



INSIDE



SPORTS

Commissioners Cup
Awarded to LCMR, **B1**

Teens skateboard
the length of NJ **B1**

Lou Rodia on fishing, **B2**

CAPE MAY

Community Events, **A4**

TIDES August 2011 Eastern Standard Time				
	High	Low		
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
24	4:20	4:48	9:55	11:12
25	5:21	5:43	10:55	11:59
26	6:14	6:34	11:52	
27	7:04	7:22	12:48	12:46
28	7:51	8:08	1:33	1:37
29	8:38	8:55	2:17	2:29
30	9:25	9:42	3:01	3:20
31	10:13	10:30	3:46	4:13

Moon Phases
New Moon, Aug. 1, 30
First Quarter, Aug. 8
Full Moon, Aug. 15
Last Quarter, Aug. 23
Perigee, Aug. 7
Apogee, Aug. 21

5.9 earthquake felt around Cape May County

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
and CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COUNTY – A 5.9 magnitude earthquake in Virginia at 1:51 p.m. on Tuesday caused violent tremors throughout the East Coast, including Cape May County.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the quake lasted for 45 seconds and was felt as far away as Washington, D.C., Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky and North Carolina.

The earthquake's epicenter

'When my office started shaking on Eighth Street in Ocean City at the Ocean City Sentinel this afternoon, I thought immediately of my daughter, Kelsey, who went through the earthquake in Japan in March.'

–David Nahan,
Star and Wave publisher

was situated 41 miles northwest of Richmond, Va., between Richmond and Charlottesville, Va. Several reports on the earthquake's depth range from 3.5 miles deep to a half-mile deep.

Skyscrapers in New York City and government in Washington, D.C. were evacuated.

Cape May County Emergency Management Director Frank McCall said there were no reports of structural damage in Cape May County.

"Several buildings both public and private in the county evacuated their personnel. All have returned

safely to the buildings," McCall said.

Following the quake, people accessed their cellphones, flooding cellular networks to reach out to loved ones and learn more about the earthquake.

McCall said a loss of cellular phone communication was reported in areas affecting Cape May County.

He said Cape May County began feeling the earthquake's effects ten minutes after the eruption in Virginia. McCall said the tremors lasted for 23 seconds at county emergency management

Please see **Quake**, page A7

Comcast offering low cost Internet to qualified families

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Families with children who are eligible to receive free lunches through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) can now get affordable Internet service, a home computer and free digital literacy training through Comcast.

Comcast Spokesman Jeff Alexander said the Internet Essentials program of Comcast provides those who qualify an Internet service fee of \$9.95 a month, a voucher to purchase a Dell or Acer for \$149.99 and access to free digital literacy training in print, online or in person. He said this program was initiated when Comcast proposed the idea to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

"The commission loved the idea and wanted to jump on board immediately," Alexander said.

Alexander said the Internet acts as a great information tool and vital piece of technology for all school students in today's world. He said Comcast wants to make that tool available to as many of them as possible.

"The world has gone digital, but many low-income families have not," he said. "Not having access to the Internet as a research tool puts kids at a greater risk of falling behind."

He said Internet Essentials has become available in 39 states and Comcast is trying to spread the word about the program, so parents and schools can get their students the technology they need.

Lower Township Ward 2 Councilman Erik Simonsen met with a Comcast representative, Township Manager Mike Voll, and Chris Kobik, Director of Curriculum at Lower Cape May Regional High School a few weeks ago to talk about the program. Simonsen said Internet Essentials will benefit many citizens in the area, considering 40-percent of the high school and junior high students are eligible for the NSLP.

"When you factor in Cape May and Cape May Point, it's hard to believe but there are more low-income families in the area than people think," Simonsen said.

Not all of these students will qualify, considering some are only eligible for a reduced lunch fee rather than free of charge. However, Simonsen, who is a teacher at Ocean Academy in Cape May Court House, still believes it will help numerous students.

"As an educator, you face the fact that technology is essential for a good education now," he said. "With the Internet, you have everything at your fingertips and it's a big disadvantage if you don't

Please see **Internet**, page A2



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, Impressionist painter Samir Sammoun paints a rendering of Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in Cape May. Below, the canvas shown with the church initially rendered in burnt hues. Sammoun's work, shown in major American cities, is on display at Gallery D'May on the Washington Street Mall.

Good first impression(ist)

By CHRISTOPHER
SOUTH

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Dawn DeMayo, owner of Gallery D'May, believes she has attracted a modern master to her stable of fine artists.

"Monet, Manet, Degas, Van Gogh, and now... Sammoun," is the way DeMayo introduces Samir Sammoun, who said he has been inspired by many of the Impressionist masters.

Sammoun said he takes a lot of inspiration from Van Gogh's style of painting, but also from his manner of working.

"Van Gogh did three paintings a day," Sammoun said.



Using oil paint, Sammoun generally works in a "wet-on-wet" technique, putting fresh layers on the canvas

before the first layers dry. He said the technique not

Please see **Good**, page A2

Harry Hirsch loved Cape May

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Harry Hirsch, one of Cape May's most known and notable citizens died, Aug. 20, at the age of 88.

Born in Kucow, Poland in 1923, Hirsch survived the Auschwitz death camp and went on to become a successful businessman in Cape May. Hirsch first ran Sid's Tavern, which is now Carney's, and later built the Montreal Inn, which he ran from 1966 until he turned over operations to his family.

In May 2010, the inn's restaurant was remodeled and renamed "Harry's" for the patriarch of the Hirsch family.

Eldest son Larry spoke about his father.

"We were blessed to have him. He took ill four years ago and didn't think he would make it. We felt every day after that was a great day. A blessed day," Hirsch said.



Harry Hirsch

Harry Hirsch built the Montreal Inn in 1966, after having owned Sid's for several years. Hirsch said, besides the Swain family, the Hirsches are among the longest, continuously running business owners in Cape

May.

"As a businessman my father was a simple and unassuming man. He didn't enjoy a lot of attention," Hirsch said. "At the same time, he always made the other person feel important. He made the guests feel important. He was always friendly, always smiling."

Hirsch said his father truly loved Cape May. He left for a time, living in Vineland with his wife Sophie, but he returned to Cape May after her death 36 years ago. Harry Hirsch never remarried, and according to his son, Cape May was always his home despite four years of assisted living.

"He still voted in Cape May," Hirsch said.

Although he was interested in what was happening in Cape May, Harry Hirsch was not a political person for several reasons. His son said his

Please see **Harry**, page A2

Turnpike Authority gives Presentation on GSP traffic light removal in county

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – Representatives from the New Jersey Turnpike Authority held an informational meeting with residents regarding the Garden State Parkway improvements to interchanges 9, 10 and 11.

The meeting at the County Administrative Building last Thursday drew in hundreds of county citizens who all had questions about the \$130 million project. The improvements the Turnpike Authority and the Louis Berger Group, Inc. have planned on making will involve removing the traffic lights at Crest Haven Road, Stone Harbor

Boulevard, and Shell Bay Avenue, which are the only traffic lights on the entire Parkway.

The Turnpike Authority and county officials agreed these lights cause congestion during the summer months and cause a higher crash rate throughout the year. They

Please see **Lights**, page A2



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