



OP hopefuls give reasons for running

Challengers aim to unseat incumbents Heavner, Farr

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(May 30, 2024) Three residents have thrown their hats into the ring to challenge incumbents Rick Farr and Jeff Heavner for the two available seats on the Ocean Pines Association's Board of Directors.

Ocean Pines citizens Amy Peck, Sherrie Clifford, and Jerry Murphy have announced their board of directors' election candidacy. Tuesday, Aug. 6, is the last day for voters to cast their ballots, and the results will be announced on Thursday, Aug. 8.

Candidate Amy Peck, who served on the board from October 2021 to August 2022 after being appointed to fill a vacancy, said she opted to run because she believes the community "needs a more balanced board."

"I did not want an unopposed election with a 6-1 supermajority because the best governance includes a respectful, open discussion with multiple perspectives, ideas, and solutions," she said. "...There seems to be a trend of if the supermajority doesn't agree with you, or if you have a different idea, perspective, or concern – stomp them out ... I see the value of committees' expertise and listening to homeowners."

Peck and her husband, the chair of the Environmental and Natural Assets Advisory Committee, purchased their home in 2002. The Ocean Pines resident has experience as an educator and has served other homeowner associations, land preservation groups, and environmental assemblies.

During her time in the community, Peck has volunteered, including with the OC Arts Council and a plethora of recreation and parks events. On May 18, the contestant participated in her fifth Bay Day. The OPA Board of Directors

See CHALLENGERS Page 7

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It was an old-fashioned parade on Flower Street on Monday as the community in Berlin hosted its annual Memorial Day Parade, recognizing those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the country. In addition to participating in the parade, members of the community celebrated patriotism with dance and song.

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Officials mulling accessory dwelling units within Berlin

Commission to explore what, if any, uses will be permitted in town limits

By **Charlene Sharpe**
Associate Editor

(May 30, 2024) As a state task force prepares to address accessory dwelling units, Berlin planning officials are trying to determine what if any sorts of additional units should be permitted in town.

The Berlin Planning Commission is expected to discuss accessory dwelling units — things like in-law apartments and tiny homes — in the coming weeks as the Maryland Department of Planning Accessory Dwelling Unit Policy Task Force prepares to issue its final report in June.

“That final report from what I can see looks like it could contain draft language that you all might want to start looking at,” Rick Baldwin, the town’s planning consultant, told the Berlin Planning Commission this month “Does this fit the Town of Berlin?”

The commission included a discussion of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) during its last meeting. Staff said there was at

least one person in town who’d asked about constructing one and that the town’s code did not truly address the issue. Baldwin said there was no minimum square footage for an ADU in the code.

“A tiny house, a term that’s in popular use, is completely undefined in our code,” Baldwin said.

He told the commission that during the 2023 session, the Maryland General Assembly passed Senate Bill 382, which established the ADU task force to study the placement of ADUs on land zoned for single family homes. The task force is expected to study best practices for standardizing the ADU process.

Commission member Newt Chandler asked if the town would be able to create its own rules regarding ADUs. Baldwin said that was correct but the town should put some tools in its toolbox regarding ADUs if they were going to be promoted statewide. He said the code should address the issue.

“The town could be clear about what it is that it wants,” he said. “(Route) 611’s not that far away. You see what they’d got. The question is, ‘is that what we want?’”

Chandler said he could think of nothing worse than a rental unit in every backyard.

“Most people bought their property with the expectation of the quiet enjoyment of that property,” he said. “It’s unfair if their neighbor puts a rental unit in their backyard, that affects their quality of life. Once the residents figure out this is coming I think they’ll be totally against.”

Matt Stoehr, chair of the commission, agreed the town would likely get requests for ADUs and the commission had to be prepared.

“Put tools in the toolbox,” Baldwin said.

Resident Gabe Purnell said there was a need for more housing. He said tiny houses might be good for the east side of Berlin.

“Our need on the east side is totally different than on the west side,” he said. “We’re supposed to be a part of the town, too. You haven’t taken any considerations about the needs on the east side. We cannot compete

with this side of town. It needs to be investigated. It needs to be researched. We’ve got to find a balance to where the east side can continue to survive.”

Resident Bronwyn Betz said she didn’t want short-term rentals everywhere but thought there might be situations where ADUs would be helpful, such as for family members.

“You could think about regulations that wouldn’t allow renting it,” she said. “Maybe it has to be a family type situation.”

Resident Samantha Pielstick said the town’s comprehensive plan talked about infill and affordable housing. She said ADUs could help with those.

“The generation that is coming up right now loves this concept,” she said. “They don’t want 4,000 square feet.”

She said the town just needed to figure out what type of ADUs it wanted to permit and define that in the code.

Commission member Ron Cascio said it wasn’t as if every single-family lot would add an ADU.

“We need to get ahead of it before it comes to us,” he said. “That’s why we need to have the discussion, to learn about the type of housing. There’s all kinds of reasons to have them but you can’t just put one in your backyard, turn your toolshed into one. It’s not that easy.”

‘A tiny house, a term that’s in popular use, is completely undefined in our code.’

Planning Consultant Rick Baldwin



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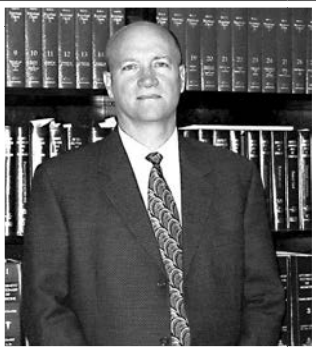
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Berlin scores grants for live music at summer, fall events

Funding will pay for acts at farmers market and Berlin Oktoberfest downtown

By Charlene Sharpe
Associate Editor

(May 30, 2024) A new round of grant funding is expected to help make sure live music remains a part of popular Berlin events.

The Berlin Arts and Entertainment District and Berlin Main Street recently received grants from the Worcester County Arts Council. A \$3,000 grant will ensure the Edelweiss Band once again performs at Berlin Oktoberfest while a \$1,500 grant will pay for live music at the Berlin Farmers Market.

“Nothing makes an event better than live music,” said Ivy Wells, the town’s economic and community development director. “Plus it helps our local musicians and creates a vibe downtown that can’t be matched.”

The Worcester County Arts Council typically offers two rounds of grant funding each year. In this latest round the Berlin Arts and Entertainment District received the funding needed to continue live music at the farmers market through September while Berlin Main Street got the funding to support the entertainment at Oktoberfest.

Wells said her department relies heavily on grants to support projects in Berlin. A \$500 grant from the Worcester County Arts Council will be funding a new “Random Acts of Art” project that

will have Happy Now Creations sporadically leave bits of art throughout town.

“It’s similar to Banksy,” Wells said. “You’ll never know when it’s going to pop up in our Arts and Entertainment District.”

She said her department was in the process of applying for more façade grant funding from the state. While she’s out of funding for the popular grant program now, she’s hopeful to receive a grant to be able to once again offer the program to local property owners in January 2025.

In addition to other funding applications she’s working on, Wells said she’s trying to get another Community Safety Works Business District Grant from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. Last year, the town received

\$76,300 for security cameras, barricades and modular vehicle barriers.

“This time we applied for lighting funds so we could add historic lamp-posts to Pitts Street and William Street,” Wells said.

Wells noted that the town had recently received confirmation from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development that Berlin would be receiving its entire \$500,000 strategic demolition grant for the Heron Park demolition project now that work was underway and in line with the original grant application.

“We had to show proof we were continuing with the project and things were moving ahead,” she said.

‘Nothing makes an event better than live music.’
Economic and Community Development Director
Ivy Wells



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Board incumbents on seeking another term

Farr, Heavner enjoying working with community members, colleagues

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(May 30, 2024) Incumbents Rick Farr and Jeff Heavner defend their positions on the Ocean Pines Association's Board of Directors as the election for the governing body's two available seats nears.

Ocean Pines residents Sherrie Clifford, Amy Peck, and Jerry Murphy are set to challenge President Farr and Director Heavner. Voters will receive their ballots in July and have until Tuesday, Aug. 6, to submit the document. The results will be announced on Thursday, Aug. 8.

Heavner and his wife Anne purchased their first Ocean Pines home in 2017. "I love the unique lifestyle that the community offers in a moderate four-season environment," the candidate said.

Heavner said that his leadership skills, which will continue to aid him as a director, were developed by attending the United States Naval Academy, serving in the Navy aboard the USS Midway to protect Arabian Sea global shipping lanes as an intelligence officer, "developing future intelligence officers as an instructor, managing for decades in a broad range of positions at ExxonMobil and serving as a member of a leadership team that directed the safest and most prosperous \$3 billion lubricant business."

The defending contestant maintains that General Manager John Viola has pushed Ocean Pines in a positive direction. Heavner intends to focus on the strategic plan that protects the Ocean Pines residents' quality of life and property values by

prioritizing safety initiatives, neighborhood appearance, excellent amenities, and infrastructure maintenance.



Rick Farr

"I use my skills as a proud member of your executive team relentlessly focused on conducting business to improve things," Heavner said. "No drama or personal agenda. This

Board has worked with the general manager to deliver community wins, from beautification through a renewed effort to address Compliance, Permit, and Inspection violations to infrastructure maintenance with replacement of an aging golf course irrigation system, all while reducing assessments."

Farr, who grew up in Bowie, Maryland, and served 20 years in the United States Air Force, has also opted to defend his OPA Board of Directors seat.

Farr said that during his military career, he participated in combat operations like Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Operation Noble Eagle, and Operation Southern Watch. He is a five-time recipient of the Meritorious Service Medal and Citation for Valor for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Farr is the Chief Human Resource Officer for the Town of Easton and serves on the committee for the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation.

"I love Ocean Pines and serving our awesome community and the people that reside within it," the leader said. "Under my direction as president, the current board has been described as one of the most prosperous periods in Ocean Pines' history. I want to keep the momentum going..."

The president said the association

has a positive year-to-date operating fund variance of over \$1.2 million. The uplifting economic situation of the community has occurred in conjunction with General Manager John Viola and the sitting board.



