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The
Brigantine
TIMES

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COMPLIMENTARY

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Million Dollar Milestone

By Tricia Cosgrove

The Brigantine Polar Bears are having their 24th Annual New Year's Day Plunge on Monday, January 1, 2024. After 24 years, we will reach the who serve and benefit the

wounded veterans and their families. The Fisher House Foundation Is one of the top non-profits in the country. This amazing charity returns 97% of the funds they receive to the

soldiers and families with almost 100 Fisher Houses built in the United States and Europe.

We cordially invite you to attend the noon plunge on the 16th and 17th Street beaches in

front of the Municipal Pavilion and Brigantine Beach Lifeguard Headquarters in Brigantine.

Festivities begin at 10:00 with music, dancers, food trucks and Bear Wear sales.

Beach permits for 4x4 vehicles are waived during the beach festivities till 1pm. Entrances are on 12th Street South and 38th.

Veterans Ceremony at 11:00

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City Projects Coming Soon

by Tom Morgan

There are a few things happening in Brigantine that may be of interest to you. First up is the City's plan to install 2 electric car charging stations on municipal property for public use. The way it will work is the city will allow a vendor to install, at their expense, two charging stations on city property. People using the charger will pay through a credit card

system at the site and the city will receive a percentage of the collected fees.

All maintenance of the chargers will be covered by the vendor. City Manager Tiger Platt explained, "We have applied for a grant through the Board of Public Utilities for a Level II charging station to be installed at the Community

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Stockton's Sweet Visit

On a recent Friday, Debra Sommers, from Stockton University visited Brigantine Community School to teach Mrs. Seaman's and Mr. Gatto's scholars about Stockton's Red Maple Syrup Project. During her presentation, Sommers taught scholars about how this project came to fruition.

Stockton University was granted money from the

USDA in order to experiment and explore a possible red maple syrup industry in NJ. Scholars learned that the tapping process happens when the trees go dormant and the climate turns cold. The tapping is halted in late winter, as soon as the first buds begin to appear on the tree.

Scholars were amazed to

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Brigantine, 'Safe School'

The Brigantine Public School District was named 'Safety District of the Year' by the Atlantic and Cape May Counties Association of School Business Officials Joint Insurance Fund.

Each year, the Atlantic & Cape May Counties Association of School Business Officials Joint Insurance Fund (ACCASBO JIF) celebrates

member school district successes at their Annual State of the Joint Insurance Fund Dinner. The dinner meeting is organized to reward and recognize the extraordinary efforts of member districts for their commitment to provide a safe and healthy environment for students, staff and community by actively participating in

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Sean Kardon toured the island this week with his camera getting pictures of some of the Christmas light displays. This home is in the 1200 block of East Shore Drive. Thanks to Sean for his contribution to the Times' Christmas edition! See more of his pictures inside today's paper.



Brigantine was named 'Safety District of the Year' by the Atlantic and Cape May Counties Association of School Business Officials Joint Insurance Fund. Here Superintendent Glenn Robbins with School Business Administrator Jonathan Houdart and School Board President Frank Koch Jr. pose for a picture with the prestigious award.

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Atlantic County Clerk's Newsletter

by Joseph J. Giraldo

Now that all of the things that had to get done by the end of the year, and the Holiday Season is officially over... Happy New Year. It's now time to get back to the everyday grind and plan for all that will take place in 2024! Yes, I said 2024. Time surely doesn't stop for anyone or anything. As 2023 wound down there were many new Bills that were proposed in Trenton. Some will become law and some went by the way side. Once they are all sorted out and either signed or not into law by the Governor we can begin to see what if any changes will have to be made

during the 2024 election cycle. Bills of interest were possibly moving school board elections back to April, same day voter registration, allowing 17 year olds to register prior to a General Election and several funding bills that either help or reimburse for election expenditures. The new Legislature will not be sworn into office until the second week of January. So the Governor can either sign or veto any of the Bills up to that date. It appears that some of these Bills appear to be introduced often and go nowhere and some are new and gain approval quickly. No matter the

