

Game

Continued from page A1

their own special entrees from every type of meat.

Game dinner guests will also enjoy a slow-braised elk stew prepared with button mushrooms, pearl onions, parsnips, English peas and red potatoes in a rich elk gravy and puff pastry dumpling followed by a quail salad. This far from ordinary salad is marinated and grilled quail over a spring mix, with candied walnuts, pear tomatoes, golden raisins and blue cheese with a raspberry vinaigrette.

Finally we come to the dinner entrees, which are alligator stir-fry and grilled wild boar loin. The stir-fry is made with green, red and yellow

peppers along with mushrooms and alligator meat tossed in a Thai chili coconut sauce served over rice. If that doesn't sound uniquely satisfying enough, you can enjoy the wild boar loin that's accompanied by duck prosciutto, caramelized onion and fig compote with peas and panchetta sautéed in a maple-mascarpone cream sauce over fettuccini.

Stewart said the wild boar loin entrée was originally going to be a kangaroo loin prepared the same way.

"We didn't want the kangaroo because it has a very strong flavor," he said. "It might have scared people away."

He said the restaurant could have been even more

creative and ordered meat like lion or other exotic animals, but they wanted to host a reasonably priced dinner. For the six-course meal, customers are charged \$60 per person and get a limited portion of each dish so they can enjoy every single one. Reservations are being taken now for the dinner starting at 6:30 p.m.

Ascoli said the restaurant always has special menus and ideas for the off-season. For the past three years, they've hosted a beer dinner, which is making entrees that go along with a specific beer.

"It's a lot like pairing wine with a meal, but we decided to do it with beer," he said. They've also hosted Zyr Vodka dinners, where the

chefs would actually make their own entrees, sometimes using the vodka in the process and then the bartenders would come up with a special vodka drink to pair it with.

The restaurant also hosts Shrimp Stravaganza's on Fridays and Burger Mania Sunday's. Burger Mania is a menu that has consists of 36 different custom burgers, which are prepared in more ways than one can imagine. Your basic beef burger can be substituted with bison, turkey or a vegetable burger and the toppings you'll have to see to believe. Shrimp Stravaganza entrees are also anything but ordinary. Stewart, along with head chef Bill Hennessey and sous chef Glenn Turner come up with

these ideas and homemade recipes on their own.

"We'll do trial and error tests," Stewart said, "we'll make a dish six or seven times before we get them right."

He said every chef in the restaurant has their own style, and even Ascoli sometimes gets involved with recipes, like his famous clam or scallop and shrimp pot pies.

"We're like a twisted garden all growing together," Stewart said.

"Since we're only open three days a week this time of year, we can sit around and come up with ideas," he said. "We get to be a little more creative in the winter."

The Harbor View in the off-

season is open Thursday through Sunday, but the special Wild Game Valentine's Day Dinner will be held on Monday, Feb. 21.

Ascoli purchased the Harbor View Marina 15 years ago, and seven years ago decided that it needed a bar and restaurant. He said he designed and built the place, hoping it would become a success even in the off-season. He and the restaurant staff hope to come up with even more unique ideas for the winter months.

"Who knows what we'll do next year," Ascoli said. "In the off-season, you have to do what you can to keep it flowing."

Tax

Continued from page A1

from real estate transfer fees reduced for the fifth straight year to under \$4 million. This is almost \$6 million less than 2005 when the transfer fees were their most active.

The county's ratable base fell for the second straight year. The value of county properties was reduced by \$1.9 billion and the county saw a loss of interest on investments with a 75 percent

reduction. The county earned \$3.2 million in interest just four years ago. This year the county earned just over \$200,000 in interest.

The freeholders are hoping the county's proposal to extend the current labor agreement with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) will avoid layoffs of 30 to 35 employees.

The county's negotiations with unions in the sheriff's

department and corrections officers avoided layoffs.

AFSCME is the county's largest union with 1,200 employees.

"As we move forward facing future economic uncertainties, we will stay the course in changing the face of county government with new ideas, innovations and different methods in getting things accomplished. We will further cut the size of county government and aggressively pursue more shared services with our municipalities and neighboring counties. We will remain steadfast to our commitment in being an example of excellence in county government," Beyel said.

The budget is available for public inspection at the Office of the Clerk of the Board at the County Administration Building and online at capemaycounty.gov.

Public comment and adoption of the budget is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 8 in the county administration building.

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Stig

Continued from page A1

ensuring a secret ballot. Blomkvist said the former process could have had a chilling effect on the process.

"The field of candidates was limited, before, because some people were intimidated by the process. This is more open-ended," he said.

Blomkvist said he is also interested in running because he believes Lower Township needs the kind of representation he can provide.