Jeff Heavner

"My executive leadership experience and skillset in the military, corporate, and government industries has given me the financial acumen, discernment, collaboration, and motivation necessary to be successful," Farr said.

If re-elected, Farr intends to prioritize new long-term contracts with Viola, ensuring the general manager continues to serve community operations and the Matt Ortt Companies to guarantee they run the association's food and beverage needs.

The president also hopes to support the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department in their efforts to renovate the fire station, complete a new gazebo at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial before Veterans Day in November, revamp the racquet sports building, and help the community's police department with recruiting and retention.

Farr intends to improve the community by continuing to have "transparent and open communication with our residents; continue to partner with our local, county and state officials in promoting Ocean Pines; continue to recognize our residents that volunteer in serving on committees; continue our beautification efforts throughout Ocean Pines; reduce CPI violations; installation of new electronic signage in specific areas of Ocean Pines that make sense."

The sitting board president currently participates in food and clothes

drives throughout the year for Diakonia and the Toys for Tots initiative, which focuses on providing for less fortunate children. He also creates care packages for military members serving overseas and supplies food to veterans without families during the holidays.

As for his current work as president, Farr said he has enjoyed meeting Ocean Pines residents at the community amenities, supporting local businesses and restaurants, walking through the neighborhood, and listening to homeowner concerns.

Farr is particularly proud of what he and his peers have accomplished while serving on the OPA Board of Directors, such as reducing annual assessments yearly, increasing the operating funds, enhancing amenities, improving the Ocean Pines Fire Department's salaries, and the beautification efforts on the North Gate Bridge, the Yacht Club, and the Beach Club.

"I love boating in Ocean Pines and all the wonderful amenities offered," Farr maintained. "I enjoy meeting and talking to our residents, understanding any concern they may have, and ensuring our operations team addresses those concerns to their satisfaction."

New Pines Beach Club bathroom process in place

(May 30, 2024) Starting May 25, a new process was implemented for use of the Ocean Pines Beach Club restrooms.

The attendant will now allow entrance to the bathrooms only after customers show either an Ocean Pines membership card, receipt of purchase for a pool pass, receipt (or picture of) a Beach Club parking pass, or receipt for a food/beverage purchase at the Beach Club.

A camera system has also been installed to monitor the bathrooms when an attendant is not available, and customers will need to show the camera any of the above to allow entrance. Upon verification, the pool front desk will remotely open the door for customers to use the bathrooms.

This system was installed to allow for better monitoring of the bathrooms and to provide ongoing service to Ocean Pines members and their guests.



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Challengers seek to unseat Heavner, Farr

Continued from Page 1

rectors hopeful also helps Clifford with ROC (Residents Oversight Community) Buzz, a podcast.

Peck said she intends to restore OPA's relationship with the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department if elected to the board of directors.

"The negotiations, or lack thereof, have been alarming," she said. "... I've toured the Fire Station and understand what they need ... The needs of the OPVFD are not cosmetic. They need a decontamination station, separate bathrooms and sleeping quarters, and a separate spot for their equipment. I believe the property owners want their HOA dollars going to safety."

Peck said she wants to continue her "crusade for transparency." This effort would include conducting regular community-wide surveys and allowing hybrid public comments.

A initiative Peck hopes to launch is Seniors Helping Seniors. As the population in Ocean Pines skews older, and many elderly individuals intend to age in their homes but require assistance, the candidate believes utilizing dedicated volunteers to work this program would enhance the community's livability.

"I've met so many nice people in Ocean Pines, and I appreciate their support," Peck said. "Ocean Pines is a special place, and protecting Ocean Pines' legacy is a passion of mine."

Clifford has also thrown her hat into the election ring. The candidate worked in the technology sector as a keypunch operator before transitioning to computer operator and then as a programmer.

Throughout her experience, which includes founding her own data management and software development company, Clifford said she has garnered skills in contract negotiation, software design and development, database design and distribution, real-time systems, data feed protocols, and graphic design.

The contestant purchased her Ocean Pines home in August of 2020. A year later, she founded the Ocean Pines ROC Facebook group and incorporated ROC as a Maryland News

and Media Corporation in 2022.

Clifford is a member of the Ocean Pines Women's Golf League and the Worcester County Chamber of Commerce and is in two Ocean Pines bowling leagues. Additionally, she participated in the Ocean Pines Season Kickoff Expo event on Saturday, April 20. She was also on the 2022 Elections Search Committee and donated to the fire department and the Christmas shopping initiative, among others.

Clifford's intention for running for the OPA Board of Directors is to "listen to homeowners."

"We need to unify the community and restore trust and civility," she said. "There is a need for real leadership. One with the experience and skills to negotiate, lead, and communicate efficiently and effectively... We need independent and collaborative thinking individuals who will work together to accomplish a common goal that will benefit everyone in our community."

If elected, Clifford intends to increase board accountability and transparency. She said the governing body should not "stonewall" residents from requesting specific information.

The OPA Board of Directors candidate also hopes to repair the relationship between the association and the OPVFD, eliminate email and text decisions, enforce more in-person meetings, allow community members to make public comments virtually, and "review, restore, maintain all committees and ensure that our committee members are not working in vain, that their recommendations are being heard and that meetings are well documented, recorded, and published on a timely basis."

"I see that our community is in desperate need of individuals that will work together as a team, including the input and consideration from all board members," Clifford said. "A board open to true transparency, accountability, trust, integrity, a code of ethics, and collaboration. A board

that is responsive to all community members and treats everyone with respect and consideration."

Murphy, who ran for the board last year but was beat out by current director Jeff Heavner, has thrown his hat back into the ring.

"If, at first, you don't succeed, try again," the OPA Board of Directors hopeful maintained.

Murphy came to Ocean Pines in the mid-1970s after graduating college. His original intention was to build houses. After constructing homes, he was given an opportunity to help open the Berlin McDonald's. He worked there for years before moving back to Baltimore, where he had a paper packaging distribution company. The contestant currently sells real estate for One Bethesda Long and Foster.

Murphy said that if elected, he would bring familiarity with board participation, specifically his service with the Washington Parks Apartment Building Board.

"That building is in great shape, and I hope to bring some of the experience here," he said. "Ocean Pines has been my life since I was a young

man. I want to give my time back to the community and be an asset to Ocean Pines."

The candidate said that he will attend Zoom meetings for the committee meetings, listen to and act on homeowner concerns, and cultivate a positive relationship with the fire department. Murphy currently serves on the Strategic Planning Advisory Committee, attends board meetings, and speaks with directors on issues of which they may not be aware.

"Ocean Pines has been in its golden years for the last three to four years, and I would like to see that continue," Murphy said. "A lot of good things have happened in Ocean Pines. There is increased Yacht Club and Beach Club participation and new restaurants. The activities used to cost us money, but now they make us money. John Viola is doing a great job, and I would like to participate and see that continue."

"Living in Ocean Pines is like living on a cruise ship," he continued. "The community has many activities and positive things; there is always something for every age."



Amy Peck



Sherrie Clifford



Jerry Murphy



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Divided commissioners vote on Pocomoke court name

Purnell, Abbott disagree with Stephen Handy Long moniker colleagues pick

By Charlene Sharpe
Associate Editor

(May 30, 2024) The basketball courts being renovated at Pocomoke Middle School will be known as Warrior Courts at Stephen H. Long Memorial Park.

The Worcester County Commissioners last week voted 4-3 to select Warrior Courts at Stephen H. Long Memorial Park from a list of six proposed names for the updated courts, which should be completed by the end of the month. The decision was an attempt at a compromise, as popular name options included "Stephen Handy Long Memorial Recreation Park" and "Warrior Park."

Kelly Rados, the county's director of recreation and parks, presented the name options during the May 21 meeting of the commissioners. She said that based on the county's naming policy, priority should be given to names carrying geographical, historical or cultural significance. Names submitted for the courts included Stephen Handy Long Memorial

Recreation Park, Warrior Courts at Stephen H. Long Memorial Park, Pocomoke Proud Park, Sunshine Park, Friendship Park and Warrior Park. Commissioner Caryn Abbott made a motion to name the courts Warrior Park.

"I just want to say that the park is for the children," Abbott said. "That was our goal the whole time, to make something special for them. I think we've accomplished that with what the plan is for the park and now we need them to take ownership of it and I believe they will. That's why I chose Warrior Park, because we are warriors in Pocomoke."

Commissioner Diana Purnell disagreed and said that Stephen Handy Long Memorial Recreation Park would pay homage to Long, the educator who served as supervisor of Worcester County's African American schools and was murdered in 1921.

"He gave his life for the kids," she said, adding that naming the park in his honor was in line with the county's naming policy.

Commissioner Ted Elder acknowledged the difference of opinion between Abbott and Purnell and
See COURT Page 10

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- Tue., 6/25** Buggin' Out - Family Friendly Kids' Day. Explore the garden center & learn about different animals & bugs through hands-on activities & games. - 10-12
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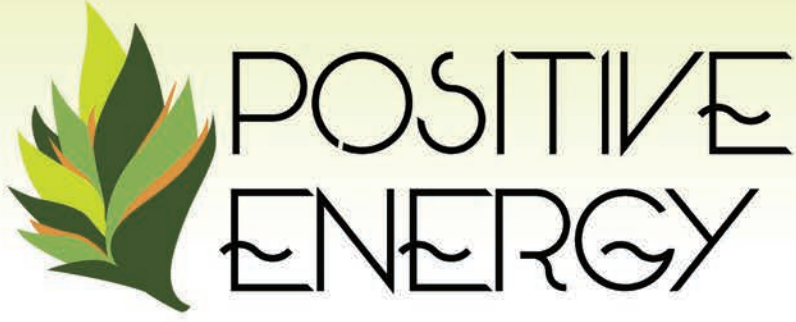
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- #3: 2 lb. Ribs, 4 Sides, 6 Cornbreads**
- #4: 3 lb. Ribs, 5 Sides, 8 Cornbreads**
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County introduces updated Critical Area legislation

Support provided for effort to combine two programs into a single code in Md.