case if the Bill becomes law and its signed by the Governor we are all made aware of when the change or new law take affect. Some of the pending Bills had start dates for 2025 or 2026, thus giving time for all the changes to take place. One in particular has to do with how an unaffiliated voter will be handled during the primary election cycle. In 2023 the County Clerk sent letters to all of the unaffiliated voters slated to receive Vote By Mail Ballots if they wanted to declare a party affiliation. If they did they were mailed a VBM, if they chose not to they were not

sent a VBM for the Primary. In years prior an unaffiliated voter received both a Democrat and Republican Ballot and could return one or the other. The method (Law) that was used last year worked well because only about 2% of unaffiliated voters chose to select a party in the Primary. This not only saved money it cut down on the confusion that voters face. There are many elections that will take place throughout the County this year. This year we will see a municipal election in the City of Ventnor, several Fire District Elections as well as a Presidential Primary and a

General Election with a presidential race. As always, it's important to vote and be a part of the system. Have your voice heard. If you're not registered you have plenty of time to register. This can be accomplished by going to www.atlanticcountyclerk.org. If you want to vote my mail or opt out from Voting By Mail it can all be found on our website. If you have any questions you can always contact our office at 609-625-4011. Lastly, I am always available to speak to any organization about the work of the County Clerk's Office.

School

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risk management programs.

Rewards were earned by members who reduced the number of accidents by focusing on local safety efforts. Utilizing ACCASBO JIF safety services, districts build and maintain responsive internal accident reporting systems. Member districts are acknowledged for their hard work with recognition plaques and monetary awards.

Brigantine Public School District earned a total of \$8,000

and was recognized as 'Safety District of the Year' for the district's ongoing contribution to safety efforts. Brigantine Public School District embraces the value of safety and risk management, recognizing the importance they play in fostering a safe and productive learning and working environment.

In all, twenty-six (26) member school districts were recognized and received awards totaling \$108,000. The ACCASBO JIF is a public entity

that is owned and controlled by its 28 Member Districts. It is not an insurance company, and is monitored by the NJ State Department of Banking & Insurance. The State of New Jersey allows public entities to collectively pool their resources to insure for property, liability and workers' compensation coverages.

The ACCASBO JIF was formed in 1991 to reduce the cost of risk so that more money would be available for educa-

tion. Member Districts have saved tens of millions of dollars and returned \$8,864,907 in the form of dividends to their

schools for textbooks, supplies, tax relief, technology and new programs.

BrigantineTimes.com



A festive poster for a New Year's Eve party. It features large, 3D gold numbers '2024' on a dark background with falling gold confetti and stars. A round clock face is integrated into the '0'. Below the numbers, the text 'NEW YEAR'S EVE' is written in a bold, serif font, followed by 'Entertainment By Beth Tinnon' in a cursive script. At the bottom, event details are listed in a sans-serif font.

NEW YEAR'S EVE
Entertainment By Beth Tinnon

Send off 2023 in style at the VFW
Doors Open @ 7 PM • Music Starts @ 9 PM
Advance Tickets \$20 • At Door \$25
Includes 1 Cocktail, 1 Champagne Glass at Midnight & Food

Call (609) 266-9813 for more information
121 31st Street South • Brigantine NJ • 08203



A poster for a VFW New Year's Day party. It features the VFW logo at the top, followed by the text 'NEW YEARS DAY' in a large, stylized font. Below this, the event title 'Post Party of the Polar Bear Plunge' is written. The poster includes photos of the musicians, Jay Gentile and Aaron Dewald, and a photo of a person in a polar bear costume. Event details like music times, a drawing, and food availability are listed. The Fisher House logo is at the bottom right.

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.
121 31st St S, Brigantine, NJ 08203 (609)266-9813

NEW YEARS DAY

Post Party of the Polar Bear Plunge

Music by
Jay Gentile
1 pm to 4 pm
&
Aaron Dewald
4 pm to 7 pm

50/50 Drawing

Food will be available

FISHER HOUSE
HELPING MILITARY FAMILIES