"Lower Township has had a freeholder on the board for at least 20 years that I can remember," he said. "We are the biggest municipality in the county with 22,000 residents, and I felt there was no prominent candidate who could step forward and dedicate the necessary amount of time to office."

Blomkvist said his daughters are in college and his son is a sophomore in high school, so he feels it is easier for him to dedicate time to public office. He said there is a lot going on in the southern end of the county that needs the attention of its elected officials, referring to the fishing industry and the tourist driven economy.

"Lower Township is a microcosm of whole county," Blomkvist said. "There are a lot of working class people who have to go to work day-to-day, and they need someone who can relate to their troubles."

Blomkvist is an administrative receiver for Acme Markets, where he has worked since 1986. He said

VIM

Continued from page A1

of the patients are middle aged, being too young for Medicare or Medicaid and too old to be a dependant on someone else's plan.

"It's unfortunate that in this day and age, in this country people can't get health coverage," Meiluta said.

Once an individual is interviewed and becomes a registered patient, Meiluta said all his or her x-rays, prescriptions and even eyeglasses are paid for. This is all possible because of the local donations and support from the commu-

nity. She said the VIM also receives funding from Horizon Blue Cross/Blue Shield and County Health Services, which adds up to around \$127,000 annually.

Local organizations like the Wildwood Women Golfers and the Stone Harbor Lions Club have been tremendous supporters of the organization as well, donating medical equipment and funding.

"We get a lot of wonderful support," she said. There will be a VIM Day breakfast sponsored by Sturdy Savings Bank at the Wildwood Golf and Country

Club on March 11, 8 to 9:30 a.m., featuring an omelet station along with other great food. The event is open to the public. The ticket cost is \$20 per person with a portion of the proceeds benefiting VIM.

Doors open at 7:45 a.m. and anyone who wishes to make a reservation can go to www.vimcmc.org and download the reservation form or call 463-2846. Mail the form with the \$20 payment to: VIM Day, 423 N. Route 9, Cape May Court House. Following the breakfast, there will be an open-house tour of the facility from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Harper is a second generation firefighter. His dad was a fireman in Arapahoe, North Carolina, where Harper is originally from. He is already a trained firefighter and was a part of the Town Bank VFC for 3 years. Harper said he

finished firefighter school at the Cape May Court House Fire Academy near the end of 2007 and started in the junior firefighter program at the Town Bank fire department and spent his final year there as a probie.

VFC

Continued from page A1

father and grandfather served there.

His father, Dave Cox served in the 80s and 90s while his grandfather, James Crouch was a member in the 60s.

Mobile Meal Menu

The Cape May County Department of Aging provides nutritious meals weekdays to senior citizens sites throughout the county and to the homebound.

Hot meals, complete with dessert and beverage, are provided beginning at 11:30 a.m. For the homebound, a hot meal and a cold snack are delivered.

Call one day ahead for reservations. Rides may also be arranged. For information on the program call: Homebound Meals: 886-2784.

MEAL SITES

Lower Cape Senior Center, 2612 Bayshore Rd., Villas, 886-0070.

North Wildwood Center, North Wildwood, 729-2090.

Vo-Tech Center, Court House, 465-4465.

Here are next week's menus.

MONDAY, FEB. 21

HOLIDAY - President's Day, no menu.

TUESDAY, FEB. 22

Lunch (Site/Mobile) - Braised Beef Tips, Buttered Noodles, Broccoli, Carrot Salad, Banana Cake, Bread, 2% Milk.

Dinner (Mobile) - Tuna Salad and Tomato on Roll, Broccoli Salad, Pineapple, Grape Juice.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 23

Lunch (Site/Mobile) - Roast Pork Gravy, Stuffing, Peas and Carrots, Tossed Italian Salad, Rice Pudding, Bread, 2% Milk.

Dinner (Mobile) - Turkey/Cheese on Wheat

THURSDAY, FEB. 24

Lunch (Site/Mobile) - Italian Lasagna, Italian Mixed Vegetables, Dinner Roll, Cucumber Salad, Jell-O, 2% Milk, Cream of Celery Soup.

Dinner (Mobile) - Egg Salad on White Bread, Tossed Salad, French Dressing, Mandarin Oranges, Vegetable Juice.

FRIDAY, FEB. 25

Lunch (Site/Mobile) - Country Fried Fish, Roasted Potatoes, Green Beans, Tomato Salad, Apple, Bread, Tartar Sauce, 2% Milk.

Dinner (Mobile) - Cheese Sandwich/Mayo on White Bread, Tossed Salad, Ranch Dressing, Cookies, Cranberry Juice.

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