By **Charlene Sharpe**
Associate Editor

(May 30, 2024) The Worcester County Commissioners agreed to introduce legislation updating and combining the Atlantic Coastal Bays and Chesapeake Bay Critical Area ordinances.

The commissioners at a meeting earlier this month agreed to put their name on a bill that comprehensively updates and combines the two critical area programs into a single code.

"This codifies the combination of our programs," Director of Environmental Programs Bob Mitchell said. "It doesn't add any new language other than what's required by state law currently."

According to Mitchell, the legislation was prepared to complete a comprehensive update of the Atlantic Coastal Bays and Chesapeake Bay Critical Area ordinances—which are

meant to protect land near tidal waters and wetlands—and to combine the programs into a single code. He said the update reflects changes in state law since the programs were last updated and will also serve to simplify the program for citizens and contractors.

Mitchell said the changes were reviewed by staff in his department as well as by the county attorney and the staff at the Critical Area Commission (CAC).

"This comprehensive update was complicated by additional language recommendations by CAC staff and the commission's attorney," Mitchell wrote in his report to the commissioners. "We would respectfully request that the commissioners introduce this bill so we can move forward to garner final approval by the full Critical Area Commission."

The bill will be posted on the county website with a staff contact so that the public can provide comments on the proposed legislation prior to the public hearing on the bill, which is expected to take place this summer.

Court name divides commission

Continued from Page 8

suggested one of the other names on the list, Warrior Courts at Stephen H. Long Memorial Park—a name that was submitted by Pocomoke Middle School Principal Melissa Freistat—as a compromise.

Marvin Jones, a Salisbury resident with ties to the Pocomoke community, told the commissioners he supported naming the park solely in honor of Long. He said research showed that Long was a person of historical significance who had made major contributions to the community. He said he was worried that the proposed compromise name was confusing.

"I think you diminish the contributions of Professor Long," Jones said.

Brendal Jones said she wanted the park named in honor of Long, as many people didn't know his story and weren't even aware that after his death there had been an African American school in Pocomoke named for him.

After lengthy discussion, a motion to approve the name Warrior Courts at Stephen H. Long Memorial Park passed 4-3, with Purnell and Commissioners Eric Fiori and Joe Mitre-ric opposed.

Area residents are invited to join the Worcester County Commissioners and school officials when they cut the ribbon on the new basketball courts and park at Pocomoke Middle School on June 4 at 1:30 p.m. Worcester County Recreation and Parks professionals contracted with Surface Solutions, LongFence, and Musco to install new fencing, a basketball court and associated components, and a "mini pitch" with lights. The basketball court and mini pitch are comprised of two basketball courts that can also be used as one basketball court and one soccer pitch. The park is recommended for children and adults and is open to the public outside of school hours and when organized programming is not taking place.

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Commissioners to hold final vote on budget

Abbott's change of mind leads to reduced school system spending for now

By Charlene Sharpe
Associate Editor

(May 30, 2024) A week after voting to provide the school system with \$1 million less than requested in the coming year's budget, county officials on May 21 voted 4-3 to reduce that figure to just under \$105 million.

Commissioner Caryn Abbott told her peers she'd had second thoughts about her vote to support providing the school system with about \$106 million. Her motion to reduce the Worcester County Board of Education funding to the level that would provide staff with 4% raises rather than the 6% raises discussed last week passed with a 4-3 vote. Those in opposition said the county had the money to fund the school system at a higher level.

"We have the money to fund this," Commissioner Eric Fiori said. "Expenses have gone up."

During a budget work session the week prior, the Worcester County Commissioners voted 4-3 to fund the school system at \$1 million less than the roughly \$107 million requested. While Abbott, Fiori, Commissioner Joe Mitrecic and Commissioner Diana Purnell supported the motion, which was expected to provide the school system with funding to give 6% raises, Commissioner Chip Bertino, Commissioner Jim Bunting and Commissioner Ted Elder advocated for a more modest budget that would have allowed for 4% raises and a step increase.

At the start of last Tuesday's budget work session, Abbott said she'd reconsidered her position.

"I've had a long week since last Tuesday. I felt I did not make the right decision for the county. I want to say that I think we need to stay within our budget and not spend money we don't have," she said, making a motion to reduce funding to the 4% level, which would provide the school system with \$104,980,244.

Mitrecic objected. He said that providing a 4% cost-of-living adjustment was not enough. He said the county had millions in its budget stabilization fund. According to staff there is \$13 million in the fund now and the county expects to end this current fiscal year with an \$11 million surplus.

"We could possibly have \$24 million sitting in the budget slush fund," he said. "It's a slush fund. It's taxpayer money we're holding that you do not spend... You want to do this that's fine but let's give the \$11 million back to the taxpayers. Let's drop the tax rate. If we're worried about the taxpayers let's drop the tax rate. To not give those raises to people who make this county run is wrong."

Fiori agreed.

"I was the one who started the argument about these teacher raises," he

said. "I started it and what I found after hundreds and hundreds of hours' worth of research is yes leadership at the board of education has not followed their financials to a T."

He said changes needed to be made but that money shouldn't be pulled away from teachers. He said the commissioners had made their point to the board of education by reducing funding by \$1 million.

"We cannot penalize our teachers," he said. "I think this is wrong."

Bertino said that if teachers were getting a 4% raise and a step increase, they were actually getting a 6.5% increase, as a step was about 2.5%. He added that earlier this spring the commissioners also agreed to spend more than \$2 million in the coming year to buy down the health insurance increase for employees so they would not bear the brunt of increased costs.

Bunting said he felt Abbott's motion was fair.

"I think it's the fairest to the employees and the constituents of Worcester County," he said. He added that a budget stabilization fund was there to help the county in times of need. "We don't know what's coming next November. It may go down the drain."

Elder said the average teacher would get more than \$4,500 more a year with the 4% cost-of-living adjustment and step increase.

"I don't see anything unreasonable about that," he said.

Purnell argued that costs for everything—food, insurance, electric—had increased.

"The cost of living has skyrocketed for a lot of people," she said. "A teacher is not the highest paid person in this county. Our teachers used to be well paid but they're not anymore... We all struggle. To take away instead of giving, and we've been taking away from our county employees for a while, we can't keep doing this. We cannot keep this attitude up."

Fiori asked Finance Officer Phil Thompson about revenue projections related to assessments. Thompson said the volume of transactions was down but that prices had not yet faltered.

"We're still seeing ... pretty strong numbers," Thompson said. Fiori asked if revenues would continue to increase.

"I think if you look at our trends ... you're going to see a three-year cycle of significant upticks yes," Thompson said.

Mitrecic said the average family spent \$4,780 more this year than last year for the basics.

"Our people are going backwards," he said, adding that employees were regularly leaving the county because of pay rates.

Elder said the county was under the same economic pressure everyone else was.

"I can't see spending tomorrow's money today," he said. "I just don't

agree with that."

Mitrecic said the school system still had to increase the starting teacher salary as required by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

"We have to reach the \$60,000 starting salary by 2027," he said. "That is mandated by the state. It's not going away."

Abbott said the school system set teacher salaries.

"I believe they can do it and they have not ...," she said. "Setting teacher salaries is not our job, that is the board of ed. Given 4%, they can possibly find that other 2% if they want to. That's up to them."

The commissioners voted 4-3, with Fiori, Mitrecic and Purnell opposed, to approve an unrestricted budget of \$104,980,24 for the school system for FY25. That allocation exceeds

FY24 funding by \$4,973,604 and includes \$3,386,552 for salary increases and \$1,587,052 to fund the portion of Other Post-employment Benefits (OPEB) not already covered in the school system's budget.

In an email to staff Tuesday afternoon, Superintendent Lou Taylor said the change represented a reduction of \$2,837,285 from the school system's budget request. He added that the OPEB change meant that \$1,587,052 was restricted and could not be used toward negotiated salary packages.

"We recognize that today's actions are disappointing," Taylor wrote, "but we ask for everyone's patience as the board of education and school system leadership are committed to advocating for the FY25 budget request through the commissioners' striking the county's budget on June 4."

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Suspect seeks high court opinion in Knupp case

Mailloux's petition further delays pending charges

By Bethany Hooper
Associate Editor

(May 30, 2024) Tyler Mailloux, a local man accused in the hit-and-run death of Gavin Knupp, has petitioned the Supreme Court of Maryland to review an appellate court opinion in his case.

On April 29, Mailloux petitioned Maryland's highest court to review an opinion from the Appellate Court of Maryland, which reversed an order from Worcester County Circuit Court to dismiss all charges against him. As he does not have the right to an automatic appeal, Mailloux is asking the Supreme Court of Maryland to review the decision.

"Petitioner, Tyler Allen Mailloux, by and through undersigned counsel and the law offices of Rice, Murtha & Psoras, LLC, petitions this Court to issue a writ of certiorari to the Appellate Court of Maryland to review that Court's Opinion in State of Maryland v. Tyler Allen Mailloux ... which reversed the Order of the Circuit Court for Worcester County which dismissed all charges against Mr. Mailloux."

Last April, 17 traffic charges – including failure to immediately stop at the scene of an accident involving bodily injury and failure to immediately stop a vehicle at the scene of an accident involving death – were filed against Mailloux, 23, in the death of Knupp, a 14-year-old who was struck and killed by a motorist in a black Mercedes while crossing Grays Corner Road on July 11, 2022. Knupp was returning to a vehicle driven by his older sister and died from injuries sustained in the collision. Mailloux allegedly fled the scene and did not return, according to charges filed.

During a motions hearing in Worcester County Circuit Court last August, Mailloux's attorney argued the district court had "exclusive and original jurisdiction" and that the judge should either dismiss the case or transfer it to district court. The Worcester County State's Attorney's Office, however, argued state statute provided exceptions allowing the case to be tried in circuit court, including that the penalty for such charges exceeded three years. Following the hearing, Judge Brett Wilson granted the defense's motion to dismiss the case, and the matter was immediately appealed.

