

Cape May Star and Wave

154th YEAR NO. 11 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2008 50¢



Happy Easter!

INSIDE

SPORTS

Lower Cape May Regional girls' basketball coach retiring, **BI**

ARTS

Jazz Vespers puts on great show with Bob Ferguson, **A10**

COMMUNITY

Spring clean up along Cape May Harbor planned, **A4**

YOUTH

Lower Township Wrestling Team defends South Jersey Little League title, **B5**

MARCH TIDE TABLE

	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
3/20	7:56	8:21	1:28	1:59
3/21	8:36	8:59	2:13	2:36
3/22	9:13	9:34	2:55	3:11
3/23	9:49	10:09	3:35	3:44
3/24	10:24	10:44	4:14	4:16
3/25	11:00	11:20	4:53	4:48
3/26	11:37	11:59	5:34	5:21

Lower council approves contract salary increases

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

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Lower Township Council approved a new five year contract for union and non-union employees in the township. Township manager Joe Jackson said the raise affects mainly clerical workers represented by AFSCME in the township.

Township solicitor Paul Baldini said the township

negotiated a 4-percent raise for the first two years of the contract, and a 3.5-percent raise for the last three years of the contract. He said generally, non-union employees would receive raises consistent with the union contract.

Baldini said the contract was good for the residents of Lower Township because it represented the first contract with a "significant rate of decrease." Baldini also said it was the first time the township and the union had nego-

tiated a health insurance give-back without the matter going to arbitration. According to Baldini, in 2009, AFSCME members would pay a higher co-pay and deductible. The measure would lower the premiums the township pays by \$35,000 per year.

Jackson said the changes and the annual raises would affect about 27 to 29 workers.

Asked if the township would be looking to get the same concessions from other union

contracts, Baldini said, "I think it's fair to say we are looking at this or better."

Baldini said the state has imposed caps on municipal budget increases, and as time goes on it's going to be more difficult to make the budget and give annual raises.

Baldini said municipalities are bound to pay contractually obligated salary raises, but at the same time, the state would not let them exceed a 4-percent increase in their operating budgets. Baldini

said since salaries have to be paid, the municipalities might be forced to make cuts elsewhere.

Jackson said the town of Lumberton recently decided to lay off 12 police officers, and many municipalities may feel pressure to cut personnel in order to stay under the cap.

"The cap law is very draconian treatment of small towns," Baldini said.



Photos by Macy Andrews/Courtesy of Cape Publishing

Polka Dot Fun!

The Center for Community Arts (CCA) held its annual gala fundraiser last Friday night at Congress Hall. The Polka Dot.com gala celebrated "The Dot." Literally. Students in the Youth Activities Program decorated Congress Hall's ballroom and gala attendees donned polka dots on hats like those of Buddy Wood and Bill Rech, above left, and dresses as well as jewelry like those of Barbara Freels and Alis Howard Murphy, at left. Above Judy Austermilller, CCA director of development, shares a smile with Emily Dempsey.

Third PAL Comedy Night Social at Convention Hall

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

CAPE MAY – Last Friday was a night to paint the town blue – as in blue for the Police Athletic League – and blue for some of the humor at the annual Comedy Night Social, March 14 at Convention Hall. The third Comedy Night Social in the last four years featured headliner Eric McMahon, Brad Trackman, and a third "comedienne," who wished not to be named in print for business reasons – in the witness protection program, perhaps?

But it was she who said medical advances might

make it possible to live to be 120 in the not too distance future.

"If you live to be 120 you could go to your kid's 90th birthday," she said, adding, "Look at the nice walker I gave you."

Marriage and relationships were never far from the topic table last Friday, as our comedienne/MC wondered why it only took men 30 seconds to fall asleep at night.

"Are you not worried about anything?" she asked.

Brad Trackman is billed as young talent who "won't be kept a secret for much longer." Trackman talked about topics ranging from being Jewish to being left-

handed.

"I need the green scissors!" he shouted in the birthing room when it came time to cut the umbilical cord.

Trackman talked about the genius of Eraser-Mate pens, that is except for the left handed, whose hand would erase what they had just written. Trackman also went bluer than decorum and the policies of this newspaper allow me to explain to you, taking on the police in the audience because, after all, they were off duty.

