

# Cape May Star and Wave

158TH YEAR NO. 10 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, March 7, 2012 50¢

## USCG Cutter Dependable returns after 59 days underway

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Families anxiously waited dockside for the Coast Guard Cutter Dependable, Friday, when over 70 men and women returned home from a 59-day mission in the North Atlantic.

Cmdr. Owen Gibbons stood on the pier ready to welcome the Guardians home and said he always tries to be present when a cutter leaves on a mission or arrives home.

"Just to let them know we're here for them and make sure they have everything they need," Gibbons said.

He said the two 120-foot cutters that call the Cape May port home, the Dependable and the Vigorous, were the workhorses of the Coast Guard fleet in the 70s and 80s.

"They're an older class of cutter that we have," he said. "We've definitely got the public-money's worth out of these."

Cmdr. Lee Petty, commanding officer of Cutter Dependable, said the primary objective of the two-month long tour was to patrol the seas of New England's coast and enforce fisheries as well as safety regulations. He said the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)



Above left, Star and Wave photo by Cain Chamberlin shows the Coast Guard Cutter Dependable returning to its homeport in Cape May after Operation Atlantic Venture. Above right, USCG photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Crystallynn Kneen shows Petty Officer 3rd Class Trystan Kasheta, crewmember at Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City, and her daughter Dylun as they wait for Petty Officer 3rd Class Eric Kasheta, crewmember aboard the Dependable. Kasheta returned from a 59-day patrol of the North Atlantic aboard the Dependable.



governs the coastal fisheries and had designated areas they were concentrated on. Petty said the NMFS, however, does not have cutters, so the Coast Guard has become the enforcement body for the rules and regulations in those waters.

He pointed out several key points on a chart map,

indicating the Dependable's areas of focus. He said from Sandy Hook, N.J., to Maine and the southeastern portion of Nova Scotia, Canada, the cutter patrolled around 8,000 miles of ocean since leaving Cape May on Jan. 4.

"It all depends on the weather and what we're looking for - sometimes we'll be

130 miles out and other times we'll be just eight miles out," Lt. j.g. Steve Smith said.

Smith said for the most part the weather was cooperative but there were days when they were up against 40-knot winds, which made it extremely cold. However, he said the tour went relatively smoothly and at times

it seemed as though every day was a repeat.

"It was little bit like 'Groundhog's Day' at times," Smith said.

Petty said his crew conducted around 60 vessel boardings to ensure code and safety compliance. The cutter is equipped with two smaller boats that can be lowered into

the water with a boarding team that is responsible for checking vessels.

"In order to do that, you have to have pretty decent sea conditions - usually about five feet or less," he said.

Petty said the Cutter Dependable crew faced seas

Please see Cutter, page A2

## Local residents visit Sandman School for annual Career Day

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP - Kids often dream of becoming astronauts, firemen, millionaires, and even President of the United States, but students at the Charles W. Sandman Consolidated School got a taste of what jobs they can pursue during presentations by people living right here in South Jersey.

On Thursday, the Sandman School held its 19th Annual Career Day for the fifth and sixth grade students. The school invited professionals from all over the county and surrounding areas to come and speak with the kids about their careers. Guidance Counselor Maggie Ludgate, who initially started the program, said the goal of Career Day is to introduce the students to a variety of job positions, allowing them to gain an understanding of the skills, values and talents involved in making a career choice.

"It's an introduction to them that makes them realize the importance of their studies," Ludgate said. "Part of the core curriculum is to teach the students about career choices and this is a really fun way to do it."

According to Ludgate, there were 28 speakers who attended Career Day, many of whom were former stu-



Above, Former Marine fighter pilot Mark Allen, now working for the South Jersey Marina, lets Sandman School student, Gage Gomez try on his flight gear during Career Day. Each class saw four guest speakers from different backgrounds and professions.

dents at the Sandman School and the parents of current students. Optometrists, veterinarians, bank managers, animal control officers, biologists, truck drivers, a Superior Court judge, chemists and 911 dispatchers, just to name a few, came out to talk about their average day on the job and what the students would need to accomplish to prepare for that job title.

Ludgate said she realizes a great number of the students will probably change their minds at least a dozen times before graduating high school, but it is important for them to see what's available in the future.

"I know we're just little Cape May County, but there are plenty of choices out there and a lot of people

Please see Career, page A2

## Township Council agrees on committee

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS - Lower Township Council agreed to select Mayor Mike Beck and Ward 1 Councilman Tom Conrad for the liaison committee to the freeholder board, ending disagreement over who should be on the committee.

