzles

RACK 'EM UP

BY ENRIQUE HENESTROZA ANGUIANO AND MATTHEW STOCK / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Enrique Henestroza Anguiano, of Oakland, Calif., is a data scientist. Matthew Stock, of Gainesville, Fla., is a master's student in school counseling. They met through the online indie crossword community as fans of each other's puzzle blogs. This puzzle was constructed entirely over email, but as Matthew writes, "We're long overdue for a video call!"

Note: Once filled in, the contents of the six shaded squares will spell a word associated with this puzzle's theme.

ACROSS

- 1 New dog owner's purchase
- 6 Dog-adoption grp. 11 Pop group with an
- 14 Setting for "Heidi"
- 18 "We're not standin' in their way!"
- 19 Pepper grinder?
- 20 Put to work
- 21 Word with good or blood
- 22 Extra lives or additional gems, for a freemium game
- 24 [Gasp!]
- 26 Pastoral setting?
- "Who am I? Twofour-six-oh-("Les Misérables" lyric)
- 28 Cracker shape Olution" (2002 rap album)
- 30 Avoided a tag, in a way
- 31 "The kids these days have gotten way better than me"
- 35 Two-million-year-old discovery in 2022 in the frozen soil of Greenland
- 36 Cereal bit
- 37 Something to butter up
- 38 Text communication inits.
- 41 Shaggy hairstyle 42 File-creating
- command

Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 4,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crossword (\$39.95 a year).

- 44 Actress Thompson
- 48 Former minor-league team that played at Aloha Stadium
- 51 Spot for food and craft beer
- 53 Opt
- 54 Significant stretch 55 Crane look-alike
- 57 "Do you really see me that way?
- 58 Range rover ... or something to do in a Range Rover
- 59 Craft that uses drafts
- 63 What a cracker might crack
- 64 Something for the
- of the military? 65 Scrabble bonus seen six times in this
- puzzle 70 "The Chase" channel
- 72 Was published
- 73 In which "Ciamar a tha thu?" means "How are you?"
- 74 Booped body parts
- 77 Member of the fam
- 78 Count for a jury 80 I, in German
- 81 Slip past
- 82 Product lines?
- 84 Something delivered by Jake Tapper or Anderson Cooper
- 89 Kofi of the U.N.
- 90 Pan feature
- 91 Yank
- 92 When repeated, ["Is this thing on?"] 93 Battle royale
- 96 Nickname next to a

- 97 Cyrillic letter pronounced like the "zz" of "pizza"
 - "The English Patient" actress
 - 104 Attenuated
 - 108 "South," in Hanoi 109 Place to chill,
 - paradoxically 110 Home of the Hockey
 - Hall of Fame: Abbr. 111 Device that works
 - with CarPlay
 - 113 Single guy?
 - 115 Executive's acumen 117 Apt domain for basketball's King
 - James
 - 118 Scanning inits. 119 Something to believe in
 - 120 Didn't just assume
 - 121 Part of the body to slap
 - 122 Queen 123 To be, in Spanish
 - 124 Easily irritated

DOWN

- 1 Film-archive bits
- 2 Kidney-related
- 3 Maker of the Flashback console
- 4 Lukewarm 5 Birds with deep
- booming calls 6 "Better Call Saul"
- channel
- 7 Very sexy
- 8 Texas city that's home to Frito-Lay
- 9 Lawyer's bundle of work
- 10 " '____ you not entertained?"
- heart emoji, perhaps 11 "Au contraire!"

