

Cape May Star and Wave



160TH YEAR NO. 7 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, February 12, 2014 50¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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MCKEOWN AND PENNINGTON SIGN WITH D-1 SCHOOLS

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Flood insurance battle is 'hand to hand' combat

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – U.S. Rep. Frank LoBiondo (NJ-2) called it, “hand to hand combat,” trying to provide affordable flood insurance premium relief to coastal New Jersey residents; however, he is very optimistic moving forward despite a tough ongoing battle.

LoBiondo was the keynote speaker at the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce’s flood insurance forum at the Wildwood Golf and Country Club, Feb. 7, attended by nearly 200 people. LoBiondo discussed legislation intended to delay the implementation of increased flood insurance rates along with supplementary legislation regarding the Biggert-Waters Act of 2012. LoBiondo said he is hoping for good news this week regarding legislation that could alleviate property owners’ concerns.

LoBiondo said he and Sen. Robert Menendez sponsored a bill that passed the upper

chamber with bipartisan support. He said a repeal of Biggert-Waters could render the federal flood insurance program inoperable.

LoBiondo said he considers relief efforts that have taken place recently in the Senate and the House to be a step in the right direction. He said the House and Senate bills would not be identical, but have the same overall goal.

“The Senate bill was not a repeal of the Biggert-Waters Act, which is a real catch,” LoBiondo said.

He said while there is bipartisan support for providing insurance premium relief to coastal residents and residents in flood zones around the nation, he said there is also bipartisan support opposing relief efforts in states such as Montana, Idaho and even New Jersey.

“They’re asking, ‘Why should we be subsidizing anyone who lives at the shore?’” LoBiondo said.

He said a number of home-

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

You go girl! Lauren Holden breaks scoring record

Above, Lauren Holden, center in photo with the big smile, is congratulated by her teammates for breaking the career scoring record for girls basketball. Holden broke the old record of 1,333 points on Saturday, Feb. 8, finishing the game with 1,357 career points. She was honored before Monday’s games against Hammonton, when she added another 36 points to her total. Holden, a junior, is expected to break the school scoring record of 1,666 points, set by boys basketball’s Charles Johnson, sometime next season.

Local business owner helps restore the ‘Roann’ – a 1947 Eastern-rigged dragger

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
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LOWER TOWNSHIP – After eight years of hard labor, a completely restored 1947 Eastern-rigged dragger called the “Roann,” made its way to New Bedford, Mass., catching the eye of every fisherman whose path it crossed.

Steaming along to the New Bedford Working Waterfront Festival, fishermen and boaters were astonished by the historic vessel, waving their hands and blowing their horns at the Roann and its crew.

“It was the icing on the



Wayne Whalen

cake,” said Wayne Whalen, who logged 2,500 hours rebuilding the 60-foot fishing boat. “At the festival, we had around 1,200 people on the boat in two days. Everyone was interested in getting a closer look. There’s not many of these boats left. Pretty soon, this could be the only one left.”

Whalen, 69, who owns Custom Sheet Metal, a fabricating shop in Lower Township, was one of five volunteers who collectively put in approximately 12,000 hours rebuilding the vessel from the ground up.

“Everything was redone,” he said. “The only thing we

were able to save was the keel.”

Jim Fox, who owned a small boat yard, Dick Wing, a former professor at Rhode Island University, and retired engineers, Jim Collins and Dick Burke, all volunteered time rebuilding the fishing boat. Whalen said Wing passed away before the project was finished. Every month during the eight-year restoration, Whalen would make the 600-mile round trip between Cape May and Mystic Seaport maritime museum in Connecticut, where the boat was acquired in 1997.

“They didn’t do anything

with it until about 2005, when we rebuilt the whole boat,” Whalen said. “The previous owner sold the boat to get a steel boat. Now, in the fishing industry, this boat is pretty obsolete.”

Because original parts for the classic fishing vessel were difficult to come by, many pieces had to be custom made. Whalen’s expertise in metal work became essential to the completion of the restoration.

“I made all the ventilators, all the fuel tanks – I made everything that was rotted or bad or destroyed,” Whalen said.

Whalen said each month

he went to work on the boat, the team would figure out the specs and dimensions of the parts needed for replacement. He would then return to his metal shop in Lower Township, craft the parts and take them back to Mystic Seaport when they were finished.

Whalen heard about the project on a trip to Maine where he took a weeklong lofting course at The Wooden Boat School. His instructor told him about the Roann at Mystic Seaport.

“My cousin had two boats similar to this in Cape May

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Cape May City Council to introduce ‘Event House’ ordinance

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
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CAPE MAY – City council is preparing to introduce the new “event house” ordinance at its Feb. 18 meeting after discussing the drafted document last week.

An advisory committee recently finished reviewing a draft ordinance regarding “event houses” in late January and submitted it to council for its review and approval.

According to a definition written by City Solicitor Tony Monzo, event houses

are dwelling units marketed and used for hosting large gatherings, such as weddings, receptions, reunions and corporate retreats, but are not lived in regularly. Monzo drafted the ordinance based on the recommendations of the committee as well as public input.

If council adopts the ordinance following the public hearing on March 18, event homes would only be allowed in the C-3 commercial zone. An annual \$300 license fee will be required for each event house owner to pay for inspections to determine

occupancy limitations, and if they meet fire and public safety standards.

Licenses would be issued and renewable for the licensing year beginning May 1 and ending the following April 30. A \$75 permit fee for each event is also listed in the draft ordinance. Each event would require the submission of an event notification form to the city clerk as well, so local authorities are aware of their location. The ordinance states each event house can host up to three functions per year; however, none would be allowed to be held between

July 1 and Labor Day.

During council’s discussion of the ordinance, former mayor Jerry Gaffney said not allowing events during this time period “cuts the heart out of the entertainment season.” Mayor Ed Mahaney disagreed and said the majority of the large functions in the past were held in the spring and fall seasons. He said by not allowing these events between July 1 and Labor Day, it also cuts down on the already problematic summer parking issues in Cape May.

The draft ordinance states occupancy limits are to be

posted inside the event house at a location to be approved by the city’s code enforcement officer and an off-street parking plan shall be in place. Monzo said 30 guests or more qualifies as a function. The ordinance limits indoor events to a maximum of 50 people and outside functions to 125.

For outdoor events, property line requirements were established for stages, seating, restrooms, tents and other event equipment, which would be 20 feet from the rear yard and 10 feet on each side yard.

The committee made a last minute change to the draft ordinance allowing a transitional period or grandfathering of events already arranged by a binding contract at rental homes prior to Jan. 1, 2014. These events do not have to be in the C-3 zone, but still undergo the inspections prior to the event, with the exception of off-street parking regulations.

Monzo said a dwelling unit that is used for such functions and special events by the owners or tenants who

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