



House of the Week, B1



Caper Tiger wrestling is optimistic for 2012-13



CM Stage has new 2013 schedule, B6



Cape May Star and Wave

158TH YEAR NO. 50 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, December 12, 2012 50¢

Mayors join forces to oppose free beach legislation

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

SEA ISLE CITY – Officials from Cape May County's shore municipalities joined Sea Isle City Mayor Leonard Desiderio at a press conference Monday at Sea Isle City Elementary School to condemn state legislation requiring municipalities receiving state or federal aid for storm-related beach repairs to provide free beach access.

State Sen. Michael Doherty (R-Hunterdon, Somerset, Warren), and Senate President Stephen Sweeney (D-Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem) joined together in a bipartisan effort to support the proposed bill, which local officials claim would eliminate beach tag sales in New Jersey's coastal communities.

Desiderio said it was "bad timing" for the legislation, which he called "silly," "foolish" and "ridiculous."

"To put this type of legislation in now when we're going through cleanup and rebuilding it's not right. It's not right at any time, but especially now," Desiderio said. "We call on the state legislature to not even propose this bill." Officials have not been able

to get a copy of the bill, S-2368, which carries the description, "Requires shore municipalities accepting government funds for storm-damaged beach replenishment to provide free beach access and public toilet facilities."

According to a Nov. 15 release, Doherty, who represents Warren, Hunterdon and Somersaet Counties in the New Jersey Assembly, said beach access fees are unfair to all residents enjoying public resources they pay to maintain and restore.

"Public dollars must be spent for the maximum benefit of all citizens. I do not dispute that our shoreline must be rebuilt or that the communities impacted need assistance, but the state and federal funds that will be used to rebuild come from everyone, not just those who live or own property at the shore," Doherty said.

Desiderio and officials from Ocean City, Sea Isle City, Avalon, Stone Harbor, Cape May, and Cape May Point said implementing the legislation would have a disastrous effect on local economies and the health and public safety of residents and visitors.

According to Desiderio,



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, some dune erosion is obvious after Hurricane Sandy at St. Peter's Beach in Cape May Point.

who is also a Cape May County Freeholder and county Director of Public Safety, said 65 percent of jobs in the county are tourism-related. The county has nearly

24,000 employees who work in the tourism industry, while 33,000 work in fields indirectly related to tourism.

In Cape May County, 47 percent of homes are con-

sidered vacation homes or second homes, approximately 48,000 residences.

Cape May County generates \$5.1 billion annually in tourism revenue. Desiderio

said Cape May, Atlantic, Monmouth and Ocean counties generate \$18 billion in tourism revenue for the state's \$35 billion total tourism income.

He said by contrast, Warren and Hunterdon counties, which Doherty represents, generate \$161 million and \$292 million respectively from tourism.

Desiderio said beaches draw visitors to the New Jersey shore.

"Any proposed legislation regarding beach tags should not be tied to a disaster recovery such as Hurricane Sandy. It should be examined on its own merits. This is absolutely the wrong time and the wrong legislation," Desiderio said. "Many, many people are hurting."

Hurricane Sandy barreled up the east coast and downgraded to a sub-tropical cyclone before making landfall near Atlantic City on Oct. 29. Towns along the east coast experienced flooding, high winds and widespread damage.

Desiderio said overtime costs of public workers and other storm-related expenses

Please see Free, page A2



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, airmen from the 177th Fighter Wing of the Air National Guard practice moving an aircraft in a simulated crash.

Air Guard practices for crash recovery at airport

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – With the use of a crane, ropes and plenty of elbow grease, Air National Guard technicians were able to lift and swivel an F-16 fighter jet as part of a crash removal training exercise at the

Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum.

On Dec. 5, 20 members of the 177th Fighter Wing crash and recovery unit based in Pomona came to the air museum for a training exercise, simulating the removal of a damaged

Please see Crash page A3

Bill would eliminate beach tags for some

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

TRENTON – Senator Michael Doherty (R-23) and Senate President Stephen Sweeney (D-3) jointly introduced legislation that would require municipalities that accept federal or state aid for replenishing their beaches to provide free beach access.

"Where taxpayers are paying for beach restoration, they shouldn't be taxed a second time just to walk on the sand," Sweeney said in a

release. "As New Jerseyans, we are all in the recovery and rebuilding process together. That means we should all be able to enjoy the reopening of our state's greatest natural resource together, too."