In March, the Appellate Court of Maryland heard oral arguments from both the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Public Defender, Mailloux's legal counsel for the appeal. In an opinion issued

See APPEAL Page 13

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Appeal filed in Md. supreme court

Fatal crash in Bishopville last Sunday probed

Continued from Page 12

March 27, the appellate court reversed the circuit court ruling to dismiss over lack of jurisdiction.

“When the State filed the information in the circuit court to include offenses charged in Counts 9 through 17, which undisputedly arose out of the same circumstances as offenses charged in Counts 1 through 8, the District Court was divested of exclusive original jurisdiction in the criminal case, and the circuit court had exclusive original jurisdiction over all the offenses ...,” the opinion reads. “We, therefore, hold that the circuit court erred in dismissing the information filed in the circuit court on the ground that exclusive original jurisdiction lay in the District Court.”

During oral arguments this spring, Mailloux’s attorney, Assistant Public Defender Celia Davis, asked the appellate court to uphold the circuit court’s decision in her client’s case. She argued that while there were exceptions where the case could be tried in circuit court, the district court had “starting point jurisdiction.”

“The term exclusive original jurisdiction does not define where the case must be tried, it defines where the case starts ...,” she said at the time. “In fact, the state has not brought us any examples of cases

with these particular charges that started in the circuit court. They always start in the district court.”

While it initially appeared the case would continue in circuit court, Mailloux filed a petition with the Supreme Court of Maryland on April 29. The petition asked the state’s highest court to review the decision on the jurisdictional matter, which is noted as being a new legal issue never before considered by the Appellate Court of Maryland.

“Without analysis, the Appellate Court summarily concluded that ‘concurrent jurisdiction’ is an exception to exclusive original jurisdiction,” the petition reads. “The rationale is fundamentally flawed in that the Court equates the definition of ‘concurrent’ jurisdiction with ‘concurrent original jurisdiction.’ In addition, the Court’s analysis fails to consider the various types of jurisdictions that fall under the umbrella term of jurisdiction generally. Accordingly, this issue requires clarification from this Court.”

In a response issued May 13, the Office of the Attorney General asked the high court to deny Mailloux’s petition. The attorney general’s office argued a review was not necessary or in the public interest.

“While it is true that the specific

issue here had not previously been addressed by the appellate courts, not every issue of first impression needs a second look,” the response reads. “Indeed, the conclusion reached by the Appellate Court in this case is the only rational interpretation of the plain language of the relevant statutes. Given that the reported opinion of the Appellate Court is clearly correct, further review of this issue is unnecessary.”

Both the petitioner and the respondent now await a response from the Supreme Court of Maryland. Should the state’s highest court deny the petition, the appellate court decision stands. If it decides to hear the appeal, the Supreme Court of Maryland can either confirm or overturn the decision. How long the process takes remains to be seen.

(May 30, 2024) A local man died in a accident Sunday night.

On May 26, around 8:13 p.m., Worcester County Sheriff’s deputies responded to Back Creek Road in Bishopville for a single motor vehicle crash that resulted in the death of Harold J. “Bucky” Gray Jr., 56, who lived nearby. Gray, a 1986 graduate of Stephen Decatur High School, was a local horseman.

Members of the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office’s crash reconstruction unit responded to the scene and assumed the investigation. Anyone with information pertaining to the crash is asked to call Deputy First Class Chris Parr at cparr@co.worcester.md.us.

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CLUB INSTALLATION

Pictured, from left, are Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City President Bob Wolfing with newly installed Secretary Jack McLaughlin and Board of Directors member Jim Ulman. The officers were welcomed to their new positions at the club's May 1 meeting.

Snow Hill still dealing with impacts of ongoing silo fire

Crews slowly removing burning piles of corn from bin and extinguishing them

By Steve Green
Executive Editor

(May 30, 2024) Snow Hill residents continue to experience impacts from a simmering grain bin fire.

Though officials maintain air quality is not in unhealthy levels, residents of the county seat report a persistent odor within the town and last weekend a loud sound was heard from the feed mill.

In mid-May, Tyson Foods confirmed a fire was being maintained inside a silo containing corn. The facility has been closed to the public and roped off for the last two weeks.

Last Saturday around 4 p.m., a news release from the county reported Snow Hill residents likely heard a "loud pop" and noticed steam emanating from the top of the grain bin

"During firefighting operations at the grain bin fire, pressure from steam and combustion gases was released through sealed roof vents. The tarps that had been used to seal the vents inflated, popped, and broke

free," the county's news release stated." With the exception of one piece of lightweight tarp material that was carried by the wind, all debris from the event was contained within the established safety zone on-site. Emergency personnel from Worcester County and Snow Hill Fire Department were on-scene when this event occurred."

Officials acknowledged the "painstakingly slow and ongoing process being conducted by Tyson officials with support from the fire department and county staff." Officials reported crews were removing smoking piles of corn from the structure to reduce smoke in the town.

In a statement released Monday, Tyson wrote, "We are continuing to monitor a fire inside a silo at our Snow Hill, Maryland feed mill. During our efforts to safely extinguish the fire and remove corn from the silo, a minor explosion occurred. No one was injured. We are working closely with the local fire department and an on-site grain recovery team to ensure the safety of the community and to address the issue. Those in the area may continue to notice an odor coming from the facility while we work to safely remove all grain."

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Worcester Prep fourth graders Grace Tunnell and Tobi Blaska, District 1 semifinalists in the MML's "If I Were Mayor, I Would..." essay contest, are pictured. PHOTO COURTESY WORCESTER PREPARATORY SCHOOL

WPS students place in 'If I Were Mayor' essay contest

(May 30, 2024) Two Worcester Preparatory School students recently placed in the "If I Were Mayor, I Would..." essay contest sponsored by the Maryland Municipal League.

This year over 1,300 essays were submitted to the contest. WPS fourth graders Tobi Blaska and Grace Tunnell placed as semi-finalists in District 1, which covers Somerset, Worcester, Wicomico and Dorchester counties. The students are part of Kim Jankowski's fourth grade class at WPS.

Each year, fourth grade students enter into the "If I Were Mayor, I Would..." essay contest, and this year's theme was "Inspiring Leadership in Your City/Town/Community."

Students were asked to write an essay of no more than 275 words about what they would do to inspire leadership in their city, town or community, and describe a project they would undertake to make others want to help make their city, town, or community better.

The essay contest has educated over 50,000 students about municipal government and the role of the mayor over its 24 years. The contest remains digital to ensure one of the longest-running programs is accessible to any classroom environment.

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Taylor warns board about more resignations

Superintendent details planned administrative changes for next year

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(May 30, 2024) At the Worcester County Board of Education meeting last week, Superintendent of Schools Lou Taylor expressed concern about an unusual number of resignations as the school year wraps next month.

Multiple school-level administrative changes and resignations were announced countywide at the meeting. The personnel amendments come as the system continues to grapple with funding issues.

The Worcester County Board of Education announced new school-based administrative appointments

and transfers effective July 1, at the Tuesday, May 21, meeting.

“Something that I was taught by a former superintendent that sits on the board now is that one of the most important jobs you do as superintendent is name administrators,” Taylor said. “...I am very excited today about the people I have chosen to recommend to the board as new administrators here in Worcester County.”

In addition to the administrative changes, the board announced 12 new resignations at the May 21 meeting.

“I want to caution the board about one thing,” the superintendent said in light of the departures. “...We are losing people now because of our lack of salary compared to local counties around us. We normally do not have

this many resignations this time of year, and we usually have a list of people lined up to get in here. I have had the chance to talk to some of them, and they said, ‘We love Worcester County, but the same level of scale where I am at Worcester, I go to a neighboring county, and I am making \$8,000 to \$10,000 more a year.’ If we don’t get our salary package...we will lose more.”

The school system continues to grapple with budgetary dilemmas. At the May 14 meeting of the Worcester County Commissioners, the board approved a budget of \$1 million under its requested amount.

However, at the May 21 meeting, the commissioners voted 4-3 to reduce the previously approved budget by approximately \$1.4 million. According to a statement released by

Taylor, the change has altered the board’s budget to \$104.9 million for a total of \$2.8 million under the school system’s initial ask.

“This board and this executive team have a lot of hard work and rolling up our sleeves to figure out where our school system needs to go and what cuts we’ll have to make,” Board President Todd Ferrante said at the May 21 meeting. “I want to assure you that we take everything we do seriously and will have to reconvene at some point this week to discuss. We are certainly disappointed in the outcome of today’s commissioner meeting, but we will do what we think is best for the school system moving forward.”

Among the personnel changes is the reshuffling of assistant principals to different Worcester County schools.

Tony Bevilacqua, who was named the Worcester County Teacher of the Year in 2012 for his work at Worcester Technical High School and most recently served as principal and supervisor of instruction and mentoring at Somerset County Public Schools, will return to WCPS to replace WTHS Principal Tom Zimmer. LaVerne Cray is set to transfer from Showell Elementary School to the technical institute to step into the assistant principal role left by Wynnette Hansen. Zimmer and Hansen announced their retirement earlier this year.

Stephen Decatur Middle School Assistant Principal Mark Shipley is moving to SES to fill the position left by Cray. Berlin Intermediate School Kristy Clark will assume Shipley’s former role.

SDMS Principal Lynne Barton is retiring after the 2023-2024 academic year. Theresa Torpey, the facility’s current assistant principal and extended day administrator with 26 years of experience as a Worcester County educator, will fill the position.

Four new assistant principals, including Colby Haines, who has been with Worcester County since 2012,

See SCHOOL Page 18

Bill Gibbs Memorial Golf Tournament
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County school initiative detailed for board

LEADS program aims to inform current teachers, build lasting relationships

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(May 30, 2024) Worcester County Public Schools educators presented the Worcester LEADS initiative, dedicated to fostering a positive learning environment, at the Tuesday, May 21 WCPS Board of Education meeting.

Worcester County Public Schools Coordinator of Equity and Multicultural Education Michael Browne spearheaded the project, which was made possible by a COVID-19 relief grant. The educator was joined by Buckingham Elementary teachers Colby Haines and Staci Aperance to discuss the initiative at their school.

