

A.J. Meerwald

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Director Meghan Wren is responsible for overseeing the restoration and the operation of the organization. "She had the forethought and experience for the idea of restoring the Delaware Bay schooner," Briggs said. "When we restored the boat we had to replace the cedar deck and we were careful to use the same type of wood," Wren said. Commonly confused as a

state vessel, the boat is owned by the Bayshore Discovery project, a non-profit educational organization. In 1998 Governor Christine Whitman signed legislature honoring the A.J Meerwald as the official New Jersey Tall Ship. "The Meerwald is the voice for the Delaware Bay, with the history, environment, and culture it is a great way to connect with the past," Wren said.

"We hope many people come to enjoy a sail while we are in Cape May," Wren said. Besides recreation sailing trips the A.J Meerwald welcomes volunteer "cashiers and they are currently taking applications for a Fall crew. Experience is not needed, as their mission is education, preservation, and example. "My favorite part is the swinging stove," intern Ian James said as he displayed

the stove's adaptability to waves. "Ships adapt to their environment. The Meerwald is not necessarily fast but it is extremely durable and sturdy," Support Program Coordinator Anne Marie Van Heemen said. "Watch your head, boom is the noise it makes when it hits you," Briggs jovially referred to the pivoted post to which the sail is attached.

"We sail all around Long Island, Burlington, Camden, and Philadelphia to name a few," Van Hemmen said. "Oysters were extremely cheap and sold either whole or shucked and because healthy ones stay closed they are able to be easily transported," Van Heemen said. Railroads were built by the Morris River's productive oyster beds, which made it a center for the trade. The

Bayshore Discovery Project is turning those railroad stations into museums. The education program began in 1996 and continues to serve the Delaware Bay area by offering opportunities for all ages including lectures, school field trips, and summer camps. "It offers a wonderful venue for learning about and appreciating the bay," Wren said.

School

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school districts. The system consolidates and incorporates the monitoring requirements of applicable state programs, laws, and federally required improvements. Some school districts in Cape May County have only K-5 or K-12 programs and students are sent to other districts to complete their education.

"We need a seamless continual system because when they change to another district the students are not all at the same point," Davy said. Residents Irene Shreiner and Anita vanHeeswyk quoted Corzaine's proposal that the commissioner "shall have the authority to eliminate non-operating districts" and asked how Davy could guar-

antee that the taxes would not increase. "The law says that I have the authority, but if the plan shows that it is already effective than I'm not going to do it, a more efficient plan must be presented," Davy responded. Resident Dan Whelan said that the only difference in the system could be more taxes

for the same services. Davy used the Cape and Lower Township's school consolidation as an example of how wealthier school districts pay more taxes in a consolidated district. "I'm not going to approve a plan that makes you pay more for the same services you are getting now," Davy said. Assemblyman Van Drew

said he and Nelson Albano would draft a bill to prevent a raise in taxes. Davy assured the crowd that the county superintendent would communicate and discuss options with the community. "There is a difference between saying that you no longer have a district and saying you will have a regionalization plan," Van Drew

said. Van Drew said the voters of Cape May Point would need to approve a new plan and Lower Township would have a separate vote. "The commissioner will write the legislation and she will not allow the regulations to be harmful to your community," Van Drew said.

Beach Theatre

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"It is our plea that you release these funds because we need them in order to move forward. We are between a rock and a hard place," said Gaffney. The mayor said council is in

a similar position. Mayor Inderwies said council's biggest obstacle in giving the Beach Theatre foundation the loan money is trying to get an answer from the Department of Community Affairs about

the "appropriateness" of giving the \$100,000 for the Beach Theatre Foundation. Mayor Inderwies confirmed there is currently \$640,000 in the city treasury for deserving organizations, founda-

tions, and starting businesses. Solicitor Tony Monzo said a public hearing is required before the funds are dispensed and City Manager Luciano V. Corea said it is necessary to conduct a com-

plete review of plan following the loan disbursement. "It is a matter gaining approval by the Department of Community Affairs and if we just go ahead it may create problems on a state level,"

City Solicitor Anthony Monzo said. Solicitor Monzo said once the resolution is finalized, council has to give seven days notice in advance for a public hearing.

Underdog is here!

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As a child, Muldowney was taught that being an underdog was not a good thing. In an effort to make the cartoon superhero dog a more positive being, Muldowney began impersonating him. "I was forced to despise it. I had never heard the word Underdog until the series came out. I was force-fed the dictionary meaning: born loser. I was force-fed the

notion that Underdog was strictly a parody of Superman. Unless he was presented in a dignified manner, he was totally inappropriate. I was intimidated. I thought it was my duty to perform Underdog as a meritorious role model," said Muldowney. Muldowney believes the Disney movie will have negative consequences for herself

and the audience, that nothing good can come of it. "I'm very much concerned the movie will overshadow or eclipse me in terms of media attention or public response, that the public will forget about or refuse to believe about my Underdog impersonations," Muldowney said. Muldowney believes the Disney movie will trick its audience into thinking that

they are the originators of the cartoon, which couldn't be more wrong. She thinks that many "will mistakenly believe that the Disney versions are the creators," when in reality Underdog has been around since the 1960s and Muldowney has been doing her impersonations for decades as well. She also fears that if

Underdog is not portrayed in the right light that she will suffer for it. "If the movie's story does not do Underdog justice, if it contains the same or similar flaws as the cartoon's flaws, the public will have no regard for him and will forget or refuse to believe that I portray him in a dignified, meritorious manner with sensible stories," said Muldowney.

She wants everyone to know that she is still around and performing and she doesn't want people to put all their faith and trust into this movie. Muldowney is unsure if she will see the movie, but she wants people to know something important. "Always remember," she said, "there's no need to fear, the real Underdog is still here."

Vets

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bus to Philadelphia, and another bus to Elsmere. "It could take seven hours,"

Sheftz said. Besides pointing out the distance and difficulty of travel-

ing for veteran's medical care, Sheftz told the commander there is no regularly scheduled public transportation to get veterans to VA hospitals. Also, the trip can be difficult for veterans, many of whom are aging. Finally, Sheftz pointed out that many veterans simply cannot afford the cost of public transporta-

tion. "I thought the July 18 meeting would have been an opportune time to hand over a set of keys for a van." The Cape May County Veterans Group Commanders are going to meet next on Aug. 15, at 7 p.m., in Lower Township Hall. According to Sheftz, the

purpose of the meeting is to: • Reaffirm and continue the cooperation between all veteran groups. • Solidify/finalize initial plans in preparation for a visit and address by Col. Michael Linnington, who is soon to be promoted to brigadier general. • Provide an update on

efforts to acquire a DAV van to transport veterans to Elsmere, Del., or Philadelphia, to discuss needed services and information on driver training. Sheftz said commanders have been asked to prepare a list of volunteer drivers.

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