"I've long believed that the state's beach tag system unfairly restricts access to a public resource which has been the beneficiary of a great deal of state and federal investment. The damage done by Hurricane Sandy simply illustrates this point on an unprecedented scale.

The Jersey Shore is a state treasure and an important economic engine, but it is a resource that belongs to all of us and is maintained by the taxes that all of us pay," Doherty said in a release.

The legislation, S-2368, drew the ire of municipal officials in Cape May County who voiced their concerns as a press conference on Monday.

According to the officials, the legislation would disman-

Please see Tags, page A3

HPC design standards up for review

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The city's National Historic Landmark status was compromised in 2007 when it was placed on the National Park Service's watch list, but the Historic Preservation Commission hopes to keep Cape May off of the list indefinitely with the city's help.

At the Dec. 4 city council meeting, HPC Chairman Warren Coupland led a discussion regarding the preservation of Cape May's historical integrity and its 600

wooden frame structures dating back to the 19th century.

According to Coupland, Cape May was put on the watch list in 2007 due to inappropriate demolition, new construction and heavy traffic.

He said when the National Park Service announced Cape May was on the watch list, the HPC held several meetings to develop a five-year action plan to correct the city's shortcomings. He said being on the list is a "warning," and didn't believe the city was ever in jeopardy of losing its National Landmark Status. Cape May received its

National Historic Landmark Status in 1976.

Mayor Ed Mahaney said the HPC's design standards for Cape May homes were released in 2003, but need to be updated.

Coupland said in order for the city to keep its National Historic Landmark status, the HPC, and city boards and commissions must cooperate and work together. He said a mutual understanding regarding historic preservation needs to be found among the historic homeowners

Please see HPC, page A2

BID budget approved by council

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The 2013 Business Improvement District (BID) submitted a 2013 budget to Cape May City Council, Dec. 4, in the amount of \$58,877.

BID Chairwoman Joanne Klineburger and Vice-Chairwoman Sue Tischler presented the budget to council on behalf of the Washington Street Mall Management Company, showing \$57,800 would come from 2013 assessments. The remaining \$1,077 are 2012 surplus funds.

City Manager Bruce MacLeod said the assessment revenue is derived from businesses on the Washington Street Mall. He said there is a \$500 and \$800 category, which merchants can contribute and most are in the \$800 category. The more

Please see BID, page A3

City could have website for promoting Convention Hall in three months

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Convention Hall will have its own official website in about three months, after city council approved its purchase and design of the site for Convention Hall and Cape May tourism.

City Manager Bruce MacLeod said the contract

for designing the website has been awarded to Aristotle, Inc., an interactive agency of Little Rock, Ark., in the amount of \$21,752. He said the base amount for design was \$14,027, however, council agreed to approve the purchase of additional options for the site in the amount of \$7,725.

MacLeod said he and

Assistant Marketing Director Michael Chait and Chief Financial Officer Jim Penn developed the request for proposal of the new website. He said Dan Shustack, an employee of the city clerk's office, will be helping with the web design. Shustack, who was hired by the city in May to work in the licensing office, has experience in web

technology and design after assisting in the development of the web store for South Jersey Marina. Shustack said Aristotle, Inc. is a reputable agency that designed the Atlantic City Boardwalk Hall website.

"The company met our standards in terms of user friendliness, visual appeal and capabilities," he said.

MacLeod said the city will be responsible for supplying the content and information while Aristotle, Inc., handles the technical work. He said the "content management system" feature allows the website to be updated and upgraded with ease.

According to MacLeod, the website will offer an interactive look at the facility, online

ticket purchasing through SeatAdvisor, picture and video galleries, blogs, GPS mapping for the hall and other venues, social media tools and more. Shustack said there is also a plan to integrate other Cape May organizations into the site and create a calendar of events that applies to the

Please see Web, page A3



WASHINGTON INN

Open Friday and Saturday • Serving dinner from 5pm

THE WINE BAR

Five for Friday

\$5

sliders
glasses of wine
appetizers specials

5 GREAT SPECIALS FOR \$5 EACH

801 WASHINGTON STREET • 609-884-5697 • WWW.WASHINGTONINN.COM