



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave
Above, the Fisherman's Memorial on Missouri Avenue is the site of the annual Blessing of the Waters. This year's ceremony is on Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

Cape May remembers those lost at sea

By **CAIN CHAMBERLIN**
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – We often take for granted our luxuries in life, like a gourmet seafood dinner or even a bucket of clams at the pub, and fail to realize the effort and peril involved in retrieving those amenities from the unforgiving ocean waters.

Fishermen on nearly every shore have been lost at sea, making commercial fishing one of the world's most dangerous professions. Cape May County's fishing industry dates back to the early 1600s, when the first white settlers went whaling on the mighty Atlantic. Centuries later, in late 1984, a small group of fishermen and friends decided it was time to honor the memories of the lost souls who perished at sea.

Jeff Reichle, president of Lund's Fisheries, Inc., was the treasurer for the non-profit corporation created

in 1985 called the "Cape May County Fisherman's Memorial Project." The project eventually led to the construction of the monument we all know today on Missouri Avenue overlooking the harbor. Reichle said the piece of land was donated by Cape May City and the memorial was widely accepted by the public when the idea came about.

"We held fundraisers and events to raise money – there was a lot of support from the local fishermen, businesses, residents and the city," he said.

Other members of the group included committee president and former Cape May County Sheriff Beech Fox, vice-president Capt. Hiram Thompson, secretary Capt. Paul Thompson and many other committee members mentioned on a plaque at the memorial.

The memorial, erected in 1988, features a mother and

her two children gazing at the harbor sunrise awaiting the arrival of a fisherman and family man who might never return. Behind the statue is a wall with the names of Cape May County fishermen who were lost at sea dating back to the late 1890s.

On Friday, June 15, at 5:30 p.m., the annual Blessing of the Waters Ceremony will be held at the site, where family and friends of the lost fishermen as well as supporters of the fishing industry gather at the monument and pay their respects to those who have given their lives at sea.

Mark Allen of South Jersey Marina marketing and events was one of the individuals on the committee that initiated Harbor Fest, which will be held Saturday on Delaware Avenue from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Allen said the festival began in 2007 in an effort to raise money for cleaning up the harbor and ridding it of abandoned and sunken ves-

sels that were polluting the waters. The same year, Allen and other Harbor Fest committee members said there should be a memorial service honoring the fishermen who have been lost at sea since Cape May Harbor is the home to so many commercial fishing boats. They said the Fisherman's Memorial was the perfect place to hold the ceremony.

"We needed something to honor the fishermen along with Harbor Fest," Allen said. "There's never been a poor attendance at the Blessing of the Waters ceremony – a lot of people come out to pay their respects."

However, it's not just one day out of the year when family and friends gather at the monument. Lori Girard of Cape May Court House lost her nephew Ronald Deems to the depths of the Atlantic when he was just 21 years

Please see Lost, page A2

Harbor Fest celebration is scheduled for the weekend

By **CAIN CHAMBERLIN**
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – When abandoned and sunken vessels dotted Cape May Harbor, many residents began looking for a way to eliminate these environmental and navigational hazards and make Cape May Harbor as beautiful as it was in its early years.

In 2007, an event called Harbor Fest was held in order to raise money for cleaning up the area near the Nature Center and U.S. Coast Guard Training Center. The boats that were causing environmental issues and disturbing the ecology of Cape May Harbor have since been removed.

Now, because of the continued success of the annual celebration, Harbor Fest is in its fifth year and will be held June 16 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Delaware Avenue.

Mark Allen of the South Jersey Marina marketing and tournaments department was a member of the committee that originally came up with the idea for Harbor Fest. He also had the idea for the "Blessing of the Waters" ceremony at the Fisherman's Memorial on Missouri Avenue to honor local

fisherman who died at sea. The ceremony is held the night before the festival. Allen said there has never been poor attendance at either event.

Harbor Fest is presented by the Nature Center of Cape May and the Greater Cape May Chamber of Commerce and is made possible with the help of over 30 sponsors. Director of marketing and events for the Chamber, Doreen Talley said there were around 10,000 people in attendance last year as the event continues to flourish. She said Harbor Fest brings local residents and tourists to the Nature Center of Cape May simply to enjoy the vendors on site and to appreciate

and learn about the harbor. "Harbor Fest was formed to celebrate the culture, the ecology of the harbor and have people try to understand there is an economy that goes hand in hand with the fishing vessels that come into the harbor," Talley said. "With that, we could create a little bit of excitement and something to be proud of." Talley said there will be about 100 vendors coming from far and wide at the festival

Please see Fest, page A7



Special to the Cape May Star and Wave
A scene of last year's Harbor Fest from the Nature Center.

