



Hundreds run in annual 8K race

By Tom Dunphy

For the third year in a row, hundreds of area runners made their way to Lavallette to compete in the Save Barnegat Bay 8K race on Saturday morning.

Abundant sunshine, humidity and heat marked the day, which saw a total of 664 finishers on the eight kilometer [approximately 4.97-mile] run.

The course began at the Lavallette Fire Company building, at Baltimore and Washington avenues, and made its way around West Point Island and along the Barnegat Bay on Bay Boulevard, giving racers excellent opportunity to view the body of water which they were running to help save.

A young brother and sister pair made short work of the race course, earning top honors in the men's and women's races.

Job Christiansen, 17, of New Ipswich, N.H., was the overall top finisher, completing the race in 27:20.2.

His sister, Jaey Christiansen, 15, was the top female finisher, taking seventh place overall with a finishing time of 31:31.1.

Lavallette residents also

made a strong showing at the event, with Patrick McKeever, 22, finishing second overall in 28:22.1 and Mary Russo, 45, finishing second in the female division and 14th overall in 33:07.4.

All race participants received a gift bag including a Save Barnegat Bay 8K T-shirt, a commemorative pint glass, a raffle ticket and an entrance ticket to the post-race party at the Crab's Claw Inn.

Race director Joe Yewaisis gave credit to many of the local businesses and organizations who helped make the event a success.

"We would like to thank the Ocean First Foundation and the Crab's Claw Inn, without whose support this race would not be possible. Also, special thanks for the help and support of the guys over at the Lavallette Police, Fire and First Aid Departments and Public Works," he said.

The event served as a fundraiser for Save Barnegat Bay, a local nonprofit organization whose primary work is in advocating for environmental issues throughout the Barnegat Bay watershed.



SUEANNE GOSS, The Ocean Star
Job Christiansen, 17, of New Ipswich, N.H. was the overall first place finisher in the Save Barnegat Bay 8K race last Saturday.

New superintendent contract approved

By Alena Competello

At the Lavallette Board of Education meeting last Wednesday, the board unanimously approved Superintendent Peter Morris' contract.

Dr. Morris' five-year contract began on Tuesday, July 1. Dr. Morris' salary will be increased \$5,000 for this school year, a 4 percent increase from last year, totaling \$125,000. His salary will increase by 4 percent each subsequent year.

In other board news:

The board unanimously approved a motion authorizing the business administrator, Patricia Christopher, to enter into a contract for a 2008 extended school year program. The motion was created in response to a recommendation by the child study team.

According to this contract, one Point Pleasant Beach High School student, who resides in Lavallette, will participate in the "LifeWork" program run by the nonprofit organization Educational Collaborations, Inc. [ECI] at a cost of \$4,292 for 30 days.

According to the organization's Web site, ECI, founded in 2001 as a nonprofit organization in Eatontown, "works to empower people with disabilities to become self-expressed, self-directed and contributing members of their communities."

The LifeWork program serves older students and young adults. The program offers planning and evaluation services to identify skills, interests and support needs, job sampling, job search and development and job coaching and support, the Web site says.

Ms. Christopher asked the board to approve the motion, but voiced some concern as to whether the proposed program met the requirements set forth by the extended school year program.

The extended school year program [ESY] is offered to certain students based on their Individualized Education Program [IEP],

which is drawn up by the child study team in conjunction with the student's parents or guardian, special education teachers, regular education teachers and a school system representative, among others.

According to state requirements, an ESY program is a 30-day program that runs for four hours per day. The LifeWork program runs for 30 days but is only a three-hour per day program. As such, Ms. Christopher expressed her concern that the program did not meet state requirements.

However, Ms. Christopher reported this week that the student will be attending the program this summer.

The board unanimously authorized the business administrator to prepare contracts for support staff personnel. The school's bookkeeper, full-time food service director, director of building and grounds and secretary/attendance officer were all given a 4 percent salary increase.

Breast cancer walk slated

Together with the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, The Music Man Singing Ice Cream Shoppe is holding its fifth annual 2-mile breast cancer walk, "Together We Can Lick This Disease," on Sunday, Aug. 3 throughout the Lavallette community.

The walk begins at The Music Man at 2305 Grand Central Ave. Registration begins at 8 a.m. with the walk to follow at 8:30 a.m.

Pre-registration is suggested. Interested parties can register at The Music Man. The registration fee is \$20 and includes a T-shirt, water bottle, pledge form and a map of the walk down the Lavallette boardwalk.

Afterwards, walkers are welcomed back to The Music Man for refreshments and free scoops of ice cream. An alternate route is available for those unable to walk the entire two miles.

For more information call 732-85-HAPPY [854-2779] or email tone@njmusicman.com

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