

Cape May Star and Wave



160TH YEAR NO. 14 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, April 2, 2014 50¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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USCG MEMBER ON ARMED FORCES B-BALL TEAM

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LoBiondo addresses local, national issues in Ocean City

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

OCEAN CITY — U.S. Rep. Frank LoBiondo weighed in on various issues — ranging from national health care to the local real estate market and the often-contentious climate in Washington — during the Ocean City Regional Chamber of Commerce's meeting March 20 at the Flanders Hotel.

LoBiondo, who is seeking his 11th term this November, said Congress had a "titanic struggle" securing emergen-

cy supplemental appropriations for Hurricane Sandy relief.

The House of Representatives in January 2013 passed three components of a \$60 billion Hurricane Sandy disaster-relief plan. The block grants provided \$17 billion for Hurricane Sandy relief, including \$5.4 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide aid to individuals to rebuild, and \$33.6 billion for long-term rebuilding efforts.

"That's going to be a big

break for taxpayers in the 2nd Congressional District of New Jersey," LoBiondo said.

According to LoBiondo, after Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans in 2005, the National Flood Insurance Program was \$25 billion to \$30 billion in the red.

The Biggert-Waters Act, passed in 2012, required FEMA to perform a cost-benefit analysis and other studies before opposing increases on flood policy rates. LoBiondo said FEMA did not perform the analysis and moved forward with "unacceptable"

increases.

The House on March 4 voted for the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 (H.R. 3370), which reforms some aspects of the Biggert-Waters Act. The new act provides retroactive refunds for homeowners with large flood insurance-rate increases.

He thanked mayors who weighed-in with him on the flood-insurance reform, and Sen. Robert Menendez for bringing the issue to the U.S. Senate's attention.

"It's a common-sense,

bipartisan bill and it's fiscally responsible," LoBiondo said. "We think that FEMA will have the instructions of implementation that will clarify any ambiguity on their part."

A \$125 million project to remove traffic signals from the Garden State Parkway in Cape May County at Shellbay Avenue, Stone Harbor Boulevard and Crest Haven Road and replace them with interchanges began in 2013 and is currently underway, LoBiondo said.

The New Jersey Turnpike

Authority awarded a construction contract to the Richard E. Pierson Construction Co. of Pilesgrove Township, Salem County. The project is slated for a 2015 completion.

"There'll be a little disruption with it, but I think ultimately it's going to be really good news for us," LoBiondo said.

He criticized the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, commonly called Obamacare, calling its implementation "problematic."

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave
Above, Deana Martin, daughter of legendary singer/actor Dean Martin stands by a poster announcing her show in Cape May.

Cape May announces 2014 concert series lineup

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The City of Cape May called a press conference Monday to announce its 2014 schedule of concerts and performances for Convention Hall, beginning for the third year with Peter Nero and the Philly Pops.

Mayor Ed Mahaney announced that he, City Manager Bruce MacLeod,

Assistant Director of Marketing Mike Chait, and City Solicitor Anthony Monzo had worked together to develop the 2014 schedule, which includes a show by Deana Martin, daughter of the late, great Dean Martin.

"We have learned a lot about show business...and we have about 20 times more to learn," Mahaney

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Stop...snowing that is

Above, this stop sign in Cape May Point expresses a sentiment many people in the area share — 'STOP snowing!' The Cape May area has received much more snow and colder temperatures than in recent winters. People are ready for spring and milder weather.

Cape GOP organization chooses candidates for November election

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

AVALON — The Cape May County Regular Republican Organization held its annual convention March 19 at Avalon Community Center, where municipal committee members chose candidates for the county and federal races.

Committee members unanimously approved the candidacies of Cape May County Sheriff Gary Schaffer, Freeholders Will Morey and Kristine Gabor, and U.S. Rep. Frank LoBiondo.

Schaffer is running for his third term as sheriff, while

Morey and Gabor are running for their second terms on the county freeholder board.

Cape May County Regular Republican Organization Chairman Michael Donohue said the party will work "from he bottom up" to get local and national candidates elected.

"We have huge local elections throughout the county. We have huge elections for control in a couple of our biggest townships, and we will be fighting in the streets to elect those Republican candidates in those townships," Donohue said. "The candidates above our local elected officials will benefit. We need to push as hard as we can this

year." Schaffer, of Upper Township, said the Cape May County Sheriff's Office is now a "leader throughout the region and state," which he attributes to producing more services and reducing costs.

"I couldn't have done it without the team I've had in place. Everybody has jumped on board and is part of this team and makes it function so well. I'm looking forward to running this year and helping our local candidates as much as I can," Schaffer said.

Morey, of Wildwood Crest, told attendees he would "do the best" he could, and thanked his supporters.

"Government doesn't move as fast as I'd like to see it move. I think we can all probably agree with that, but there are important steps one has to take when it's a government initiative versus a private-practice one," Morey said. "My hope is that I can continue to learn from the last couple of years to better put into action from a business perspective from the government portals, the things that can make a difference."

He said there were "really good things happening economically" in Cape May County, such as promoting local wineries and oyster cooperatives.

Morey said economic development at the Cape May County Airport is growing via a partnership with the Delaware River and Bay Authority.

"You're going to see some things happening at the airport that I think is really important and exciting," Morey said.

Gabor, of Upper Township, thanked supporters who backed her when she ran unsuccessfully for the state Assembly last November.

"Everyone knows I don't have a problem with saying what I think, but losing stinks. It does. It really does. I don't plan on ever losing again.

However, it was a learning experience," Gabor said. "I think it has made me a better and stronger person. I think it will make me an even more effective leader going forward."

Gabor said the GOP organization "works well together." "I'm happy to serve the residents of the county, particularly the less-fortunate population," Gabor said. "It's really an eye-opening experience to speak with people who are suffering. As a community, we need to come together and do something."

LoBiondo, running for his

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