

Cape May Star and Wave



159TH YEAR NO. 52 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, December 25, 2013 50¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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Couple hurt in explosion sues two businesses

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS – The attorney for Jim and Evelyn McCarty, injured when their house blew up Nov. 7, has filed suit against the couple's propane gas supplier and a contractor who converted the house to natural gas.

Shanin Specter of Kline and Specter in Philadelphia said a lawsuit was filed in Cape May County Superior Court naming South Jersey Fuel and Propane and Shore Guys Heating and Air Conditioning, LLC, seeking unspecified damages.

The lawsuit also lists an unnamed company, referred to as the ABC Corporation 1-5, because the McCartys did not know the names of the corporations or other entities involved in the installation or inspection of the natural gas lines in the McCartys' home or of the propane lines and equipment.

According to Specter, in April the McCartys made the decision to convert their home from using liquid propane gas (LPG) to natural gas after the South Jersey Gas Company ran lines down E. Atlantic Avenue, where the couple resides. They contacted their LPG supplier, South Jersey Fuel and Propane and arranged to disconnect the LPG, while contracting with Shore Guys to do the conversion.

According to the complaint filed in Superior Court, the LPG gas lines from the storage tank were cut underneath the house and remained connected to the storage tank. The complaint says Shore Guys failed to "lock out" or "tag out" the propane tank to prevent it from expelling fuel. The LPG tank was also not removed from the property.

The complaint says that on Nov. 6, the McCartys, both 67, could not get their gas fireplace to work and they asked a neighbor to help. The neighbor saw the propane tank's valve was in the closed position and turned it to open. Gas flowed from the severed pipes under the McCartys' home where it started to build up. On Nov. 7, when Jim McCarty turned on the water for ashower

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Oh, Little Town of Bethlehem

Above, the First Assembly of God Church on Seashore Road staged 'Bethlehem Village,' Dec. 21-22 on the church grounds. The public was invited to this free event, which featured live actors playing the roles of townspeople in Bethlehem at the time of the birth of Christ. See more photos on page A11.

Sailboat wrecks on CM inlet jetty

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

WILDWOOD CREST – A 52-foot sailboat crashed into the jetty on the Wildwood Crest side of the Cape Inlet on Friday, which has caused some environmental concerns, according to Jack Moran of Cape May Sea Tow.

Moran said around daybreak, the circa-1955 wooden sailboat was caught in the surf and slammed into the jetty. He said a Good Samaritan reported the crash and all three passengers made it safely off the vessel by climbing onto the jetty and making their way to the beach.

According to Moran, the vessel is uninsured, which meant the Coast Guard would have to hire a service such as Sea Tow to remove it.

"I had to ride out there on the quad and take a look. We couldn't really get close with a boat – it's in such an awkward spot on the surf," he said. "The boat's a lost cause. The hull is cracked, there's substantial damage. But, it's getting beat up the longer it sits there."

Moran said the Coast Guard would be working fast to have the boat removed, as the fuel tank contained 250 gallons of



Photo courtesy of SeaTow

Above, a 52-foot sailboat lies floundering in the surf after striking a stone jetty at the Cape May Harbor. The boat eventually broke apart in the surf.

diesel fuel. He said the fuel had already begun leaking out along the jetty on Friday afternoon.

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CM residents CRS discount rises

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Cape May residents will receive lower flood insurance premiums after being declared one of 17 communities in the state to reduce its flood hazard risk through the FEMA Community Rating System (CRS).

Cape May was acknowledged for its efforts on Wednesday, Dec. 18 at the Sea Isle City Elementary

School along with seven other communities that also reduced their flood hazard risk, which were Avalon, Cape May Point, Longport, Margate, Ocean City, Sea Isle City and Upper Township.

There was also a ceremony held at the Long Beach Township Courtroom on Dec. 16 honoring the other nine communities – Bay Head, Beach Haven, Berkeley Township, Hazlet, Lavallette, Long Beach Township, Mantoloking, Middletown

Township and Stafford Township.

Cape May Mayor Ed Mahaney said the CRS is used to determine the flood insurance premiums for the residents and businesses in each community. He said as of Oct. 1, the city's rating went from a Class 8 to a Class 6, which means individual property owners would go from having a 10 percent premium discount to a 20 percent dis

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave
Above, Chris Henke and Ryan Krill, are the moving force behind the success of Cape May Brewing.

Cape May Brewing's Krill, Henke are Men of the Year

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Our local elected officials like to point out that, throughout the year, there are a lot of people who do good things in the community.

Other than saving a life, what better thing could some one do besides provide a full time job with benefits to a local resident.

As has been mentioned a number of times at Lower Township Council meetings, Cape May Brewing has done this more than once... in fact, they have added nine full time employees since they opened their doors on 2011. For this, the Star and Wave is naming Ryan Krill and Chris Henke (Business) Men of the Year.

Krill, who has been the face of the operation, along his partners – dad Bob Krill and Henke – had an idea in 2010 to open a brewery in Cape May County. Krill said as lifelong visitors to Cape May County, they noticed the development of wineries going on all over the county and wondered if there might not be room – and a need/desire – for a brewery.

Krill grew up in Chadd's Ford, Pa., and his family has always had a second home in Avalon where he said they spent almost every weekend – year round. Krill attended Villanova University, where he majored in Business but switched over to Philosophy. He met Henke, an Engineering major, through mutual friends. The two graduated and Krill went out to Orange County, Calif., where he worked in commercial real estate development. Henke got a job with Lockheed Martin working with satellite design, performing systems analysis.

"Satellites get very hot and very cold at the same time," Henke said. "Today, I am heating liquids and cooling them down."

Krill later applied to a master's program at NYU, which brought him back east. He started working with a private equity firm in New York City. He said he and Henke were becoming introduced to home brewing. Henke's first batch of beer was an IPA. Krill and friends made a batch of wheat beer at home. He said they filled the tub with ice and then introduced a hot container beer, which cracked the porcelain finish. Later, and they started becoming aware of craft beer brewing. On one of their many trips to Cape May County they wondered if there was a niche for a craft brewery here.

"We put together a small budget (\$15,000) and said, 'What's the worst that can happen?'" Krill said.

Each man put in a third of the start up money, but Bob acted mainly as an investor. Ryan Krill and Henke started the day-to-day operations, with Krill handling the business end and Henke taking care of the production. Henke had the time and inclination to get involved in the production aspect of the business, having been laid off from his Lockheed Martin job and having done work for some smaller companies. When they opened their doors in 2011 they were producing 12 gallons of beer at a time. They produced 62 barrels of beer, about 1,900 gallons, in their first year.

After picking up their first commercial customers, Cabanas, then Lucky Bones, the partners knew they had to expand their operation. In just a couple of months they expanded from the 12-gallon system to a 45-gallon system, and they used that system until the end of the summer. It was already clear the 45-gallon system wouldn't be sustainable.

They had been to Annapolis and Chris asked

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