The goals of BES's Worcester LEADS, which stands for Leaders Engaging in Academic Development for Students, include increasing student engagement, promoting educational excellence, building relationships, and creating a positive climate, cul-

ture, and a sense of belonging for all.

Six faculty members at the elementary school are currently participating in the program, including counselor Staci Aperance, math resource teacher Liz Glover, first-grade teacher Susan Gray, kindergarten teacher Jessica Grimes, Music and Movement teacher Colby Haines, and pre-K-4 teacher Ali Semanchik.

"The team ranges from all different content areas, so the nice thing about developing skills is that they learn how to lean on each other's strengths and create meaningful events for our staff and students," Haines said.

According to the presentation team, to qualify, interested educators must participate, organize, or facilitate leadership activities assigned by their principal, which may include peer instructional support, peer observations, or collaborative planning, actively participate in a leadership book study with District LEADS facilitators, attend one approved regional leadership conference, and complete at least 50 hours outside their regular work hours to receive the Tier III

Stipend.

"With this project, we wanted to make sure that the individuals participating had a focus on student growth," Browne said. "As our educators advance with their skills, we look forward to transitioning that to our students, so they are also advancing. To be eligible to be a Worcester LEADS teacher, you must be a certified employee, have tenured status, and have an effective or highly effective evaluation rating from the previous school year."

The program at Buckingham is modeled after the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta, Georgia.

"Ron Clark Academy is a model school that has a vision for transforming classrooms, engagement, and culture," Aperance said, "It is like a teacher's Disney World."

Haines said the participating students and staff are placed in houses or teams, and the teacher leaders act as cheerleaders for their groups and the entire school community.

Additionally, thanks to community partnerships, the program includes house competitions, field days, and other fun events.

Haines noted that the program has increased attendance rates and improved the school's overall culture.

There are currently 21 Worcester LEADS county-wide. BES has six, Pocomoke Elementary has one, Showell Elementary has one, Pocomoke Middle School has two, Snow Hill Middle School has 1, Pocomoke High School has two, Snow Hill High School has two, and Worcester Technical High School has three.

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Veteran shares personal message for holiday

Memorial Day ceremony attracts big crowd to Ocean Pines for patriotic event

By Tara Fischer
Staff Writer

(May 30, 2024) Residents flocked to the Memorial Day ceremony at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines to honor fallen United States Military men and women with music, speakers, and demonstrations on Monday, May 27. “Memorial Day honors all who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our county,” Veterans Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore said in a press release issued by Ocean Pines Association Director of Public Relations and Marketing Josh Davis on May 21. “This year’s ceremony, as before it, will honor the brave men and women who served our country and lost their lives.”

Robert Smith, a U.S. Air Force Vietnam veteran and career member of the U.S. Army Reserves, was the keynote speaker for the event.

“For some of us, Memorial Day means something very personal, where you get to mourn a loved one or a family member that died during war times for their country,” Smith said in his address. “For others, it

means remembering and honoring our American military people, men and women, who died in the line of duty.”

The veteran said that both descriptions hold value to him, as he lost his father in World War II, his uncle in the Pearl Harbor attack, and his brother in the Vietnam War. Smith rounded out his speech by recognizing the importance of the holiday and honoring fallen heroes.

“My granddaughter was talking to me the other day...she said that her class just finished studying the history of Memorial Day,” he said. “So, I asked her what Memorial Day means to her. She said, ‘Memorial Day is for those who have fallen in the line of duty.’ There are 300 people standing here, and I guarantee you if I were to ask everyone that question, you would either have an answer close to these or one of your own that means something very special to you, as a veteran, a spouse, or a family member. In closing, I would like to read you my answer. ‘Memorial Day is a day to remember those who died while serving in the military in all wars.’”

The ceremony also honored local Gold Star families. These individuals have experienced the loss of an immediate family member in the line of



TARA FISCHER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

U.S. Air Force veteran Robert Smith discussed the significance of the Memorial Day holiday for him as his father died in World War II, his uncle in Pearl Harbor and his brother in Vietnam.

active-duty military service. According to Davis, the term originates from World War I, when houses would fly banners with a blue star for every close relative in combat. A gold star would replace the previous marking if the soldier had fallen.

Member of the Maryland East Chapter of the Ex-Prisoner of Wars Walter Webster presented a wreath to honor all POWs, former and current. A Purple Heart wreath was placed on the memorial grounds, and a rifle volley honored the fallen military men and women.

The National Anthem was sung by Stephen Decatur High School Senior

Trista Harner, the Delmarva Chorus Director Carol Ludwig performed “Some Gave All,” “God Bless the USA” was delivered by U.S. Army Green Beret Randy Lee Ashcraft, and the “Medley of Service Anthems” was vocalized by the Delmarva Chorus.

The OC Pipes and Drums performed “Amazing Grace,” and “Last Full Measure of Devotion” was sung by Glenn Mohr and St. Luke’s Contemporary Choir members. Snow Hill Middle School student Elliot Larsen read her poem “Unsung Heroes,” and to conclude the Memorial Day ceremony, the flags at the grounds were raised.

Leadership changes at schools

Continued from Page 16
were also announced. Haines will slide into the SDMS spot left by Torpey.

Leah James, the current Pocomoke High School Curriculum Resource Teacher, will act as the assistant principal at Snow Hill Elementary School. James is replacing Jennifer Howard, who is transferring to Pocomoke Elementary School as a counselor.

Jeff Postell, who entered the school system in 2021, will take the position of assistant principal at Buckingham Elementary School left by Quinn Swain. The school’s current administrator is moving to BIS.

Snow Hill Middle School teacher Kristina Salvarola is slated to transfer to Snow Hill High School as an assistant principal after Scot Tingle retires at the end of this year.

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WCDC hosting annual Bill Gibbs Memorial tournament

(May 30, 2024) The Worcester County Development Center is celebrating 50 years of providing service to adults with disabilities across the region at the nonprofit's annual Bill Gibbs Memorial Golf Tournament on June 11 at the Ocean City Golf Club.

This year's tournament, sponsored by Pam and Macky Stansell, is set to begin with registration at 12:30 p.m., and a shot gun start at 1:30, followed by dinner, awards and post play.

The Gibbs family and the Dough Roller organization will be a major financial supporter as they continue the legacy of the Dough Roller founder, father, and husband, Bill Gibbs.

WCDC was named the nonprofit of the year by the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore.

A registration form to golf or spon-

sor can be obtained by contacting Cecil Tull at ABC Printers at 410-213-2022, Jack Ferry at 570-956-4722, or visiting WCDC at 8545 Newark Road in Newark.

All proceeds from the golf tournament go toward client services. Donations help provide employment opportunities, residential services, day habilitation programs and community-based supports to adults who live with a disabilities in Worcester, Wicomico, and Somerset counties. All contributions are tax deductible in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code. WCDC is a 501(c)(3) corporation.

Those who are unable to participate but who would like to support WCDC, tax deductible contributions can be mailed to WCDC at P.O. Box 70, Newark, MD 21841.

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OLD-FASHIONED FUN ON FLOWER STREET



PHOTOS BY CHARLENE SHARPE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

A collection of photos here are from the annual Old-Fashioned Memorial Day Parade held along Flower Street in Berlin on Monday. The event featured dozens of parade entries including patriotic groups, dance teams and entertainers gathering together to observe the holiday.



Snapshots



STEVE GREEN/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



MEMORIAL SUNDAY SERVICE

The annual Memorial Sunday Service was held in the Town of Berlin last Sunday morning. Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall presided over the event, which included the presentation of colors and raising of flags by the honor guards from the American Legion Posts #123 and #231; songs by Teola Brittingham, chaplain of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #231; placing of the memorial wreaths by legion post and auxiliary officials; a reading to remember the honored dead; and many other featured events.



PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN CITY LIONESSE LIONS CLUB

CLUB SCHOLARSHIPS

The Ocean City Lioness Lions Club awarded five scholarships to Stephen Decatur graduating seniors at their recent meeting. Pictured, from left, are scholarship recipients Riley Nagler, Ella Gaddis, Simon Jain and Jackson Hersey, whose scholarship was funded by the West Ocean City Association. Not pictured are Saylor Amos and Foster Smith.



PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN CITY-BERLIN OPTIMIST CLUB

AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP DONATION

The Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club recently presented a \$1,000 check to the Worcester County Autism Support Group. Pictured, from left, are Optimist member Mindy Ouelett, Melissa Esham from the Autism Support Group, and Optimist Club President Christina Dolomount-Brown.



PHOTOS COURTESY WORCESTER PREPARATORY SCHOOL

HEAD OF SCHOOL DAY

Worcester Prep sixth grader Alden Durrell acted as Head of School on April 30. Head of School Day was a live auction item at the annual WPS Gala in March. Durrell (second row fifth from right) treated his classmates to a game of Capture the Flag in place of their last class of the day.

Opinion

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

OPA board needs no membership shakeup

Despite the ideas, goals, observations and the merits of the challengers in the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors election this year, it's difficult to find a real need for change in the membership of the community's ruling authority.

The absence of drama on the board and the relative peace that allows General Manager John Viola and staff to go about their business without having to look over their shoulders have produced good results for association members.

The association continues to enjoy financial stability courtesy of budget-beating returns from various aspects of operations, which appear to be doing well without whiplash-inducing directives from board members who, in the past, just "knew" how things ought to be done.

This isn't to say that the board and the administration have posted perfect scores in all areas, because that would be impossible to achieve in any circumstance, much less a community like Ocean Pines where diverse interests intersect, collide and compete for attention.

That's just life, and this board seems to accept that the best way to handle these diverging opinions and suggestions is via temperate discussion, rather than the high-volume debates of a few years ago.

Essentially, this is a boring group from a news perspective, and that's a good thing for residents. While some previous boards might have had more entertainment value — if big personality clashes, power struggles and loud disagreements can be described as such — the ability to generate headlines doesn't necessarily translate into smoothly run operations and winning financial performances.

