

Cape May Star and Wave



160TH YEAR NO. 11 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, March 12, 2014 50¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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LADY TIGERS END SEASON AGAINST CEDAR CREEK

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PAL Comedy Night not just for laughs

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Cape Mayans won't have to travel to Atlantic City for a stand-up comedy show this weekend, as the Police Athletic League (PAL) of Cape May is bringing three headline comedians to Convention Hall.

The 9th annual Comedy Night Social on Friday, March 14, will be held for the second year in the new Convention Hall. PAL Director Tony Genaro said around 350 attended the event last year and he hopes for similar results on Friday night.

"Convention Hall is a very nice place to have it. It worked out well last year," Genaro said. "This time of

year in Cape May, it's a lot of locals coming out so there's a lot of interaction and laughs. It creates a really nice atmosphere where people from the community come in big groups together and have some laughs."

Appearing at Comedy Night will be headliner Rodney Laney and openers Joe DeVito and Moody McCarthy. Laney has performed on stages coast to coast during his career and was seen on HBO's "Bad Boys of Comedy" and "Stand Up New York."

DeVito has performed at clubs and colleges across the country as well and most recently appeared on "The Late Late Show" with Craig Ferguson. McCarthy has also made late night appearances

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Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

Yo Ho, Yo Ho, It's a Pirate's Life for Me

Above, cast members are dressed as Captain Hook's pirates from "Peter Pan" – the spring musical being staged at Lower Cape May Regional High School on Friday and Saturday, March 21 and 22 at 7 p.m., and on Sunday, March 23 at 2 p.m. It's the story so magical it actually takes flight. See more photos on page B8.

County holds third forum aimed at combatting addiction

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – Freeholder Kristine Gabor led a third addiction forum aimed at addressing what has become one of Cape May County's biggest problems – addiction to prescription drugs and heroin.

A first drug addiction forum held in September at the county administration building featured representatives from various social service organizations. A second was an open mic session where

residents could voice concerns and tell of problems they were having getting help for themselves or a family member.

The third forum, held March 6, focused on establishing committees to work on dealing with problems raised in previous forums. Gabor said since September 2013, Lower Township has held a substance abuse symposium, and in October, the Lower Township Recreation Department and Lower Cape May Regional School District had an assembly with speak-

er Michael Sarich to address substance abuse. Also in October, the rec department and the Teitelman Middle School formed Tiger Teens, a group designed to teach girls to make positive life choices.

Lower Township Mayor Mike Beck appointed a Substance Abuse Team, which included representatives from the rec department, the police, Cape Assist and Paret2Parent have been

Gabor said both Lower and Dennis Townships have been in touch with Child Protective Services. She said Cape May County Prosecutor Robert Taylor has delivered his "Pills to Heroin" presentation a number of times in the county, most recently in Sea Isle City. And in Ocean City, the Fridays With Friends program has been organizing events such as game nights or movies to give kids alternatives to drug use.

Gabor said organizations such as Cape Assist and Paret2Parent have been

working on combatting addiction in the county.

In a Power Point presentation, county Health and Human Services Director Pat Devaney said people are running into problems because some insurance companies don't want to pay for inpatient treatment. At the same time, she said, a lot of residents are in favor of involuntary residential treatment.

Devaney said the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996,

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City looks at cost of free vet beach tags

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Based on research from four other municipalities, City Manager Bruce MacLeod said he projects the city would lose approximately \$24,000 in beach revenue if city council authorized free beach tags for both veterans and active duty military personnel.

Council has been discussing new state legislation passed on Jan. 17, which allows beach communities in New Jersey to offer discounted or free beach tags to any individual who has served in any of the Armed Forces of the United States. Individuals must be

honorably discharged and either have served at least 90 days in active duty or have been discharged active duty by reason of a service-incurred injury or disability.

Nearby municipalities such as Stone Harbor and Avalon have already introduced ordinances to provide free beach tags to veterans. Cape May decided to first research the financial impact offering free beach tags could have on its Beach Utility and beach tag revenue. City council wishes to offer free tags to active duty military also, already allowed by state law for a number of years. According to the legislation, if free beach tags are provided to active

duty service members, their spouses and children over the age of 12 are also entitled to free tags.

"So you may only have 250 active duty (service members) sign up, but that could turn out to be 1,000 free tags because of their wife and kids," Mayor Ed Mahaney said.

The mayor has said he is in favor of providing free beach tags to veterans and active duty military, but believes this ordinance could potentially have a larger impact on Cape May because of the many retired veterans who live on the island as well as

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New water tower fence expensive

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – City Manager Bruce MacLeod said it would cost \$50,000 or more to replace the current chain link style fence around the water tower at Columbia and Madison Avenue.

In January Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman asked the city to find a more visually appealing style of fencing, but Mayor Ed Mahaney said he opposed going to such an expense.

"I'm not in favor of spending \$50,000 to \$100,000 of the taxpayers money on a fence," Mahaney said. "We can spend our money much more effi-

ciently and effectively rather than using it for a beautification project."

Mahaney said the city could apply for grants to fund the fencing project, but obtaining state and federal funding is difficult following Hurricane Sandy.

MacLeod and City Engineer Ray Roberts contacted a local fencing contractor who provided various options and styles of fencing that might be considered more aesthetically pleasing. At the March 4 meeting, MacLeod said all of the fencing styles suggested by the contractor were approved by the state Department of Homeland Security. The existing chain

link fencing was installed on the basis of rules and regulations developed for security purposes following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

MacLeod said 436 linear feet of fencing would be required for a replacement and styles of fencing ranged from eight to 10 feet tall.

"The low-end for the materials would be \$50,000," MacLeod said.

Wichterman was absent from the March 4 meeting, but at the Feb. 18 meeting, he asked if there was any funding left from the \$2.1 million U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant

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CLASSIFIED.....B6 EDUCATION/YOUTH.....B5 HOME OF THE WEEK.....B1 LOCAL INTEREST.....A3 RELIGION.....A4 SPORTS.....B3
COMMENTARY.....A6 ENTERTAINMENT.....B8 COMMUNITY.....B4 OBITUARIES.....A4 SEA & DO.....B1 TIDES.....A3