At the Feb. 22 meeting, Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare had sponsored a resolution to create a Special Committee for Liaison to the Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders with Regard to Economic Development at the Cape May County Airport. At the time, Lare said he included his own name as a member of the liaison committee, and that of Ward 2 Councilman

Walt Craig. Mayor Mike Beck objected to the make-up of the committee, saying he believed any committee representing the township outside of the township borders should include

the mayor and deputy mayor. Residents speaking at the meeting said there was no logical reason for including Craig on the committee,

the mayor and deputy mayor. Residents speaking at the meeting said there was no logical reason for including Craig on the committee,

Please see West, page A3

## West Cape May budget has 7/10-cent tax rate increase

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY - Borough residents will see a seven-tenths of one-cent increase in the local purpose tax if the Board of Commissioners adopts the 2012 proposed budget.

Borough Auditor Leon Costello gave a report on the budget at the Feb. 22 meeting, saying the borough was prohibited from exceeding a one-cent tax increase under the current state cap laws.

He said the proposed budget falls within the state's 2-percent spending cap.

Costello said, on another positive note, the borough ended 2011 in essentially the same financial condition as it

did when the year began.

Mayor Pam Kaithern noted that West Cape May is one of the few municipalities in Cape May County to see an increase in ratables this year. She said the borough also ended 2011 with a better fund balance than it did in 2010.

"It's a pretty solid budget, moving forward," Kaithern said.

According to Costello, revenues in the 2012 budget were about the same as last year, but the borough's surplus increased by \$27,000.

Costello said workman's compensation costs have gone "through the roof," and this year the borough would be paying \$76,448 between worker's comp and general liability insurance. The bor-

ough health plan will come to \$98,600, with just one additional employee.

Kaithern said the borough has been very consistent over the last several years, going across the board with a nominal increase on salaries, ranging from zero to 2 percent.

The shared services agreement with Cape May for police protection went up \$12,000 from 2011, bringing it to \$419,304.

Commissioner Ramsey Geyer asked what the cost for fuel oil and gasoline for borough vehicles would be in 2011. Costello said \$12,000 has been budgeted.

Borough postage, with the national price increase, has

Please see West, page A3

## Application to Army Corps could result in more development in ECM

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) is currently reviewing an application submitted by East Cape May Associates, which has proposed building

a residential development covering 20.74 acres of wetlands.

The development area, also known as Sewell Point, is located east of Pittsburgh Avenue between the oceanfront and Cape May Harbor.

After decades of litigation between the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and East Cape May Associates, an agreement was reached in 2009. The majority of the 96-acre Sewell Point would be preserved for open space while East Cape May

Associates would be permitted to develop 20 acres of the land, leaving the remaining 76 untouched.

The East Cape May Associates application calls for the development of 71 single-family homes in areas identified on maps as areas B and C. Area B is bordered by Pittsburgh, New York, Maryland and Baltimore Avenues. Area C is north of Maryland at Wilmington Avenue.

The developer proposes building 16 residential units

-two market value homes and 14 low-income family homes in Area A, which is off Pittsburgh Avenue between Ohio and Virginia.

The Area A segment of the project would include covering of 185 cubic yards of wetlands according to the ACOE report, while areas B and C involve a total of 23,563 cubic yards.

According to Mike Hayduk, a biologist for the ACOE, the proposal originally called for more than 350 housing units, but was turned down by the

DEP and Army Corps. The matter was settled in the New Jersey Supreme Court, which allowed the development of 20.74 acres - still a big project according to Hayduk.

"This is the largest wetlands impact project we've seen in a long time," he said. "Typically we don't see over an acre involved."

Cape May and the DEP contributed \$7 million to the purchase of the land, partially funded through a \$2.2 million grant to the city from Garden State Preservation Trust and

a \$2.2 million match from the city. Mayor Edward Mahaney said the city's \$4.4 million obligation would be covered by \$2.2 million from the Green Acres program, including a \$2 million loan

Please see Corps, page A12

CLASSIFIED	B4
COMMENTARY	A8
ENTERTAINMENT	A7
OBITUARIES	A6
RELIGION	A7
SPORTS	B6
TIDES	A2





# WASHINGTON INN

Open Every Saturday Evening in March

## Keeping you warm into the spring...

Winter Warm Up Menu 3 Choices Plus a Glass of Wine \$24

Early Dinners from 4:30-6:00pm • 3 Courses \$20

Serving Easter Sunday Brunch 10-2 and Dinner from 4 pm

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

