



House of the week

Real Estate Resource



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Page B1



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Van Drew makes it official

Switches to GOP, pledges his 'undying support' to president

By ERIC AVEDESIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Jeff Van Drew met with President Donald Trump at the White House on Thursday, Dec. 19, and officially switched his party affiliation from Democrat to Republican.

A lifelong Democrat who served as Dennis Township's mayor, Cape May County freeholder and state assemblyman and senator before his election to Congress last year ended speculation that he would change parties.

"I believe that this is just a better fit for me. This is who I am," Van Drew told reporters at a White House meeting with Trump. "It's who I always was but there was more tolerance of moderate Democrats, of Blue Dog Democrats, of conservative Democrats, and I think that's going away."

Van Drew pledged his "undying support" to Trump and the two shook hands.

"I'm endorsing him," Trump told reporters.

Vice President Mike Pence and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) also expressed support for Van Drew.

"It's a very big deal because he's going from the majority to the minority, and it normally doesn't go that way," McCarthy said.

Van Drew said he met with the chairman of a local county Democratic Party who told him not to vote against impeachment.

"I said, 'What do you mean I can't vote against impeachment?' He says, 'You can't vote against impeachment. You will not...' I have eight counties in my district. 'You will not get the line. You will not get the county. I will do everything to prevent that from happening, and everything to destroy you,'" Van Drew said. "And it kind of hurt because, for years, I have given everything that I could to my people and my district."

He said when he was in the state Senate, he worked on two bills — one to display "In God We Trust" in public and private buildings and another to allow the American flag to be flown "wherever you wanted to, however you wanted to, as long as it was

See Van Drew, page A2

Local businesses thrive by offering something not available online, at the mall:

Personal Service

ON THE CAPE

Specialty items, service and loyalty

By RACHEL SHUBIN
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Winter shopping at the shore is hard to beat with the diverse store selection and outstanding customer service, which no online shopping experience or big-box store can surpass.

Cape May County is home to many stores, run by local people who enjoy getting to know their customer base. Many say shopping local not only helps the owners but boosts the economy in general.

For Sunset Beach Gift Shops owner Larry Hume, shopping during the holidays is all about personal connections. For 39 years, the Hume family has operated their stores with the help of 10 family members.

"We are always here. We work hard and the interpersonal relationships that happen make all the hard work much easier," Hume said. "You can ask any small-business person, [we] don't just work 40 hours a week. If you didn't really love what you do, we wouldn't do it for the hours we work."

Sunset Beach Gift Shops sell a mixed array of locally made items and souvenirs for

See Cape, page A10

Rachel Shubin/STAR AND WAVE

Charlotte, Larry and Donna at Sunset Beach Gift Shops, run by the Hume family for 39 years in Cape May Point.



IN OCEAN CITY



Eric Avedissian/STAR AND WAVE

David Coffey, manager at B&B in Ocean City's busy downtown on Asbury Avenue.

A commitment to customers

By ERIC AVEDESIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

OCEAN CITY — Ocean City has a thriving downtown, with approximately 100 businesses across multiple blocks on Asbury Avenue. The local businesses thrive because they offer an alternative to malls and the impersonality of online shopping.

The local businesses offer unique items,

quality customer service and a personalized shopping experience.

And, if you look up in one of the longtime businesses on the avenue, you can see a Cessna 150 airplane and the Volkswagen Beetle bolted and chained to the ceiling.

The airplane and upside down cars bring curious customers into B&B on

See Ocean City, page A7

IN UPPER TOWNSHIP



Bill Barlow/STAR AND WAVE

Dana Wilson in front of her Marmora business, Yes She Can!

Succeed by doing more

By BILL BARLOW
Special to the Star and Wave

MARMORA — It's possible to buy a bra in any number of places: Online mega-retailers, big-box stores, specialty chains and small businesses such as Yes She Can! in the Wayside Village shopping center.

More difficult, according to owner Dana Wilson, is finding the right bra.

"When people ask what I'm selling, I tell them 'com-

fort and confidence,'" she said in a recent interview. It's been two years since she opened her shop in a tiny, standalone building in the shopping center. Before that, she had a mobile fitting business, traveling to her customers' homes. This summer, she moved across the parking lot to the former Hallmark store, which is larger than her previous location.

See Upper, page A8

ON THE MAINLAND

Accommodate everyone and even hem pants for free



By ERIC AVEDESIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

SOMERS POINT — Carol Dodd, owner of The Hub in Somers Point, said her store offers something big box retailers don't: personalized service.

"We have friendly service, we accommodate everybody, we order products when it's necessary. We still shorten pants for free. We've become family to everyone," said Dodd, who manages The Hub with her husband, Fred.

Eric Avedissian/STAR AND WAVE

From left, Karen Jones, Carol Dodd and Peter Bretton of The Hub in Somers Point.

Pearl and Richard Lichten started The Hub in Pleasantville in 1954. The store got its name because its location on Main Street made it a retail hub. Back then, The Hub was an Army and Navy store and sold durable uniforms and footwear.

"It started as the main artery in Pleasantville where Dick Lipton would supply Carharts to other stores. They would order so much and give it to the other stores if they needed it," Dodd said.

The Lichtens sold the store to Marvin Altman and Bob Atlas in the 1970s before Fred Dodd purchased it in 1982.

"My husband Fred Dodd bought The Hub from Bob Atlas.

See Mainland, page A9

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