(Trackman) was a little over the top," event organizer Officer Tony Genaro said. "But people seemed to like him the best; but he also

offended people the most."

"People who have been to comedy shows expect that kind of humor," Genaro said, "but some people, who were just there to support PAL, maybe they were a little surprised."

Genaro said a lot of the women seemed to like the woman's act, whereas younger types went for Trackman's humor. Genaro said his father, and perhaps others his age, preferred headliner McMahon, who had a mix of humor. McMahon is a father of three who is described as having a "me against the world" attitude that helps his audience identify with him. McMahon

talked about trying to get service in a Home Depot (Sir, this is a self-service store) to hotel bell hops who want to assist you with a bag you just lugged across the country, to his family's teacup Yorkshire terrier.

"It's like a guinea pig that barks," he said.

All three comedians were new to Cape May. Genaro said rather than invite the same people back each year,

they tried to get new comedians and present a new show. Despite the new cast of comedians, however, someone ultimately points out Cape May is the first place they performed where the venue had a "reflecting disco ball." The reflecting ball is used on skating nights, but perhaps should actually be used for the Comedy Night.

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Swain making run for city council

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

CAPE MAY – Terry Swain's family has been in Cape May since the late 1890s, and she is attempting to become the first Swain elected to the governing body.

Her great grandparents established Swain's Hardware in 1896. Her great grandmother was a governess for the mayor of Philadelphia, who summered in Cape May. She met the man who would be Swain's great grandfather in church.

Swain is the daughter of Charles "Bud" Swain and Reda Swain, and the stepdaughter of Eivor Swain.

Born in 1962, Swain was a member of the first seventh grade class of the Richard M. Teitelman School. She said

the students shared the high school building for the first month while waiting for the junior high school to open.

After high school, Swain got a degree in public accounting and worked as a CPA in New York. In 2002, she bought the hardware business from her father.

Swain decided the timing could not be better for a run for city council.

"I recently came off the board of the Center for Community Arts, where I was the acting secretary and on three or four different committees," she said. "Being off the board frees up a lot of time."

Part of her decision to run has to do with Councilman David Craig's decision not to run for reelection. Swain said she would not have entered the race had Craig decided to seek another term. She sees a

lot of similarities in their backgrounds and viewpoints.

"David and I have similar moves on Cape May. We both moved from Cape May to get an education and to explore employment opportunities, and both came back to live and to give back to Cape May," she said.

She thought having someone like herself gives balance to city council.

"I thought my background was important to provide a good mix on council," she said.

That background, she said, includes a strong sense of serving the community. She comes from the oldest family to operate a business in town, with the same business surviving for 112 years. To do that, she said, the business had to adapt and make changes she believes were made seamless to the cus-

tomers.

"We changed from one hardware cooperative to another," she said. "And we looked for alternate choices to pass on to customers. When the town is changing you are trying to constantly be aware so you have the products people need and want."

"There is not a day people don't come by and challenge what we have and request additional products or product comparisons," she said.

It is her professional and business background, plus a strong work ethic developed over the years she believes makes her an ideal candidate for council.

"It's hard for me not to look at something, look at pros and cons, and come up with sound decisions based on that," she

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Easter activities in and around the Cape

- The Kiwanis Club of Cape May will sponsor an Easter Egg Hunt in conjunction with the City of Cape May on Saturday, March 22 at the Cape May Elementary School in the area between the Dellas Little League field and the school beginning at 10 a.m.

Due to the limited space the egg hunt will be offered to children preschool through second grade.

For more information, please call 884-9565.

- Cape May Point will hold its annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Pavillion Circle at 9:30 a.m. sharp.

- Cape May Convention Hall will host "Roller Skating Easter Week." The schedule is as follows: Monday, March 24 – 1 to 3:00 p.m.; Tuesday, March 25 – 1 to 3 p.m.; Wednesday, March 26 – 1 to 3 p.m.; Thursday, March 27 – 1 to 3 p.m.; Friday, March 28 – 4 to 6 p.m.; Saturday, March 29 – 1 to 3 and 4 to 6 p.m. and Sunday, March 30 – 1 to 3 p.m.

This will conclude roller skating until November of 2008.