And right now, judging from the monthly GM reports Ocean Pines Association business seems to be enjoying both these things, and that's a strong indicator of why change for the sake of change isn't warranted.

Letters

Commissioners need to reconsider

Editor,

(The following was sent as an open letter to Worcester County Commissioners.)

As a Worcester County Public School graduate who now is a parent of two children in Worcester County Schools, I am very invested in the future of our school district. I wish some of our County Commissioners could say the same.

I wanted to raise my family where the schools are consistently ranked highly in the state when it comes to testing, outcomes, and service. Until now, I've felt that would be my children's school career. But the growing salary gap between Worcester teachers and teachers in neighboring counties is taking a toll. For the past year, teachers have been talking about having to leave the County. Last week, a Dispatch article disclosed that some have already begun to do so. With the lowest salaries in the state, it's unlikely Worcester will be able to attract top quality replacements.

The saddest part of this is that it isn't necessary. For the past year, the Commission has told the school board, "We won't fund you because you didn't give us enough detail in your budget." So the board complied. Then the Commissioners said, "We don't like what you're spending money on." So the board explained their reasons. Then, the Commissioners raised everyone's hopes by saying the teachers would get their requested raise. A week later, they dashed those hopes. They said, "Teachers shouldn't get more than the county employees."

That would be fine if teachers had been getting as much as the county employees over the past few years. But they haven't.

Then the Commissioners said there is a budget deficit for next year. But there has

been a surplus for the past two years.

So come on, Commissioners, just be transparent, like you asked of the school board. Your public and social media comments have made it clear that you don't trust, don't respect, don't care about education professionals, parents, and students. You're looking for excuse after excuse not to give the school board the budget they requested. The only good thing about this is that you've made our community start paying attention to what happens in Snow Hill. We're watching—closely — and we're not happy.

I want my children to grow up feeling supported, encouraged, and in a safe environment for the duration of their education and I ask our elected officials to work WITH our Board of Education, NOT AGAINST them. It's a no-brainer for the future of our children and the county's economic health.

K. Grant
Bishopville

Dumbfounded over MDE messaging

Editor,

Have you ever read something that just made your jaw drop at the sheer idiocy of the writer? Loaded question, I know - I'm sure there are quite a few readers who believe that about my writing. However, I am utterly confident that I and others who are opposed to offshore wind will be proven correct.

The latest jaw-dropper comes from the Maryland Department of the Environment informing us of a Public Information Meeting concerning US Wind's application for the construction of the wind farm(s) off our coast. Apparently, US Wind needs an air-quality permit-to-construct since air quality is an "Environmental Justice" (EJ) issue, and the EJ score in the census tract impacted by the OSW Farm has

been shown to be 17.29 (whatever the heck that means - something about poverty rate and minority population rate and percentage of limited English proficiency). The notice doesn't tell us the area comprising the "census tract" but I'm guessing Worcester? I'm sorry, but air quality is an "Environmental Justice" issue? Did the State of Maryland employee who typed that notice do so with a straight face?

Speaking of Environmental Justice - have you heard of the lithium-ion battery storage facility near San Diego that caught fire on May 15, and as of May 24 was still burning? Firefighters have used, as of May 24, 5 million gallons of water attempting to control the blaze. Since California is drought stricken, and the fire itself emits dangerous levels of chemicals into the atmosphere, what do you think this fire and the attempts to extinguish it will do to the "EJ Score" of that area?

I wonder where the energy storage facility for the hundreds of turbines planned for our coast will be constructed? Will we be allowed to ask about that at the "public information meeting" which is scheduled for Thursday, June 13, from 5:30-8 p.m., at the Ocean City Convention Center (at least it's not in Salisbury).

I hope at this meeting citizens are allowed to ask about the wind turbines that have been destroyed by tornadoes in the midwest. The wind industry has repeatedly assured us that the turbines can withstand tornadoes, hurricanes, etc. Hurricane force winds can exceed the speed of winds from an F2 or F3 tornado, and usually are sustained over hours if not days.

I also hope we are allowed to point out that parts of Europe are backing away from wind (and solar) energy - both land based and off-

Continued on Page 23

BAYSIDE GAZETTE

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The Bayside Gazette is published weekly by FLAG Publications, Inc.
11934 Ocean Gateway, Suite 6, Ocean City, Md. 21842.
The Bayside Gazette is available by subscription at \$90/year or \$45/6 mos.
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Pine Tones Chorus spring concert set for church June 9

(May 30, 2024) At 3 p.m., June 9, the Pine Tones Chorus will celebrate its 40th anniversary with a spring concert at the Community Church at Ocean Pines at Route 589 and Beauchamp Road.

Admission is \$20 and payable at the door, cash or check.

The concert, "Gershwin and Friends," features several medleys of Gershwin songs, with each segment reflecting its own musical theme. One medley, for example, combines songs such as "Fascinating Rhythm" and "I Got Rhythm." Another joins "My Love is Here to Stay," "Embraceable You," and other Gershwin songs with soft, gentle themes.

Soloists, familiar to local audiences, will include soprano Evonne Lee singing "Summertime," and tenor Paul Yannuzzi singing "I Got Plenty O' Nuttin'." Both songs are from Gershwin's folk opera Porgy and Bess.

Broadway and choral musician, Mac Huff, arranged the Gershwin series of medleys. He has also preserved the decades-long favorites of fans of Irving Berlin and Cole Porter.

Additional variety in the program See PINE Page 25

Letters

Continued from Page 22

shore. Finland is turning to nuclear power and it appears Sweden is following. Finland has discovered that the power generated by nuclear is much less expensive and complicated than either wind or solar. In addition, England's Prime Minister is now allowing oil and gas exploration/development in the already developed offshore Wind Farms.

Can we also point out the absolute inefficiency of our government in handling all things green? Remember the \$7.5 billion allocated over two years ago by the Biden Admin for building tens of thousands of EV charging stations along US Highways by 2030? Did you know that, to date, only eight have been installed?

Remember the March 25 public information session held by MDE (in Salisbury) regarding US Wind's ap-

plication for use of our harbor in Ocean City? Remember how suddenly, right before the meeting, without notice, US Wind changed its plans to cut in half the number of boats, etc. and the size of the pier by about half, thereby rendering the prepared comments of attendees useless? Did you know that on May 2, US Wind again revised its plans to restore the pier and the rest of the plans to pretty much its original size? How can they do this? Why on Earth is that allowed? Can we ask at the June 13 meeting, since, to date, the Maryland Department of the Environment is refusing requests from our mayor and our state senator and our state delegate, as well as our congressman, to hold a hearing on the changes?

Did you know that many communities on the East Coast are fighting offshore wind - basically the "little

guy" vs. Big Green and our own governments, state, federal and in some instances local. I am grateful that our governments (both Ocean City and Worcester County) and our congressman are dead set against offshore wind and are in the fight with us.

Please join us on June 13 at 5:30 pm at Ocean City Convention Center with your questions and comments.

Carol Frazier
Ocean Pines

Is flip-flop in summer season really a surprise?

Editor,

Last week a county commissioner switched up their vote. People were surprised and disappointed. Apologies were rendered. Why? Isn't this the time of year for flip-flops.

James Hughlett
Berlin



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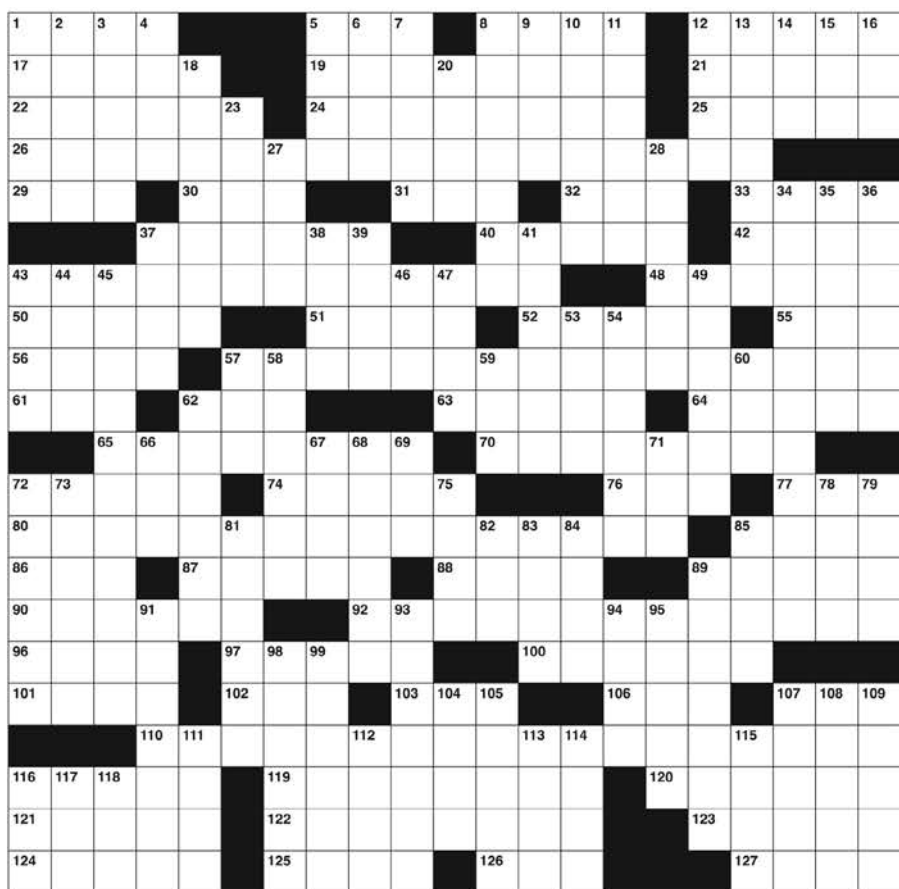
Puzzles

HOLD YOUR DOZE

BY CHRISTINA IVERSON AND KATIE HALE / EDITED BY JOEL FAGLIANO

Christina Iverson, of Ames, Iowa, is an associate puzzle editor at The New York Times. Katie Hale, of London, is an assistant crossword editor for The Los Angeles Times. This is their fourth Sunday collaboration for the magazine. As mothers of young children, they often draw on themes from real life — this puzzle was inspired by a congested toddler.