- 12 Cannon fodder, at
- 13 Appear that one may
- 14 Urgent time to start gathering tax documents: Abbr.
- 15 TikTok star Grav 16 B.Y.U.'s city
- 17 Scatter about
- 21 "Here's the thing ... "
- 23 A group of them is called a "crash"
- 25 Texter's reaction button
- 28 Post
- 32 Syrupy covering for ham
- 33 Protagonist in "2001: A Space Odyssey
- 34 Crockpot filler
- Mendeleev, creator of the periodic table
- All That" (1990s teen comedy)
- 39 Soda-shop order
- 40 Vegetable often eaten without utensils
- 42 Aviculture : bird :: heliciculture : ___
- 43 Campfire remains
- 45 Out-of-this-world outfit
- 46 Rikishi compete in it
- 47 Slightly 49 Taiwanese tech giant
- 50 Pink-furred cat in "Garfield" 51 Antipasto dish of
- tomatoes on grilled bread
- 52 Campus military org. 56 Make more meaningful
- **60** B.S., for one
- 61 Letter that rhymes with the letters and after it
- 62 Direction giver's suggestion: Abbr.
- 66 Jab
- 67 Tony winner Renée Goldsberry
- 68 High-strung
- 69 Coin collection 70 Enclosed rhyme
- scheme 71 Cereal bit

puzzle.

- 75 Poet St. Vincent Millay 76 Creep out, perhaps
- 78 Counterpart of "been there'
- 79 Sgt. or cpl.
- 83 Engine parts 85 Bigwig
- 86 Coup d'
- 87 Time when most
- people are asleep 88 One birthed in Perth
- 90 Shrug or wave
- Egyptian goddess of war, takes the form of one
- 95 Place in a crypt

94 Sekhmet, the

- 98 Announce one's presence, in a way 99 Invisible household
- hazard 100 "My luck's bound to turn around!'
- 101 Adorable sort
- 102 Beginning stage
- 103 Crete's highest point,
- for short
- 104 The ones nearby 105 Indicates "Out of my
- wav!" 106 Miniature map
- 107 High-maintenance, say
- 112 Exam with "calculator" and "no calculator" math
- sections 114 G.I.'s rations
- 115 Dating inits.
- 116 Negative Boolean operator

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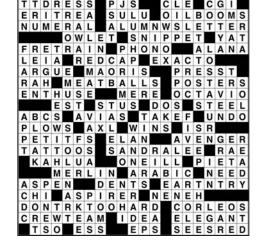
su do ku © Puzzles by Pappocom

HARD - 46

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

Answers to last week's puzzles

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



Sewer system smoke testing underway currently in Pines

(March 21, 2024) Members of the Worcester County Public Works Water and Wastewater Division began conducting smoke testing of the sanitary sewer system this week in Ocean Pines.

The testing began Thursday, March 21, and will last until next Tuesday, March 26, on Carrolton Lane, Mumfords Landing Road, Fishing Creek Lane, Starfish Lane, Yacht Club Drive, Stones Run, McHenry Court, Mercers Way, North Chase Street, South Chase Street, Papa Court and Bay Breeze Lane in Ocean Pines.

A news release said the study will involve opening and entering manholes in the streets and public utility easements to locate breaks and defects in the sewer system. The smoke will also reveal where storm and other surface water enters the system.

A special, non-toxic smoke will be

Woman killed walking her dog

Continued from Page 19 also obtained receipts from the establishment showing that Kimball had purchased six shots of vodka and two beers prior to driving home that

evening.

Evidence obtained from other witnesses established that Kimball knew he had struck a woman with his truck and that just minutes after the collision, Kimball had tried to convince his roommate to lie to police about who was driving.

The Maryland State Police Crash Team's investigation confirmed that Wattay had been left seriously injured and lying on the side of the road for at least 39 minutes while Kimball was at his residence nearby. Kimball never called for help or attempted to render any aid to Wattay during that time.

Worcester County State's Attorney Kris Heiser commended the Maryland State Police for the excellent investigative work, and the crash team members for their detailed analysis of the scene. Heiser also applauded Assistant State's Attorney Pamela Correa, who prosecuted the case.

