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## Dems say Van Drew must give cash back

Professor set to seek seat in Congress

By ERIC AVEDESIAN  
Cape May Star and Wave

ATLANTIC CITY — Responding to news that Democratic U.S. Rep. Jeff Van Drew would become a Republican, Democratic Party leaders from southern New Jersey demanded he return his campaign contributions.

“Let’s not mince words. Congressman Jeff Van Drew must return contributions he received since his ‘no’ vote on President Trump’s impeachment inquiry since he was capitalizing on his relationships with Democrats while planning all along to switch parties,” according to a Dec. 17 joint statement issued by Democratic leaders.

According to the statement, Van Drew sent a campaign fundraising solicitation Dec. 16 for his re-election campaign.

A screenshot of the solicitation noted it was a Jan. 21, 2020, reception with Gov. Phil Murphy and Sen. Bob Menendez at the Bridgewater Marriott in Bridgewater Township.

“In recent weeks, Van Drew has talked out both sides of his mouth — telling many of us he wanted to remain a Democrat while pitching Republicans at the same time on a party switch. He wanted his cake and to eat it too. Make no mistake about it, a clear field was never going to happen,” according to the statement. “His refusal to do the right thing would only prove he’s nothing more than a Bernie Madoff-style con artist stealing other people’s money in a scheme to fill his campaign coffers. Shameless Van Drew showed he lacked the courage to stand up for the American people and our U.S. Constitution when he officially became a Trump Republican. It’s time for Van Drew to man up and do the right thing for once and return every dime he received since he sold us out.”

Democratic leaders from the 2nd Congressional District who signed the statement include Atlantic County Democratic Chairman Michael Suleiman, Cape May County Democratic Chairman Brendan Sciarra, Cumberland County Democratic Chairman Steven

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## An apple for the teacher

A look around our local schools at some innovative methods, what teachers want their students to learn and why they see value in what they are doing



Kristen Kelleher and Jack Fichter/STAR AND WAVE

Above, Ocean City Intermediate School teacher Cholehna Weaver. At right, David C. Douglass Veterans Memorial School teacher Christina Lunde in Lower Township.

### Ocean City Intermediate School: Cholehna Weaver

World traveler takes her students along for the trip, teaches them along the way

By KRISTEN KELLEHER  
Cape May Star and Wave

OCEAN CITY — World geography teacher and world traveler Cholehna Weaver instills a love of travel in her students by sharing experiences of her own trips abroad.

A teacher at the Ocean City Inter-

mediate School, Weaver participated in the Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad program in 2015 and spent one month in China.

She was among 16 educators nationally to be selected for the fellowship, according to a March 23,

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### Veterans Memorial School: Christina Lunde

Providing kindergartners love to build a good foundation for future learning

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Christina Lunde’s kindergarten classroom at the David C. Douglass Veterans Memorial School in Lower Township seems to have something fun to do in every corner. Lunde was born and raised in

Cape May County and graduated from the Lower Township school system. Lunde’s first degree was in art from the Pennsylvania College of Art and Design followed by receiving her teaching certification from Montclair State University.

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### Upper Township Middle School: Courtney Haugh

For pupils feeling the pressure, helping them find internal happiness and peace

By KRISTEN KELLEHER  
Cape May Star and Wave

PETERSBURG — Upper Township Middle School teacher Courtney Haugh wants to help her female students become comfortable with themselves.

The language arts teacher co-organized an empowering summer camp for pre-teen girls last sum-

mer, runs the student council and coaches field hockey ... in addition to teaching.

A field hockey coaching position in college led her to education. According to Haugh, coaching was where she felt most like herself.

Haugh, once a fashion merchandising major in college, knew as

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Kristen Kelleher/STAR AND WAVE

At left, Upper Township Middle School teacher Courtney Haugh. Above, Belhaven Middle School teacher Angela Buckberg, left, with teacher Marilee Sobrinski, right, and students Matthew Litow and Abby Chan.

### Belhaven Middle School: Buckberg, Sobrinski

Belhaven Baristas helps students learn skills needed to become independent

By CRAIG D. SCHENCK  
Cape May Star and Wave

LINWOOD — “I didn’t think I ever wanted to be in this classroom but when I got moved in here, and I did it for like two months, I realized this is what I was meant to do,” Angela Buckberg said of the self-contained special-education room at Belhaven Middle School.

“I can’t image doing anything else.”

Buckberg, 29, who grew up in Linwood and is a 2008 graduate of Mainland Regional High School, and teacher Marilee Sobrinski, 30, a graduate of Ocean City High School from Upper Township, work with special-education and

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# ALOHA 2020

NEW YEAR'S EVE BEACH BASH - TUESDAY DECEMBER 31

NYE Party including Appetizers, Open Bar, Party Hats & Champagne Toast at Midnight, Live Music by the Smooth Edge Band  
9:30 pm – 12:30 am | \$65 per person

Tickets & Info: [rustynailcapemay.com](http://rustynailcapemay.com)