



Volleyball, wrestling teams preparing to start

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House of the week

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167th YEAR NO. 11 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021 \$1.00

Outside dining, open container rules extended

City Council expected to allow practice to continue for season

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council was expected last night to extend permission for outdoor dining and open consumption of alcohol.

The rules, which pertain only to specific areas of the city, originated last summer as a way to help struggling restaurants at the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

During a virtual council meeting March 2, councilman Chris Bezaire said he held discussions with Police Chief Dekon Fashaw on public consumption of alcohol. Bezaire said he spoke with some owners of restaurants serving alcohol and several council members.

"I want to reiterate the premise behind the open consumption of alcohol when it was first introduced last year was to support the local businesses," he said. "It was to allow the businesses that didn't have seating, that couldn't maintain the levels of service they had because of restrictions due to COVID, to still serve the public and to allow the public to walk around those specific areas with open containers, so that would allow

these businesses to still have some form of income."

Bezaire said a customer could purchase an alcoholic beverage from an establishment on Beach Drive and walk on the Promenade or purchase a drink from an establishment on Washington Street and walk around the mall.

He said it was not the intent of council for persons to walk down residential streets with open containers of alcohol they brought from home.

"The intent was not to have three couples walking down from their rental with a cooler and open containers down to the beach to hang out because that's what is allowed," Bezaire said.

The state's lifting of restrictions allows an establishment with any class of liquor license to serve open containers of alcohol on a takeout basis, he said.

Fashaw said the city's current open container allowance seems to work well. He said police could control those carrying open containers from their hotel or residence, but it was more difficult if they are coming

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Van Drew excoriates paper over critical guest column

By STAFF REPORTS

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — U.S Rep. Jeff Van Drew held a press conference March 15 claiming he received a death threat from a member of the media.

Van Drew said while he was in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 28 at 8:03 p.m. his wife received a voicemail on their home phone from a man who identified himself as John McCall, a longtime member of the New Jersey Press Association (NJPA) and an unpaid contributor to the Ocean City Sentinel.

Van Drew said McCall in the voicemail said, "I would swear to your demise, your demise as a politician, and I believe that you personally are a degenerate. As a member of the New Jersey Press Association, I will do everything in my power to ensure that you are deposed if not dead. Anything I can do to basically get you out of office, I will do. You are a traitor Jeff Van Drew and you deserve the fate of traitors."

Death threats have become more and more common especially for those who are in Congress, Van Drew said.

"What makes this death threat especially despicable and troublesome is that it comes from a member of

the media who followed up his death threat with a hate-filled editorial in which he doubled down on the threats and graphically pondered what it would be like to sexually assault my wife and this was printed in the newspaper, in the Sentinel-Ledger," he said.

Van Drew read excerpts from a March 10 Ocean City Sentinel guest column entitled "Van Drew's Nightmare...Police Come Calling" which states Ocean City police went to McCall's residence. Van Drew acknowledged he called Capitol Police after receiving what he called a death threat.

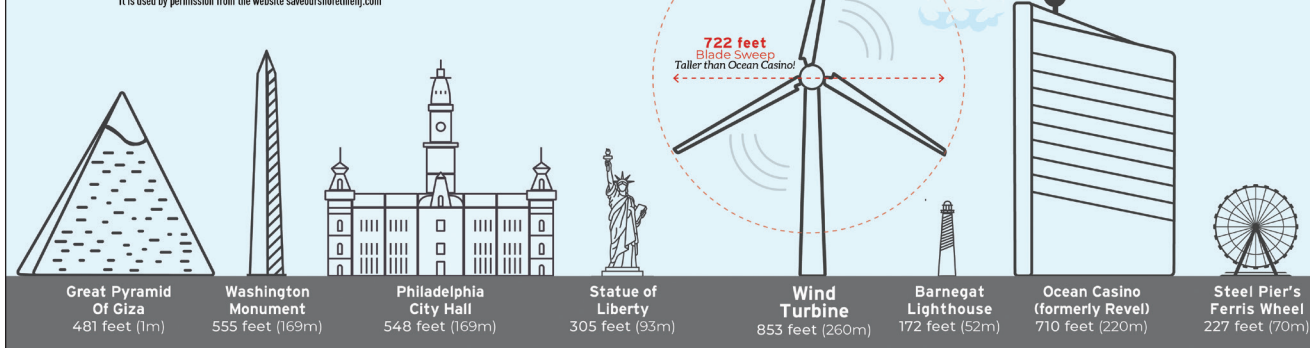
In a Jan. 13 Ocean City Sentinel guest column entitled "Hold Trump Loyalist Officials Accountable," referring to Van Drew switching from a member of the Democratic Party to the Republican Party, McCall states, "this is treason and the penalty for treason is execution. That applies to the great and the small, to presidents, congressmen and small-town councilmen."