"It is always a tragedy to see another life lost due to drunk driving," Heiser said in the release. "In this instance, the Defendant's failure to remain on scene and failure to seek help for the victim during those critical minutes after the crash were certainly aggravating factors considered by the Court. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Ms. Wattay's family and loved ones, whose lives are forever changed as a result of this senseless crime."

used in the tests. It leaves no residuals or stains and has no effect on plant or animal life. The smoke is visible and has a distinctive, but not unpleasant, odor that should last only a few minutes where there is adequate ventilation.

Because the plumbing appliances in homes and buildings are connected to the sanitary sewer system, some smoke may enter the facilities in the following instances:

- Vents connected to a building's sewer pipes are inadequate, defective or improperly installed.
- Traps under sinks, tubs, basins, showers and other drains are dry, defective, improperly installed or missing.
- Pipes, connections and seals of the wastewater drain system in and under buildings are damaged, defective, have plugs missing or are improperly installed.

The smoke test can reveal the presence, if any, of sewer gas, which can be dangerous and a health risk to occupants.

In the event that smoke enters a home or business, contact a member of the smoke testing crew working in the area at 410-641-5251, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Anglers Club announces Fishing Flea Market date

(March 21, 2024) The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will host a Fishing Flea Market from 7 a.m to noon, on April 6, at the Ocean Pines Community Center on 235 Ocean Parkway.

The event will allow local people to buy and sell fishing and boating gear, and other household items.

Entry is \$2 and the event is open to the public. For community ven-

dors, tables are \$15 and include a 10-by-10-foot space.

Proceeds will help pay for Anglers Club events, including the upcoming Teach a Kid to Fish Day on June 22, and the Art Hansen Memorial Youth Fishing Contest on July 20.

For more information and to reserve a table, contact Laura Leuters at 240-818-2864 or dorado1045@yahoo.com.



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SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Multiple vessels are pictured in the coastal bays last summer. Opportunities to secure boating licenses are available over the coming weeks.

Safe boating course slated for April 2-4 at Pines library

(March 21, 2024) A Maryland Safe Boating Course is set from 6-9 p.m., April 2-4, at the Ocean Pines Library.

Hosted by the certified instructors from the Ocean City Coast Guard Auxiliary, the comprehensive course will cover all required material to become licensed to operate a boat and information on local waters and nautical navigation.

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

of Maryland. Those who attend the class and pass the test will receive a Maryland Boating Certificate, which is NASBLA approved and valid in all states.

A fee of \$20 covers the cost of the course and materials. Checks should be made payable to USGCAUX 12-05 and mailed to USCGAUX 12-05, PO Box 1682, Berlin, MD 21811.

Payment through PayPAL is also accepted.

For more information, or to register, contact: Barry Cohen at 410-935-4807 or email CGAUXOC@gmail.com.

OC Power Squadron to offer three-day program next week

(March 21, 2024) The Ocean City Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons, will present a comprehensive safe boating course at the end of this month.

The eight-hour course will be given on three consecutive nights, from 6-9 p.m., March 26-28, at the Ocean Pines Library. The course includes a review and exam on the last night. SAttendess can register online at ocpsabc@gmail.com.

There is a \$25 fee for the course material. Middle and high school students age 18 and under can take the course, including materials, for free.

Anyone born after July 1, 1972, is required to satisfactorily complete a safe boating class to operate a recreational vessel or personal watercraft in Maryland, or by Jan. 1, 1978 in Delaware.

Successfully completing the course also satisfies the requirements nationwide.

This course covers basic boat handling, rules of the road, navigation, federal and state regulations, aids to navigation, and required equipment, among other topics.

Statistics show that in 82 percent of boating fatalities, captains had no formal boating education.

The Ocean City Power Squadron encourages all boaters to complete a boating safety class.

For information and early registration, call 443-604-5851.

