

Cape May Star and Wave



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HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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Milam gives up Assembly seat, Andrzejczak steps in

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

VINELAND – In an announcement the First Legislative District Democrats dubbed as “historic,” Assemblyman Matt Milam, who represented the First Legislative District since 2008, announced his immediate resignation.

Democrats met at the Cosmopolitan restaurant Feb. 28, where Milam said he would step down to focus more attention on his trucking business.

Replacing Milam in the

Assembly will be Middle Township resident Robert Andrzejczak, 26, a U.S. Army sergeant who served in Iraq.

Andrzejczak graduated from Lower Cape May Regional High School in 2004. The following year he joined the army and had basic training in Georgia for four months and then was stationed in Hawaii for six months.

In 2006, Andrzejczak was deployed to Iraq and was stationed in Riyadh and Hawija for 15 months. He was deployed again in 2008 to Bayji, Iraq. Two months into Andrzejczak’s deployment in

2009, he was a rear gunner in a convoy. As he sat in a turret, he saw a man pull an anti-tank grenade from a chicken coop and hurl it at the truck. The blast shattered Andrzejczak’s left leg. He crawled his way to the rear of the truck and checked on the other soldiers riding with him.

Andrzejczak was flown to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and began recovering. He appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show in a segment focusing on his physical therapy and story of recovery.

He was awarded the Bronze

Star with Valor, Purple Heart, an Army Good Conduct Medal, a National Service of Defense Medal, a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, an Iraq Campaign Medal with a Campaign Star, an Army Service Ribbon, a Combat Infantry Badge and two Army Achievement Awards.

Andrzejczak works in the fish market at the Lobster House in Lower Township.

“I am going to fight for this district just as hard as I fought for our country. I am humbled and honored to be part of this team,” Andrzejczak said.

At the Vineland event,

Senator Jeff Van Drew introduced Andrzejczak to the crowd of Democrats from Atlantic and Cumberland counties.

“Bob is a real American hero. He risked life and limb for our country. I am honored to have him as a part of our team. No one is more deserving or will work harder than Bob,” Van Drew said.

Democratic Assemblyman Nelson Albano also welcomed Andrzejczak.

“Bob is going to make an amazing assemblyman. I couldn’t be happier about him joining our team,” Albano

said.

Milam cites business reasons for resignation

In a phone interview, Milam said his abrupt departure from politics was made for business reasons.

Milam, 51, owns Foundry Service Corporation, a Vineland-based trucking company his father founded in 1969 that employs 95 people.

“I had to step down. I had to

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Lower Township Dept. of Public Works and leaves

By BETTY WUND
For the Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Many residents do not know all the Department of Public Works does said Gary Douglass at the Monday’s Lower Township Council meeting.

Douglass was asked to present a review of their services to the council and the public.

Leaf management by homeowners is a concern, Douglass said. Homeowners should place their leaves at the curbside not in the road. They should not be put them out until the date the homeowner’s street is on the schedule. Douglass said there are problems when leaves are left for weeks and storms move the leaves to block drains. With 1,400 drains, the township can not pick up leaves during a storm, Douglass said. Homeowners are asked to keep drains clear during rainstorms.

“We do ask the public to do this,” said Douglass. “A ticket can be issued for leaving the leaves in the street blocking drains and damaging a neighbor’s property.”

“Code enforcement has to be on top of that,” said Mayor Michael Beck. “We don’t have the manpower

to unblock 1,400 drains. There is the misperception that one part of town is always first to have leaf pick up. That is not a true statement. We switch them. If you are first, the leaves may not be all down. If you are last, sometimes it is after Christmas,” Douglass said.

“We have to take the crews off task to do debris cleanup. Being three days late (in the schedule) is not bad,” he said.

Beck suggested that reverse 911 alerts would inform the residents of conditions.

Douglass said grass pick up is part of the job of Public Works, but it should be bagged. Mulch is made from the branches and tree parts picked up. It is available for free to residents. It saves the town money by eliminating hauling these materials to another facility and paying to leave them there, said Douglass.

Public Works is also responsible for the streetlights. If one is out a resident can call or notify the department on the website. Providing the location of the site including the number on the pole is recommended. The department has an agreement with

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Philadelphia Flower Show ‘brilliant’



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, just one of the many floral displays at the Philadelphia Flower Show being held March 2 through March 10. The show is the nation’s oldest and largest, and features displays from the epic to the nearly microscopic. See more photos on page A10.

P.A.L. Comedy Night fundraiser set to return to Convention Hall

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Have you heard this one? A guy walks into Convention Hall. You’d a thought he’d a seen the thing.

At any rate, Convention Hall is gearing up for the return of the P.A.L. Comedy Night Show on Friday, March 15.

“Doors open at 7 p.m., comedians come on at 8:30 p.m. This gives people the opportunity to socialize,” event organizer Officer Tony Genaro said.

Genaro, who is now in his

eighth year bringing comedy to Cape May to support Police Athletic League (P.A.L.) and other programs, said he is happy the show is returning to Convention Hall.

“I’m definitely excited about being in the new Convention Hall,” Genaro said.

That’s where the show started, but it had to be moved after the building was declared structurally unsound in 2009. The show had to go on, so it was moved to the West Cape May Fire Hall, where it continued to enjoy success. However, Convention Hall will offer a bigger venue and,



hopefully, bigger laughs.

Genaro got the idea for hosting a comedy night when he needed a fundraising idea for programs he was involved with.

“At the time I was trying to raise money for D.A.R.E., P.A.L. and Cub Scouts, and it seems like a lot of people were doing beef and beverages,” he said.

Genaro said he thought a comedy night might be a way to get people out – something other than the typical beef and beer.

“I always liked stand-up comedy so the idea appealed

to me,” Genaro said. “And rather than have a bunch of raffled prizes, I thought we could have comedians and entertainment and people seemed to like it.”

“That being said, we will have raffled prizes as well,” Genaro said.

In the first two years, Genaro used a different company to get the comedians. Somebody local gave him information about hiring comedians for the show, and Genaro said, admittedly, the comedians weren’t great.

The next year, Genaro was contacted by Johnnie

Lampert, a comedian who also runs Headline Entertainment, which books comedians for events. He sent an email to P.A.L., and said he had worked with police and fire departments to do comedy night fundraisers.

According to Genaro, Lampert came down and did the first show featuring Headline Entertainment comics. He said it gave Lampert the opportunity to see the town and the type of crowd the show draws.

“It helped him book the

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