

# Cape May Star and Wave



160TH YEAR NO. 10 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, March 5, 2014 50¢



## HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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## LCMR WRESTLERS ADVANCE TO STATE TOURNEY

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

## Sheehan sworn in as CMPD chief

Above, Robert Sheehan is shown taking the oath of office as the new Cape May Police Department's Chief of Police. Sheehan, a 24-year veteran of the CMPD takes over for Chief Diane Sorantino, who retired in January. See more photos on page A8

## The Greater Cape May Chamber of Commerce is looking to improve

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Nearly every town has a chamber of commerce, but does anyone know what they do?

"We promote businesses in Cape May, and tourism," said Cathy Sauerzopf with the Greater Cape May Chamber of Commerce.

The chamber has taken on more of the tourism element because, in Cape May, promoting tourism is promoting businesses.

"I think we are getting into bigger, more tourism, in Cape May," President Ron Goldstein said. "The difference is 15 years ago there used to be a guidebook. Now we are in a digital world and we almost have to prove the relevancy of the chamber."

Goldstein said the GCMCOC has been partnering with the Cape May County Department of Tourism to get more travel-writer groups to Cape May. He said local businesses agree to provide lodg-

ing and escort them around town.

"Like getting National Geographic to come and take photos in the fall. It gets Cape May into the world," Goldstein said.

"Our biggest change has been getting into community activities," Sauerzopf said. "Before, the guidebook was it. Now we are involved in a lot of events."

Goldstein said the chamber was also trying to improve its relationship with the city. The city runs the Welcome Center, which is owned by NJ Transit. The city and chamber have leases. The chamber installed marketing signs with backlit panels and TVs in the Welcome Center, which are designated for COC members.

"I was amazed at the number of people who go there," Goldstein said, "over 100,000 people, and September is huge."

Goldstein said they can get

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Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, Coast Guard members at the Small Boat Station Cape May practice medical emergency procedures under simulated conditions.

## Learning to save lives at TRACEN

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Doug Fisher has been taking emergency medical skills he uses in a civilian job to help teach basic first aid to lower ranking Coast Guard members.

Fisher, who will be retiring from the U.S. Coast Guard in the coming weeks, is a certified emergency medical technician (EMT) and works for the Lower Township Rescue Squad part-time. He has been providing younger, less experienced guardians at the small boat station at U.S. Coast Guard Training Center-Cape May (TRACEN) with basic first aid training, as well as insight into assessing and reacting to severe medical emergencies when out on patrol.

"I'm on my way out of the

Coast Guard, so I'm basically training my replacements, so I want them to be as well trained as they can be," Fisher said. "The more practice they have, the better they can be at what they do, so we can give the public the best product for their money."

On Thursday, three boat crews of four or five members each, responded to simulated medical emergencies inside the boat station. They were required to assist every victim inside a designated space approximating the size of the patrol boat deck. The Group I responded to a victim with a compound fracture on his forearm, Group II responded to a victim with a broken nose who also had respiratory issues and Group III to a head laceration.

"Hopefully they'll never see anything like this in real

life out on the water, but if and when they do, they need to know how to react," Fisher said. "It's one thing to read about something and another thing to go out there and actually see what a gash on someone's face looks like, or a broken nose, or blood shooting out of their arm and knowing what to do."

Fisher said all guardians have basic first aid training, but some, go the extra mile to become Coast Guard firemen/EMTs or Health Services Technicians (HS). He said these training scenarios are extremely important for boat crews because it's never known what types of emergencies they could face out at sea.

"They are basic first responder trained, but they're not full fledged EMTs," he said. "We hold training scenarios from time

to time, I would say biweekly, whether in the classroom or hands-on like this. If you don't use it, you lose it, so we want to keep them prepared with this training."

During the drills, one or two coxswains aboard the patrol boat relay information back to base while the other members of the team respond to the emergency.

To simulate an actual response call, the guardians wait in another room while Fisher and the victims remain in the maintenance garage of the boat station. In the recent exercise, Fisher radioed in portraying himself as the victim or someone with the victim. With whatever information the crew has available, they collect applicable medical gear they believe they will need and

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## CMC Sheriff's report says his office has saved millions in costs

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE - Cape May County Sheriff Gary Schaffer said his office saved millions in costs as he presented his annual report for the sheriff's office to the Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Feb. 11.

There are 160 full-time employees and 23 part-time employees in the sheriff's office, a reduction from the 188 employees when Schaffer became sheriff in 2009.

According to the report,

the sheriff's department had a budgetary surplus of \$641,940, and an additional \$176,086 for interagency agreements, for a total of \$818,026, which was returned to the county treasurer.

This is the fourth year of the Alternative to Incarceration Program, which saved the county \$759,725 in housing expenses and labor costs in 2013.

The Sheriff's Labor Assistance Program (SLAP) saved the county \$171,500 on incarceration costs, and \$181,055 on salary costs, a savings total of \$359,929.



Sheriff Gary Schaffer

There were 169 SLAP inmates in 2013, with 104

inmates completing the program.

Unlike prisoners at the county jail, SLAP participants are not incarcerated, but that doesn't mean they have freedom of movement. For seven days, SLAP participants are required to report to work at county agencies. They are permitted to keep their regular jobs, but must juggle their work schedules with their commitment to SLAP.

Inmates in the SLAP program were assigned to perform community service at various county entities. In 2013, SLAP inmates served

1,750 total work days, which included 97 days in Crest Haven Nursing Home, 285 days at the county veteran's cemetery, 595 days at the Cape May County Park/Zoo, 694 days at the county animal shelter and 74 days at the jail.

The Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP) saved the county \$190,319, including \$165,228 in incarceration costs and \$25,091 in fees collected.

In 2013, the county's EMP had 51 inmates, including 48 new admissions. Of those, 42 completed the program, which lasted 1,686 inmate

days.

EMP consists of offenders wearing an ankle monitor that tracks their movements via GPS. The bracelet allows the Sheriff's Department to communicate with the offender via a two-way communication speaker. Offenders in the EMP can also keep their jobs, but are required to report home after work.

Schaffer said \$200,000 in medical costs was saved by removing inmates from the jail and placing them on EMP.

"If we have somebody that

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CLASSIFIED.....B7 EDUCATION/YOUTH.....B5 HOME OF THE WEEK.....B1 LOCAL INTEREST.....A3 RELIGION.....A4 SPORTS.....B9  
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