Calendar

Thurs., March 21

CPAP MASK FITTING

Atlantic General Hospital's Sleep Disorders Diagnostic Center, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin. Free mast fitting clinic for patients who are having trouble adjusting to their CPAP equipment. Appointments required: Robin Rohlfing, 410-641-9726.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: ALICE REPORT WITH UWLES

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=so-cial&utm-content=creatorshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=odclsxcollection&utm-source=cp&aff=escb

AGH PRESIDENT/CEO TO PROVIDE COMMUNITY UPDATE AND HOST Q&A

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 10-11 a.m. Atlantic General Hospital and Health System President & CEO Don Owrey, MBA, FACHE, will discuss the organization's plan for the future and its current state. Free and open to the public.

TOWN CATS ADOPTION EVENT

PetSmart, 11330 Samuel Bowen Blvd., Berlin, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Town Cats adoptions.

STORY TIME: WOMEN'S HISTORY

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Learn about some amazing ladies that have changed the world and create a craft. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

TECH TALKS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. The group will break down tech topics into byte-sized lessons for all. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

THE DUTCH DIVINITY: HARP, CELLO & VOICE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Explore the life of author and composer Isabelle de Charriere through voice, cello and harp. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STEAM DREAMERS: MAP AND OCEAN FLOOR

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4 p.m. Celebrate Women's History Month by learning about Marie Tharp, the first person to map the ocean floor and then create a map of your own. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014,

www.worcesterlibrary.org

7HMRA

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4:30-5:30 p.m. Join Zumba instructor Joyce Landsman for an hour of movement. These classes uplift and improve mood. Registration required: 410-641-0650. www.worcesterlibrary.org

TAXATION BOOTCAMP: MEDICARE MADE SIMPLE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 5 p.m. Learn how to navigate healthcare expenses and Medicare plans in retirement. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ROMANCE BOOK CLUB: 'THE CHARM OFFENSIVE' BY ALLISON COCHRUN

The Buzzed Word, 11805 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 6 p.m. Join the Ocean City Library with The Buzzed Word for an afternoon of Queer Romance and wine. 410-524-1818, 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., March 22

TOWN CATS ADOPTION EVENT

PetSmart, 11330 Samuel Bowen Blvd., Berlin, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Town Cats adoptions.

MAHJONG CLUB

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

WONDER WOMEN

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:30 p.m. Learn about famous women throughout history. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

CANVAS FOR A CAUSE

Buckingham Presbyterian Church, 20 S. Main St., Berlin, 6-8 p.m. All ages welcome for a fun paint night. Participants will be asked to leave their artwork to be "sold" by donating to a local charity of choice on Easter Sunday. Lite fare and drinks provided.

Sat., March 23

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY AND EGG HUNT

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 10301 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 10 a.m.-Continued on Page 23

Calendar

Continued from Page 22

noon. Menu includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage and beverages. Donation: \$10 for ages 6 years and older and free to those 5 years and younger. Picture with Easter Bunny, \$10. Reservation: 443-604-8068.

CRAFTY SATURDAY: EASTER EGG HUNT

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Hop over for an egg hunt and a fun craft. For all ages. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

TOWN CATS ADOPTION EVENT

PetSmart, 11330 Samuel Bowen Blvd., Berlin, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Town Cats adoptions.

10TH ANNUAL DOWNTOWN POCOMOKE SPRING FESTIVAL

Gazebo on the corner of Market Street & Second Street, Pocomoke City. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Live entertainment, food, petting zoo, car show and sidewalk vendors. Kids bring Easter baskets to collect goodies. Visit the Easter Bunny (12-2 p.m.) Rain date is March 30. DowntownPocomoke.com

12TH ANNUAL ST. JOSEPH'S FESTIVAL

St. Andrew's Hall, 205 W. 145th St., Ocean City, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Featuring homecooked Italian foods, gift basket raffles, silent auctions, Italian music and specialty Italian items and St. Joseph religious articles for sale. Admission is free.