In addition, McCall stated "should conscientious critics take a cue from the armed Republican rioters, storm his house, smash everything, violate his family

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This is part of a graphic by the group, Save Our Shoreline NJ, showing the height of the proposed wind turbines in the Ørsted Ocean Wind farm compared to other structures.

It is used by permission from the website saveourshorline.com



Group opposes wind farm

Argues they are not clean, green or economical

By DAVID NAHAN
Cape May Star and Wave

OCEAN CITY — Organizers and supporters of a group fighting planned wind farms off the coast of southern New Jersey warn residents their communities could be next.

"We realize it's not just our little area," said Tricia Conti of Ocean City, one of the founders behind the group with the website saveourshorline.com. "We need to protect our entire shoreline."

Conti, interviewed last week, said when she started a Facebook group in September her mantra was, "A wind farm is coming to a beach near you." That was when she started researching Ørsted's Ocean Wind project proposing up to 99 wind turbines on a plot 15 miles off shore that will be visible on the horizon from north of Atlantic City to Stone Harbor. Since then she learned of another proposed wind farm, Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind, in a similar-sized plot of some 186,000 acres just north of the Ocean Wind project.

Conti said these projects, still in the design and approval phase, could set the stage for wind farms up and down the coast. Once parameters for a project get established and approved, those parameters set the stage for everyone, she said, likening it to zoning, that once a rule becomes acceptable, it becomes the norm. Her group believes if these wind farms get established, that makes it easier for others to be built up and down the coast of New Jersey.

Suzanne Hornick, who heads the Ocean City Flooding Committee in Ocean City, said her group is backing Save Our Shoreline NJ. She has been outspoken about flooding issues in the resort and is putting the wind farms in her and her group's sights.

"We're just a nonpartisan group of everyday people from all walks of life and all political persuasions that truly care about this for a gazillion different reasons, mostly

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The port of Cape May-Wildwood is the largest commercial fishing port in New Jersey and ranked 14th for pounds landed and 10th in value for all ports in the United States.

Fishing industry expresses concerns about possible changes to ecosystem

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The commercial and recreational fishing industries are viewing a potential project that would erect as many as 99 wind turbines 15 miles offshore with a wary eye, expressing concerns about changes to the "cold pool" and inability to harvest scallops and transit the wind farm area.

At lot is at stake. In 2018, the port of Cape May-Wildwood, which is the largest commercial fishing port in New Jersey, landed 101 mil-

lion pounds of seafood worth \$66 million. This port ranked 14th in pounds landed and 10th in value for all ports in the United States.

On Jan. 28, the Science Center for Marine Fisheries (SCMEFIS) published a study entitled: "Little Known on How Wind Farms Affect Critical MidAtlantic Ocean Feature." It notes "while not often in the spotlight, an oceanographic feature known as the 'cold pool,' which stretches from Massachusetts to North Carolina, is critical for the health of many marine species."

The study reviewed exist-

ing literature on how wind farm construction affects ocean environments in Europe, where most offshore wind farms have been built, and lays out what can be learned from the European experience and what aspects about potential interactions remain unknown.

"Spanning much of the Mid-Atlantic Bight, the cold pool is a layer of cold water just beneath warm surface water, extending to the ocean bottom that forms every spring and lasts until the fall. Its annual appearance is a

See Industry, Page A5

Sierra Club: Where was the pushback against polluting power plant, pipeline?

By DAVID NAHAN
Sentinel staff

OCEAN CITY — If opponents of wind farms 15 miles off the coast of southern New Jersey are worried about the impact wind turbines will have on the tourism economy, fishing and the environment, why didn't they ever speak up about the pollution from the B.L. England coal-fired electricity-generating plant sitting right across the bay in Upper Township?

Jeff Tittel, director of the New Jersey Sierra Club, asks that by way of pointing out what he views as the hypocrisy of people who are against green energy.

"Where were these people when you had a dirty coal plant polluting Ocean City? We fought that plant since 1998," Tittel said. "We helped get them closed. We went after them under resource review as a major source of pollution. Where were these people then? It's OK to get a dirty coal

plant, a diesel plant spewing particulate matter and pollution into Ocean City? They didn't seem to have a problem with that."

Tittel said the Sierra Club went to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) back in 1998 because the owners had upgraded the plant and violated new source review provisions in the Clean Air Act. He said the company expanded the operation without cleaning

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Shore Medical Center, a member of the Penn Cancer Network Presents

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