



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

Law Enforcement Memorial

Above, a US Coast Guard bugler plays at the annual Law Enforcement Memorial Service to honor fallen officers, held at the Cape May County Police Academy. See more photos on page A10.

Mild winter will not affect mosquito pop.

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COUNTY – The pesky mosquitoes buzzing around at a summer barbecue might seem like just a minor nuisance, but the Cape May County Departments of Health and Mosquito Control believe they need to be watched carefully.

Both organizations are working together and asking the public to take precautions and to help monitor these

insects, as they are capable of carrying diseases including West Nile virus and eastern equine encephalitis. County Department of Mosquito Control Superintendent, Dr. Peter Bosak said both departments have been asking for the public's help to monitor the mosquito-borne diseases since 2002.

He said there are 63 species of mosquitoes in New Jersey, 45 of which have been found in Cape May County. He said of those 45, there are only two that are non-native, which are the Asian tiger mosquito and the Asian tiger pool mosquito.

"Some of the species here don't even bite humans – they feed on frogs, birds, turtles and other animals," he said. "The ones that feed on everything spread diseases."

Bosak said the mosquitoes only need to mate once in their life to successfully reproduce several times

throughout their two-week life span. He said the blood meals they acquire whether it be from humans, birds, livestock or any other creatures, provide the proteins necessary to lay more eggs. When the mosquito goes to multiple sources for blood meals, they have a higher chance of spreading diseases.

He said the two non-native Asian species and a group called "culex mosquitoes" are the main transmitters for West Nile virus. He said there are several species of culex mosquitoes, which along with the Asian mosquitoes, look for standing water sources. Bosak said his department and the Department of Health urge people to drain standing water from pool covers, saucers under flower pots, recycling bins, garbage cans, old tires and any other items that can collect water, as they serve as an artificial habitat for these mosquitoes. Bosak said he has even found mosquito eggs in bottle caps.

"They used to find things like tree holes, where a branch was broken off and rain water collected, but now humans provide all sorts of artificial habitats and containers for their eggs," he said.

The two departments are also asking residents to

Please see Pop., page A3

Cove to get more sand

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – By a 3-1 vote, Cape May City Council approved an agreement for a renourishment project at Cove Beach – the Cape May portion of a project to bring more sand to Lower Cape Meadows and Cape May Point.

At the Tuesday, May 15 meeting, council approved the agreement with the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman was the only

council member to oppose the agreement. Councilman William Murray was absent.

City Manager Bruce MacLeod said the beach renourishment will take place near the stone jetty at Third Avenue, with sand being taken from the vicinity of Convention Hall to Second Avenue. The entire project runs to Cape May Point. He referred to it as the third renourishment cycle or the third round since initial construction began.

MacLeod said there are two ways in which the process

Please see Sand, page A3

2012 economic forecast 'optimistic'

By KRISTEN KELLEHER
Cape May Star and Wave

ATLANTIC CITY – The panelists leading the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey's annual Jersey Shorecast on May 11 were cautiously optimistic about a strong summer season for Atlantic and Cape May County's shore towns.

However, they advised audiences that resort towns need to think outside of one individual town, season, or market to strengthen themselves.

Summer visitors are island hoppers, and according to panelist Joseph Kelly, presi-

dent of the Greater Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce, promoting an individual destination isn't targeting the region's demographics.

"Move your boundaries beyond Atlantic City," Kelly said. "The customer doesn't care. We're the ones drawing the lines... and all of these little boxes have hurt our ability because the customer doesn't care."

"The customer cares that they can come to a place and have a lot of fun with their family. Maybe they'll spend part of it at the beach in Ocean City, maybe they're coming to Atlantic City for a dinner and some gaming.

We've got to start thinking like the customer."

"As gambling numbers have been down, shopping, dining, and other numbers in those areas have been growing, so from a Cape May County Chamber of Commerce information perspective, I can tell you that we consistently see more Atlantic City visitors during the day coming down to see what's going on," Vicki Clark, president of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce, said on the regional marketing strategy.

"We would just like to see more of that," Clark said. "It's a real advantage for the region... if we can get peo-

ple to stay that extra night because there's something more to see, we want them to do that."

"What I see when I travel around the state, whether it's a group or an individual, is that they want options," Diane Wieland, director of Tourism for Cape May County, said.

Wieland said that 26 to 29 percent of Cape May County's summer visitors went to Atlantic City during their stay.