- ACROSS**
- 1 End of the line?
 - 5 Agnus ____ (motif in Christian iconography)
 - 8 French companions
 - 12 Hubris
 - 17 Lead-in to marine or marathon
 - 19 The house, to a blackjack player
 - 21 1993 Beck single
 - 22 Break up the band, say
 - 24 Charades, but not chess
 - 25 Certain wedding role
 - 26 "If that missing house title ever does show up..."
 - 29 Grunting ox, by another name
 - 30 Poetic preposition
 - 31 Show with the Church Lady and Target Lady, for short
 - 32 Bill in a till
 - 33 Change for a 32-Across, perhaps
 - 37 Having a studios appearance
 - 40 Treats that Paul Hollywood and Prue Leith picked as runner-up to Doritos for "best snack in America"
 - 42 Tiniest amount
 - 43 Question from someone with a lot of outstanding debt?
 - 48 "No promises..."
 - 50 Biblical king of Judea
 - 51 Spice Girl Halliwell
- DOWN**
- 2 Luau greeting
 - 3 "No worries"
 - 4 Pants, informally
 - 5 Biblical verb
 - 6 Olympic event with masks
 - 7 Giveaways in some common scams of the 2010s
 - 8 "And Still I Rise" writer
 - 9 Drink for which Pliny the Elder recorded a recipe
 - 10 Con
 - 11 Coming from both sides
 - 12 Sum thing
 - 13 Fragrant additive to beauty products
 - 14 It's like "-like"
 - 15 Kaitlin Olson's role on "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia"
 - 16 Do wrong
 - 18 Kosher
 - 20 Sign
 - 23 Wide receiver Beckham Jr.
 - 27 Certain arm muscles, in brief
 - 28 Not accept a refusal
 - 34 Caption for an absent student, say
 - 35 Morgan Stanley subsidiary
 - 36 Official OKs
 - 37 "Then again..." in text messages
 - 38 Video-game company that published Frogger
 - 39 Goes in a hurry
 - 41 Trust in
 - 43 Give a sharp hit
 - 44 Widely admired person
 - 45 Prey of polar bears
 - 46 ____ Lanka
 - 47 "You have a face for radio," for one
 - 49 Cause to rise
 - 53 Fusses
 - 54 Perform very well, in modern slang
 - 57 Makeup of a tiny twisting ladder
 - 58 "Keep going!"
 - 59 Tuna type
 - 60 Do wrong
 - 62 Nincompoop, more vulgarly
 - 52 Oversight
 - 55 Over which announcements about pep rallies might be heard, for short
 - 56 One of many in the Colosseum
 - 57 Teacher's instruction in a class on pointillism?
 - 61 Grass
 - 62 "Bye Bye Birdie" actress ____-Margret
 - 63 Salt-N-Pepa hit with the refrain "____, ____ ba-doop"
 - 64 Weaknesses
 - 65 How one might punnily define "Saran" or "sari"?
 - 70 Cheeky
 - 72 Follows a recipe direction
 - 74 Actress McDonald
 - 76 Underwater steerer
 - 77 DHL competitor
 - 80 Stevedore's complaint?
 - 85 Champagne specification
 - 86 Whitman of TV's "Parenthood"
 - 87 Chocolate mint brand
 - 88 Paper pack
 - 89 Like a redhead's temperament, it's said
 - 90 South ____, river through Denver
 - 92 "No need to find a professional illustrator!"
 - 96 Name that means "night" in Arabic and "purple" in German
 - 97 Change form
 - 100 Utensil drawer compartment
 - 101 What "Eat" stands for in the mnemonic "Never Eat Soggy Waffles"
 - 102 Post-op locale
 - 103 NASA shorthand for a spacewalk
 - 106 Gym rat's focus
 - 107 ____-weekly
 - 110 Tour guide's remark at the challah factory?
 - 116 Out the ____
 - 119 "Hmm, hard to say..."
 - 120 Fictional dog with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame
 - 121 Cry of delight
 - 122 Supporter of the arts?
 - 123 Lazy river conveyances
 - 124 Question of ownership
 - 125 Checked the license of, informally
 - 126 Farm home
 - 127 Spreadsheet button



- 66 Matcha, e.g.
- 67 Like cutting the line
- 68 Makes sense
- 69 For
- 71 Where a golf ball sits
- 72 Golf-ball indentation
- 73 Home to Firenze
- 75 About 40% of a hectare
- 78 Knitting stitch
- 79 Small, painful bump
- 81 Lack of energy
- 82 What context is, in a saying
- 83 Country that becomes a language if you remove its last letter
- 84 "My turn"
- 85 Info in an "About Us" section
- 89 Frosting alternative
- 91 They might cover your back
- 93 Stored for the night, as a bus
- 94 One of the Starks on "Game of Thrones"
- 95 Hatches, e.g.
- 98 Masters of underwater camouflage
- 99 Sent express
- 104 "Parlez-____ français?"
- 105 Some godmothers
- 107 National dish of the Philippines
- 108 Member of an isolated colony, once
- 109 Meeting for two
- 111 A "waking dream," per Aristotle
- 112 Senate staffer
- 113 Little annoyance
- 114 Sacred
- 115 Promises to pay
- 116 URL starter
- 117 Gratified groan
- 118 Metaphor for a house with young children, perhaps

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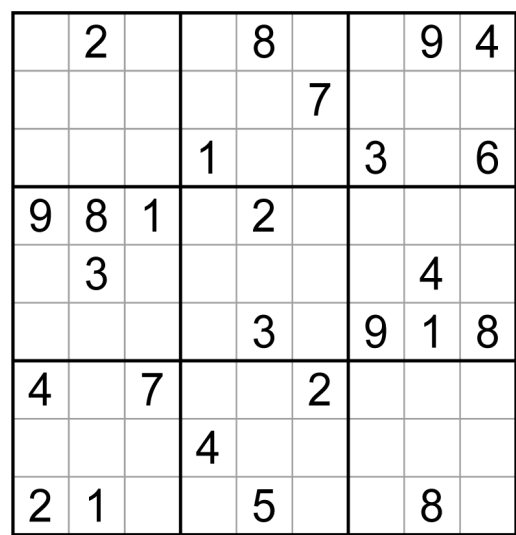
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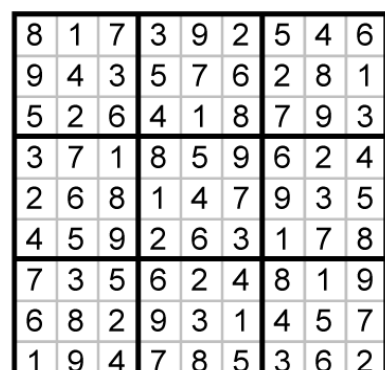
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© Puzzles by Pappocom
HARD - 36

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



Answers to last week's puzzles



Pine Tones Chorus to perform next month

Continued from Page 23

is provided with other selections, such as “Second Hand Rose,” a favorite from Streisand, “You’ve Gotta Have Heart,” and “Route 66” from Manhattan Transfer, among others.

The Pine Tones Chorus is made up of about 35 singers from Ocean Pines, Ocean City and nearby areas. The chorus is under the direction of Jenny and Pete Anderson. The Pine Tones Chorus has been entertaining local audiences in the Ocean Pines and Ocean City areas since 1984.

For additional information, call the Chorus President, Dave Holloway at 410-641-5672, or Jenny Anderson at 443-655-5636

Funding for Pine Tones Chorus activities comes from admissions, sponsorships and grants, for example, from the Worcester County Arts Council, Maryland State Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. The organizations are dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive.



The Pine Tones Chorus is pictured performing during a concert in 2022.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



OPEN HOUSES

May 30 - June 6



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 Noon-3pm	12346 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	3BR/2BA	Single Family	starting at \$239,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Friday Noon-3pm	12346 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	2BR/1BA	Single Family	starting at \$179,900	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Friday 5-7pm	304 S. Heron Gull Court, Ocean City	4BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$1,399,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	13905 Lighthouse Avenue, Ocean City	3BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$849,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 12:30-2:30pm	36937 Creekhaven Drive, Selbyville	4BR/2.5BA	Single Family	\$759,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 3-5pm	121 81st St. #706 Rivendell, Ocean City	3BR/3.5BA	Condo	\$780,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	11602 S. Hills Drive, Berlin	5BR/4.5BA	Single Family	\$1,849,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Friday 3-5pm	9 Drawbridge Road, Ocean Pines	4BR/3BA	Single Family	\$439,000	Monica McNamara/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 1:30-3:30pm	11000 Coastal Hwy., #1703, OC	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$539,900	Monica McNamara/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 10am-1pm	11000 Coastal Hwy., #1703, OC	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$539,900	Monica McNamara/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 1:30-3:30pm	14 68th St., Sea Lodge, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$439,900	Monica McNamara/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10:30am-12:30pm	103 Mumfords Landing Rd., Ocean Pines	4BR/3.5BA	Single Family	\$659,900	Sandy Dougan/BHHS PenFed Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	18 Briarcrest Drive Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$424,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 3-6pm	16 138th St. #301 Island Breeze, Ocean City	3BR/2BA	Condo	\$679,900	Terry Miller/Coldwell Banker Realty

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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., May 30

STORYTIME: PRINCESS TEA PARTY

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Wear your prince or princess outfit and enjoy some tasty treats and create a crown. Learn what royalty is all about while practicing your best tea time manners. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014

INTERVIEW WITH A HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR

Attend at any Worcester County Library or Zoom in to join the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as they interview a Holocaust survivor, 11 a.m. www.worcesterlibrary.org

FIRESIDE CHAT

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 3 p.m. A popular and entertaining book discussion featuring books you want to share. Come and find your next read. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ZUMBA

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 for each class. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BEACH SINGLE 55 PLUS MEET AND GREET

Thursdays - Nick's Kitchen + Bar, 14410 Coastal Hwy., Ocean City, 4-6 p.m. 215-385-4993, BeachSingles.org

Fri., May 31

PBR OCEAN CITY CLASSIC

Hugh T. Cropper Inlet Parking Lot, 809 S. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 6 p.m. A chance to see talented, professional bull riders going head-to-head with powerful bucking bulls. Tickets: <https://www.etix.com/ticket/v/28079/ocean-city-inlet>.