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

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

Sun., March 24

PALM SUNDAY CELEBRATION

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 3 Church St., Berlin. Services held 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. for Holy Eucharist. Meet in the Parish Hall for the procession commemorating Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem. https://stpaulsberlin.org/events

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, Berlin, 10 a.m. Also live streamed with access through the church website at bethanyberlin.org. 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

13TH ANNUAL SNOW HILL OYSTER ROAST

Bank Street & West Green Street, Snow Hill, 1-5 p.m. Featuring delicious oysters (12 ways) and seafood dishes; bottomless beer, soda and water; live music; and prize. Cost is \$65. Tickets: www.snowhillchamber.com/annual-oyster-roast.

SHOWELL UMC'S HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

Showell United Methodist Church, 2 p.m. Pastor Dale Brown will be the guest speaker. Special music provided by various churches throughout the community. Dinner will follow. RSVP: 302-438-0031, bjteach45@yahoo.com. All are welcome.

Mon., March 25

STORY TIME: ALL ABOUT EGGS

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Crafts, songs and stories. For ages 0-5 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

WRITING FOR WELLNESS

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:30 p.m. Writing about stressful experiences like illness may boost health and psychological well-being. Group uses exercises to stimulate creative expression. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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

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

BRIDGE

Mondays - Ocean City 5 oplus Center, 104 41st Street, Ocean City, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Reserve a spot: Tish, 410-804-3971. www.Worcoa.org/oceancity

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., March 26

FREE PLAY DAY AND CRAFTS

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Play with new friends and improve language and motor skill development. For ages 2-5 years. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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

CONTAINER GARDENING

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Learn about planting in containers from Master Gardener and UMD Extension Office educator Ginny Rosenkranz. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Stephen Decatur High School Cafeteria, 9913 Seahawk Road, Berlin, 5:30 p.m. Learn from local experts, talk about what we can do as a community and what is currently being done to help combat overdoses in Worcester County. Light refreshments and door prizes.

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 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

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT AND WELLNESS GROUP

Tuesdays - Holy Trinity Cathedral, 11021 Worcester Highway, 2-2:45 p.m. Use the weight loss program/app/plan of your choice. Free and open to everyone. 410-641-4882, www.htcanglican.org/activities.

Wed., March 27

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

Takes place the third and fourth Wednesday of each month. For surgical patients. Atlantic General Bariatric Center, 410-641-9568.

PLAY TIME

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Join in for a variety of activities and toys. Play and socialize with other families. For ages 0-5 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

SENSORY STAY AND PLAY

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Learn through exploration, curiosity and creativity. Get ready to squish, build, splash, shake and scoop through several fun stations. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

CAR WASH

Buckingham Presbyterian Church, 20 S. Main St., Berlin, 1-4 p.m. The G3 Youth Group will hold a car wash with donations to benefit local food banks including the Spirit Kitchen.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3-4:30 p.m. The goal of the support group is to provide participants with hope for the future. Gail Mansell, 410-641-9725, gmansell@atlanticgeneral.org

FREE SQUARE DANCE LESSONS

Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 7-8:30 p.m. Pine Steppers Square Dance Club welcome singles and couples. barbcroos@gmail.com, 908-229-8799, 302-222-4448

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

SPRING SCAVENGER HUNT

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Highway, all day, March 18-28. Stop by to grab a scavenger hunt sheet and search the library for reading rabbis. Finish the hunt to reveal a secret message. For ages 0-5 years and 6-11 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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

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

HELP WANTED

Full-Time Office Person

Local Family-Owned Business is looking for a Full-Time Office Person. Applicant should be computer savvy, have good phone skills, punctual, and willing to work in a small busy office environment. Applicants should email resume to office@fireprotectiveservices.com

OFFICE MANAGER/SALES

Are you a team player? Someone who follows through? Need a chance to make your mark, and make a difference? We are looking to add a talented person to our high-energy team.

Candidates should have a customer-service background, and be extremely detail-oriented. This is a chance to shine with your multi-tasking tools, and to build and maintain a customer base. You must be proficient in Microsoft Office, have strong communication skills and a terrific work ethic. This is your golden opportunity to join a winning team.