Panelist Michael Busler, assistant professor, William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy, Richard Stockton

Please see 2012, page A2



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'Race at the Cape' staged on Beach Avenue

Above, two classic cars, including a 1952 Muntz (right, in foreground), take part in Cape May Forum's "Race at the Cape: Renewing the Cape May Motor Car Challenge 1905-2012." The race was a pre-amble to discussions on the future of energy in America. See more photos on page B5.

French club raises money for Sole scholarship fund

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – The Lower Cape May Regional French Honor Society has developed its own version of the Tour de France, however, the goal of this event isn't to win 26 consecutive times like Lance Armstrong, but simply to enjoy a peaceful bike ride for a good cause.

The "Tour de Cape May," being held Saturday, June 2 at 8 a.m. is a non-competitive bike ride geared toward raising money for the Gene Sole Scholarship Fund. LCMR French teacher Jan Randle said the fun, at-your-own-pace ride is an open course where participants can ride for as long as they want, whether it be five, 10 or 20 miles.

Randle and her French Honor Society students were inspired to create the event when LCMR developed the

Gene Sole Scholarship Fund. Gene Sole is the former principal of the Richard M. Teitelman Middle School,



who passed away in August 2011 after a long battle with cancer. As an educator, Boy Scout leader, family man, friend and former lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps, Sole was a beloved and respected member of the community.

"Mr. Sole, he was just the rock – really such a hero for

us and this is just a great way to honor him," Randle said. "The scholarship is going to students who show leadership, character, patriotism – everything he embodied."

She said the scholarship goes to Lower Cape May Regional graduates and this will be the first year in which it is awarded. Randle hopes the Tour de Cape May will inspire a lot of community involvement and raise money for the worthy cause.

Gene's widow, Betsy Sole, said she is extremely grateful for all the support Randle, the students and community have shown to her and her family.

"It's a truly fantastic thing Jan is doing," Betsy said. "This community has just been so great to us and this is all about the community, giving back and recognizing students who have great char-

Please see Sole, page A3

Craig hired to settle health insurance issue

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS – Former Lower Township Mayor Jack Sparks approached the microphone during public comment at Monday's Lower Township Council meeting, and told Councilman Walt Craig he had a question.

Sparks said he asked Craig

previously if he had accepted a county job and Craig had said no. Sparks said he was directing the question to Craig again.

"Are you working for the county now?" Sparks said. "No. I'm retired," Craig said.

Sparks walked away from the microphone but returned holding papers in his hand.

Referring to the papers, Sparks said the Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders had passed a resolution which indicates the county hired Craig as a Confidential Assistant at a pay scale of \$36,400 per year, effective May 7, 2012.

"Are you saying I retrieved

Please see Craig, page A2

Realtors see rentals rise in 2012

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – It seems as though Cape Island can look forward to another successful tourist season as local real estate agencies are reporting big numbers in their summer rental properties.

Cape May had a record room tax year in 2011 and had beach tag sales of over \$2 million – something the city has never done before – and all were indications of a good tourist season.

Realtors are optimistic about 2012 saying it could be just as good, if not better than 2011.

"We are doing wonderful – fantastic," Carol Menz, owner of Coastline Realty said. "The warm winter has been a godsend. People have been able to come down since January or earlier to check out rentals and book early."

Menz said even though the economy hasn't completely pulled itself out of the recession rut and dusted itself off, people are tired of waiting for a miracle and want to take advantage of all the area has to offer.

"A lot of people skipped out on summer vacations and rentals last year because of finances, but I think people are over the bad news now and just want to enjoy the great weather we've been having," she said. "People are calling every day for rentals."

Chris Bezaire of Coldwell Banker Sol Needles said his agency's summer rentals are up 16 percent from last year at this time. Coldwell Banker has just over 400 rental properties, most of which are on Cape Island. He said the warm winter not only kept people coming down to the area and intrigued them in getting a summer rental, but also allowed people to start booking much earlier because schools haven't had snow cancellations to make up for.

"People started booking for mid-June or a little earlier because schools haven't had snow days," he said. "Kids are getting out of school earlier than usual."

Bezaire said 2007 and 2008 were the peak years for summer rentals and seasonal homes but the numbers dropped significantly in the following two years. He said 2011 was a big improvement, seeing a 20 percent increase over 2010 numbers. He said 2012 is shaping up to be even better.

Please see Rise, page A2



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