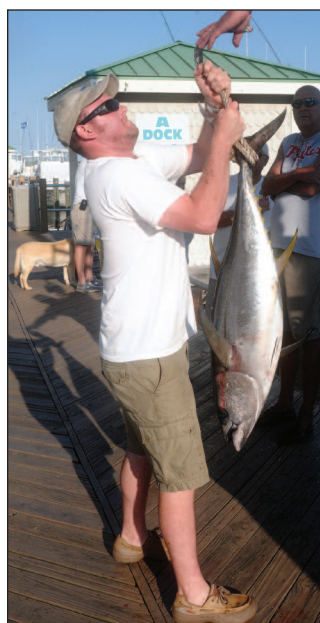




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## CAPE MAY

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**TIDES**  
July 2011  
Eastern Standard Time

	High		Low	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
20	12:20	5:57	6:16	
21	12:28	1:03	6:34	7:06
22	1:12	1:51	7:13	8:00
23	2:01	2:42	7:56	8:59
24	2:56	3:38	8:44	9:59
25	3:57	4:33	9:37	10:57
26	4:57	5:27	10:31	11:49
27		5:53	6:17	11:25
Moon Phases				
New Moon, July 1				
First Quarter, July 8				
Full Moon, July 15				
Last Quarter, July 23				
Perigee, July 11				
Apogee, July 24				

## Beck: Government to blame for controversy

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

VILLAS – Mayor Mike Beck said township government is responsible for the Lower Township Rescue Squad being a matter of public debate in recent months.

Beck said neighbors of the LTRS facility at Georgia and Main, Villas, first complained to the township on April 18. The residents had a number of complaints, including trash being piled in or around a dumpster, apparent derelict vehicles on the property, and double-parking on streets surrounding the station. While the rescue squad cor-

*‘These people did not get the code enforcement they deserved. It took 25 days for (code enforcement) to come out.’*

–LT Mayor Mike Beck

rected some of the issues, another arose over the clearing of a rescue squad owned lot to create more parking for vehicles.

Beck said he and Township Manager Mike Voll visited

the rescue squad facility on May 3, and the township's code enforcement did not make a report on the matter until May 12, nearly a month after residents first brought this to the township's atten-

tion. According to Beck, the public comment and contention that followed was due to government not responding to citizens' complaints.

Beck's comments stemmed from a discussion of maintaining order in council meetings. Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare recommended following either Robert's Rules or establishing some policy that establishes order for public comment.

"I'm not for disorder, but that doesn't mean people shouldn't show emotion at some time," Beck said. "This was not a problem. It came after three months of rescue squad (discussion). It came

on April 18 and these people have been back every week. I have a theory that we created this problem."

Beck, who was sharing blame for the delayed response, said, "These people did not get the code enforcement they deserved. It took 25 days for (code enforcement) to come out."

Voll said he contacted code enforcement the day after he and Beck visited the facility. According to Beck, once code enforcement was notified, the office called the rescue squad and discussed the violations.

"There was no citation, they

Please see **Blame**, page A2

## Hours for liquor sales discussed

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

WEST CAPE MAY – Last week the Board of Commissioners decided to allow a liquor license holder to sell alcohol until midnight, and reserved the right to reject all bids, rather than set a minimum bid for the sale of the two licenses.

The commissioners originally set minimum bids for the distribution and consumption licenses at \$750,000 and \$650,000, respectively. The board thought about lowering the amounts but did not want to go too low because they felt they needed to protect their asset.

"We know that \$650,000 is too high, but I still can't come up with a conclusion as to what it should be," Commissioner Ramsey Geyer said at last Wednesday's meeting. "It's almost like pulling a number out of the air."

"The problem is you talk to

people who might be interested and they're not going to give you a reasonable number because they want it as low as they can get it," he said.

Mayor Pamela Kaithern said they talked about lowering the minimum bids \$100,000 to \$150,000, but Borough Solicitor Frank Corrado soon suggested reserving the right to reject all bids.

"I think the only way to find out how much those licenses are really worth is to put them up for bid with no minimum bid, and reserve the right to reject all bids," he said.

The Board of Commissioners also made the decision to extend the hours for serving alcohol in the borough to midnight. The ordinance originally stated alcohol could not be served past 10 p.m. Geyer said this was one of the main reasons for lack of interest when the licenses went up for bid the first time.

Please see **Hours**, page A7



Patrick Hyland/Cape May Star and Wave

## Great American Volleyball Tournament

The city of Cape May and Cabanas Beach Bar and Grill teamed up with Great American Volleyball for the second year to pull off a day-long, pro-am beach volleyball tournament in Cape May, Saturday, July 16. See more photos on page A12.

## Nature Center draws interns

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

CAPE MAY – Summer after summer, middle and high school age students keep coming back to the Cape May Nature Center to take part in the 4-H Junior Intern Program.

According to County 4-H Agent Betty Jean Webersinn, the program began in 1999 with a grant from Rutgers University. In a cooperative effort between the Nature Center, New Jersey Audubon, the 4-H Youth Development Program and Rutgers Cooperative Extension, the program allows students to learn about marine and environmental science.

When it first began, they were limited to taking six interns at once, but there was so much interest in it, the limit was doubled to 12. Webersinn said last year, the



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, repeat intern Lindsey Harner works on a summer project at the Nature Center of Cape May.

program welcomed 43 kids.

She said the intern program is based on two components aside from the educational aspect, which are personal and leadership development,

and community service. "Each intern brings their own set of talents, interests and experience to the cen

Please see **Interns**, page A3

## Erma Camp has its followers

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

ERMA – With the heat wave we are under, the kitchen is not the place to be these days.

Earl Griffis, 87, will finally find out what it is like to get out of the kitchen he has run each summer since 1948. No stranger to heat, Griffis is a former U.S. Navy cook, who saw action in the South Pacific during World War II. He served on the Patrol Craft 1129, a submarine chaser that was sunk by a Japanese kamikaze. He and his shipmates spent four hours in the water waiting to be rescued.

As a Navy cook from 1942 to 1948, Earl learned the fine art of cooking for over 100 people.

"My cookbook goes for 100 people," he said. "But if there are more you just add to it."

Earl said last year the largest crowd they served was 183. He, along with his wife Miriam, have been preparing three meals a day



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, Earl and Miriam Griffis have been working at the Erma Camp Meeting Dining Hall since 1948.

at the Erma Camp Meeting Christian Retreat Center for all but three years.

Prior to the Navy, Earl got his start at age 13 in a diner in

Trenton, where he peeled potatoes. He continued his cooking ways in the Navy, but

Please see **Camp**, page A2

## Fire companies saw many changes

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

WEST CAPE MAY – Imagine being a firefighter when there weren't even radios.

Today, as commendable as the job of a firefighter is, they have the advantage of advancements in communication technology and state-of-the-art equipment.

Robert Elwell has been a firefighter for 45 years and recently recalled that, prior to the 1950s, none of the fire-



fighters carried the VHF (Very High Frequency)

radios they carry today.

Elwell spent most of his time with the Cape May City Fire Department. He is currently a member of the West Cape May Volunteer Fire Company. His father, grandfather and uncle were also firemen in the area and were on the job when the standard issue breathing apparatus hadn't become available yet. Over the years, the fire departments advanced immensely as they found bet

Please see **Fire** page A7



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