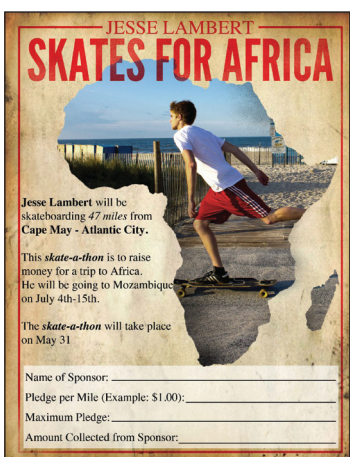
Skateboarding with a mission

By **CHRISTOPHER SOUTH**
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Jesse Lambert recently graduated from Geneva College (Beaver Falls, Pa.), with a degree he helped outline himself – Educational Media.

Lambert, 22, of North Cape May, took his Cannon Rebel T2i camera, which has video capabilities, and mounted it on a PVC frame he made himself. With it, he has created video for his classes, and is now taking his camera and experience to the mission field.

Lambert recently departed for one of two mission trips he has planned for the summer. He recently arrived in the Dominican Republic, where he is going to put together an informational video for a missions group currently working there. He said the entire



A sample form found online to support Lambert's cause.

cost of the trip for him was only \$500, and he was able to raise the money with the help of family and friends.

Lambert said in July he is

going to go to the town of Pemba, Mozambique. There, the group Meeting God In Missions has asked him to shoot an informational video about the school they just built. That trip requires Lambert to raise the \$2,000 he needs for airfare. Once there, the group will provide food and lodging.

Lambert has not visited either place and expects to stay about 10 days in both the Dominican Republic and Mozambique. He said he would be shooting video the entire time and is confident he can get what he needs in 10 days.

"I will spend as much time each day as I can filming what they want me to film," he said.

Lambert will bring back what he shot and do the edit

Please see Mission, page A2



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave
Above, part of the Fisherman's Memorial bearing the names of fishermen from Cape May County who have been lost at sea.

Township will attempt to clean out Roseanne Ave. sewer line

By **CHRISTOPHER SOUTH**
Cape May Star and Wave

NORTH CAPE MAY – Lower Township Council decided to give Public Works the opportunity to try to remove material clogging up a storm water sewer trunk line on Roseanne Avenue.

Mark Sray, an engineer with Hatch, Mott, MacDonald, told council the 72-inch pipe had lost about 60 percent of its capacity due to sediment in the pipe. He said the pipe, which was installed in the early 1970s, lies relatively flat, so there is little slope for water to drain and wash out sediment. He said in the 1980s the township council autho-

rized an engineering report for the trunk line because of flooding. Sray said no work was done on the line.

Sray said a combination of the shallow slope and the sediment has led to flooding in the area of Roseanne Avenue.

In February, the engineers did an underwater evaluation of the line with a diver. He said the evaluation found compacted sand, stone, and rubble. He said the diver was unable to make a complete inspection of the pipe due to the lack of access.

However, Sray said they were able to estimate that there is about 1,400 tons of material clogging the pipe. Sray said a contractor estimated they could

remove 10 tons of material per day, meaning it would take six to seven months to clean out the pipe. Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare said he would like to see how much of the work could be done by Public Works, but also said he couldn't see tying up a crew for six or seven months.

Sray said he would meet with Public Works and discuss what portions of the project they could do. He said one aspect of the project that needed to be researched was what to do with the material they extract from the pipe. He said they would have to take samples of the material for

Please see Line, page A2

More lot coverage in residential districts

By **CAIN CHAMBERLIN**
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – After requests from residents, city council gave preliminary approval to an ordinance change to increase maximum lot coverage in the city's R-1 zoning district along Cape May Avenue from 30 to 40 percent.

At the June 4 regular meeting, Mayor Ed Mahaney said

there had been requests filed with the city Planning Board. He said in the second request, the area to be considered for a maximum lot coverage increase was limited to just a four block radius of Cape May Avenue in the R-1 (Residential-1) district.

Mahaney said only homes that front Cape May Avenue, which has a large area of open space separating

the two sides of the street, would receive the coverage increase. Prior to the June 4 meeting, the Planning Board suggested that council develop an ordinance to increase the lot coverage on eight blocks, counting both sides of Cape May Avenue.

Mahaney said because the lots on that street are the larg

Please see Lots, page A7

LUCKY BONES BACKWATER GRILLE

OPEN DAILY FOR LUNCH, DINNER & LATE NIGHT

Serving Lunch & Dinner from 11:30am

Thin Crust Brick-Oven Pizza • Burgers • Sandwiches • Seafood • Ribs • Wings • Chicken • Nachos • Soups & Salads

Happy Hour Monday thru Friday 4-6pm

14 Beers on Tap including Cape May Honey Porter

Now Offering a Complete Gluten-Free Menu From Appetizers to Desserts

1200 RT. 109 SOUTH CAPE MAY, NJ • 609-884-BONE (2663) • WWW.LUCKYBONESGRILLE.COM