MAHJONG CLUB

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

Sat., June 1

PBR OCEAN CITY CLASSIC

Hugh T. Cropper Inlet Parking Lot, 809 S. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 6 p.m. A chance to see talented, professional bull riders going head-to-head with powerful bucking bulls. Tickets:

<https://www.etix.com/ticket/v/28079/ocean-city-inlet>.

CRAFTY SATURDAY: CAMP OCEAN PINES

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Join in for fun camptastic crafts. For all ages. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ASSATEAGUE ADVENTURES

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

FURNACE TOWN SUMMER MUSIC SERIES

Furnace Town Historic Site (Nassawango Iron Furnace), 3816 Old Furnace Road, Snow Hill, 5-8 p.m. Music by Bryan & The Barn Owls with their Americana tunes. Beer, wine, burgers and dogs available. Admission cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids 5-15 years. www.furnacetown.org/events

FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

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

Sun., June 2

PBR OCEAN CITY CLASSIC

Hugh T. Cropper Inlet Parking Lot, 809 S. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 2 p.m. A chance to see talented, professional bull riders going head-to-head with powerful bucking bulls. Tickets: <https://www.etix.com/ticket/v/28079/ocean-city-inlet>.

ARTS DAY IN THE PINES

Veterans Memorial Park, Race Track Road, Ocean Pines, 12-4 p.m. Spring fundraiser featuring an Artisan Marketplace, a Kids' Zone, bounce houses and kids art activities, "Art League's Got Talent" performance, food, drink. Free admission. artleagueofoceancity.org, 410-524-9433

NATIONAL CANCER SURVIVORS DAY CELEBRATION

Berlin Fire Hall Conference Center, 220 N. Main St., 1-3 p.m. Join in to celebrate survivors, inspire those recently diagnosed and provide support to families. RSVP requested: Jill McGuire, 410-629-6313.

BERLIN FARMERS MARKET

Sundays through Sept. 8 - Pitts Street, Commerce Street and Main Street, Berlin, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Featuring more than 35 farmers, food cultivators, bak-

ers, distillers, seafood, meat, eggs and more. <https://berlinmainstreet.com/farmers-market/>

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES MEETING

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

Mon., June 3

STORY TIME: LIBRARIANS FAVORITES

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Listen to some of Ms. Savannah's favorite stories, songs and a craft. For ages 0-5 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

WARHAMMER

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 4 p.m. Play Warhammer, a table-top miniatures game of strategy. Use the library's armies or bring your own. Tutorials and demos available. All levels welcome. For ages 12-18 years. 410-641-0650

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

FOAM MARBLING PAPER

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5 p.m. All supplies provided. Using shaving cream and paint to create marbled paper. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BRIDGE

Mondays - Ocean City 50plus 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., June 4

STORY TIME: 'BIG AND SMALL'

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

PLAY TIME

Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 301 Market St., 10:30 a.m. A variety of activities and toys. Play and socialize with other families. For ages 2-5 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

BABY TIME

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Songs, rhymes and stories. Stay after to socialize with other families. For ages 2 years and younger. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

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

MASTER GARDENERS PLANT CLINIC

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

RIGHT WHALE FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Get ready for World Oceans Day by watching a documentary about endangered right whales. Followed by a focus group discussion, for adults, as part of a graduate student project. 410-524-1818

TUESDAY CRAFTERNOON

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Make a bouquet of roses out of ribbons. All materials provided. Registration required: 410-641-0650. www.worcesterlibrary.org

ANIME CLUB - SUMMER SESSIONS

Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 4 p.m. Special showings of anime episodes, play bingo and win prizes. For ages 13-16 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

OC KNITTING CLUB

Tuesdays - Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m.

LEGO MASTERS CHALLENGE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Join in for a LEGO challenge event. All

Continued on Page 27

Collaborative art project on display within library gallery

By Charlene Sharpe
Associate Editor

(May 30, 2024) A new display at the Berlin library highlights the work of two local artists.

Through June, work by Worcester County Arts Council artists Kathy Gibson and Becky Simonds—as well as pieces they collaborated on — will be on display in the second-floor gallery at the Berlin branch of the Worcester County Library.

“It’s a unique presentation,” Simonds said.

Visitors to the latest display in the library will see art by Gibson on one wall, art by Simonds on another wall, as well as a wall featuring Simonds’ work on one side and Gibson’s work on another with a joint piece in between. The longtime friends initially started painting together when they realized how much they liked to experiment. Gibson was painting with oil and cold wax while Simonds was painting with acrylic and gel. Combina-

tions create a layered, malleable effect that Gibson says lends itself to abstract work.

“We both have similar styles and we enjoy working together,” Gibson said.

“There’s a lot of laughing,” Simonds said.

This is the first time they’d displayed their work in a joint show. They believe visitors will be able to look at the collaborative work next to the singular work and see how the personalities of each artist are revealed. An art enthusiast who visited the gallery last week told the artists she was amazed that they’d been able to collaborate so easily.

“I find that amazing,” she said. “Art is so personal.”

Gibson said the key to working together was that neither artist took things too seriously.

“It’s play,” she said.

Simonds agreed.

“We like experimenting and play-



CHARLENE SHARPE/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Artists Kathy Gibson, left, and Becky Simonds, right, are pictured in front of their collaborative display at the Berlin library.

ing with light and transparencies,” she said.

The artists are hopeful that the public will stop in and take the chance to appreciate a unique joint

exhibit.

The gallery is on the second floor of the Berlin library. The Gibson and Simonds work will be on display until July 2.

Calendar

Continued from Page 26
materials provided. For ages 6-12 years.
410-208-4014,
www.worcesterlibrary.org

SAFE BOATING COURSE

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 6-9 p.m.
Held June 4, 5 and 6. Cost is \$20 for all three evenings. Register: Barry Cohen, 410-935-4807, CGAUXOC@gmail.com.

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

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., June 5

MOVIES ON THE BEACH

Carousel Oceanfront Hotel & Condos, 11700 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 8:30 p.m. Enjoy a free movie on the beach every Wednesday evening, weather permitting. This week features “Elemental.” Bring chairs, snacks, warm clothing. Schedule:
www.ococean.com/things-to-do/free-family-fun.

BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP

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

BABY TIME

Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Songs, stories and giggles. For ages 0-2 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

ADULT CRAFTERNOON: ART ROCKS!

Worcester County Library - Ocean City

Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. See what you can create with rocks, a canvas and your imagination. Limit 30. First come, first served. 410-524-1818,
www.worcesterlibrary.org

FAMILY RAINBOW CRAFTS

Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 3 p.m. Show your support during Pride Month by making a flag, button or sticker. Families and teens may drop in any Wednesday in June from 3-5 p.m.
410-632-3495,
www.worcesterlibrary.org

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP

Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 5-6 p.m. The group provides discussion and education on the topic of diabetes. Patti Yocubik, 410-641-4217,
pyocubik@atlanticgeneral.org

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

John H. “Jack” Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center, 9707 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 6-7 p.m. Monthly support group for caregivers to share similar challenges and rewards of providing care for adults who have a serious illness. Nicole, nfry@atlanticgeneral.org,
410-641-2626

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.kiwanisofpoc.org

ONGOING EVENTS

2025 KIWANIS LOTTERY TICKETS ON SALE

On sale every Saturday morning at the Ocean Pines Farmers Market from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. One \$20 ticket is good for all 365 drawings in 2025. Benefits the youth of the community.

CREATIVE KIDS CORNER

Ocean City library, 10003 Coastal Hwy., during June. Come grab an art kit to create at the library or take it with you. Most supplies are included. For ages 0-5 years and 6-11 years. 410-524-1818,
www.worcesterlibrary.org

PIRATE ADVENTURE MURAL

Pocomoke library, 301 Market Street, Pocomoke City, from June 17 through August 24. Every week will feature a different craft to add to your pirate ship mural. For ages 6-11 years and 12-18 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

STREAM STATION

Berlin library, 13 Harrison Ave., during June. Visit the STREAM Station to take part in crafts and activities exploring science, technology, reading, engineering, art and math. Take a craft kit home too. For ages 0-5 years and 6-11 years.
410-641-0650,
www.worcesterlibrary.org

OCEAN CITY-BERLIN ROTARY CLUB

Meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at Don’s Seafood & Chop House at the South Gate of Ocean Pines, 6 p.m. ocerlinrotary@gmail.com

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410-289-3166

Classifieds 410-723-6397

EXECUTIVE POSITION AVAILABLE
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Maintenance Tech IV


The Town of Snow Hill is accepting applications for the position of Maintenance Tech IV

PAY RATE: Hourly, TBD commensurate with qualifications/experience. Full-time, health insurance, retirement, vacation, sick, personal and holidays.

JOB SUMMARY: Under the direction of the Public Works Supervisor, this individual operates and trains on non-commercial and commercial weight vehicles (over 26,000 pounds); performs semi-skilled and skilled labor work; uses hand and power operated tools, operates, and maintains various small gas powered, electrically driven, and/or hydraulically operated machinery and equipment; assists in the repair of streets and parks, as necessary; Ability to apply acquired knowledge to increasingly varied and complex tasks; Ability to perform duties independently and as part of a team and complete assigned tasks by the established deadlines.

High school graduate or equivalency plus 7 years of experience in all phases of maintenance, CDL Class B required. Visit www.snowhillmd.gov for Job Description and Employment Application.

TO APPLY: To request an application form, send resume with salary requirements to: execadmin@snowhillmd.com or Town of Snow Hill, Michelle Beckett-El Soloh, P.O. Box 348, Snow Hill, Maryland 21863



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