E-mail resume with **OFFICE MANAGER** in the subject line to: AdSales@coastalpoint.com

Coastal Paint



A Maryland University of National Distinction

Salisbury University is accepting applications for the following positions:

> Housekeepers (Day & Evening) Housekeeper Supervisor I Housekeeper Lead

To be considered an applicant for these positions, you must apply online via Salisbury University's Online Employment Application System. Go to http://www. salisbury.edu/HR/careers/. See the FAQs of the Online Employment Application System for more information.

SU is an EEO employer and is strongly committed to recruiting and retaining a diverse faculty, staff and student body.

HELP WANTED

Seeking Housekeeper F/T, YR. Seatime Condominiums, 135th St. Apply in person. 410-250-2262



HIRING: General Manager, Marketing Assistant, Line Cooks, Sous Chefs, Audio/ Video Techs, Maintenance Staff, Painters, Carpenter, Plumber, Receivers, Liguer Stape Attandant Liquor Store Attendant

Apply in person or online at seacrets.com

HELP WANTED

Cleaners - Vacation rentals needed for OC and Pines. Experience preferred but not required. OC Purifiers.

Call or text 443-397-1189

or email Karen@ocpurifiers.com.

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.

CARPENTERS & CARPENTERS HELPERS

Must have

Tools, Transportation, Drivers License **Experience Preferred**

PATTERSON & SONS BUILDERS

rhp510@aol.com 410-641-9530

TOWN OF SNOW HILL, MARYLAND **CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER**

The Town of Snow Hill is accepting applications for the position of Code Compliance Officer. Responsibilities include: enforcement of various Town codes; inspections; issuance of permits; processing of complaints and staffing of various committees. Preferred candidate is IRC Certified and has familiarity with IBC, IEBC, Energy Code, ADA, and other applicable codes; has good organizational skills. excellent communication skills and is available to attend night meetings.

Salary commensurate with experience. This is a full-time position with Town benefits, health insurance and Maryland . State Retirement.

To request an application form, send resume with salary requirements to: csullivan@snowhillmd.com or Town of Snow Hill, Carol Sullivan, P.O. Box 348, Snow Hill, Maryland 21863

HELP WANTED

Thunderbird Beach Motel Now hiring all shifts and positions. Competitive pay Apply in person starting March 26. 32nd St.

Baltimore Ave., Monday through Friday from 9am-3pm.

Smal Engine Mechanic Year-round. Competitive Wages. 443-754-1047

HELP WANTED

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



Brilliant Crew!

Now Hiring All Positions

Apply in person, online or call 410-289-7181 ocshenanigans.com

Come join our Team

for our 100th Year!

Hiring Housekeepers, Houseman, and Front Desk

Apply in person or call 410-289-7972

West-O BOTTLE SHOP HIRING

Looking for a dedicated individual that would like to work in a cool place that sells delicious things!

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Kristin.moore@ atlantisocmd.com

Help Wanted Full-Time Maintenance Person for a small community in the Berlin area. General maintenance knowledge needed. Good pay and benefits. Call 410-641-5102. Large equipment experience helpful.

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ROOMMATES

Seeking Room For Rent or Live with Roommate, 57, male, moving from Baltimore, looking to live in OP/Berlin, starting June. Please call Phil, 443-388-2868

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The contents of mini storage units will be sold online at Lockerfox.com. Ocean City Mini Storage.

Units to be auctioned: B28-B42-S785-S226-O101 O103-O128-O132-O136-O 145. Units are being sold due to non-payment of rent. Common items in units are household items, furniture, tools, fishing equipment paintings, antique and vintage items.

Date: Saturday, March 30, 2024 Time: 10:00 am

This will be an online auction. Please go to Lockerfox.com and register.

Feel free to call 410-213-2029 for any questions regarding the online auction.

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