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Tommy James bringing hits to Cape May
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Light's out in Cape May Point

Budget impasse forces lighthouse to close for holiday weekend

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — The Cape May Lighthouse was closed to the public July 1 due to a stalemate between the Legislature and Gov. Chris Christie over the state budget, preventing possibly thousands of people from ascending its 199 steps for a panoramic view of Delaware Bay.

The World War II Lookout Tower on Sunset Boulevard and Cape May Point State Park also were closed. The Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities (MAC) manages, maintains and operates the Cape May Lighthouse and the World War II Lookout Tower (Fire Control Tower No. 23). In 2016, close to 83,000 people visited those two historic sites, which are especially popular during summer holiday weekends.

They are especially popular during summer holiday weekends. In 2016, for example, over three days from Saturday, July 2, to Monday, July 4, a total of 2,332 people visited these two historic sites. This year, July 4 falls on a Tuesday and means an added vacation day for many. MAC anticipated the possibility of 3,000 visitors to these two sites over this four-day holiday weekend. Over two days, MAC has lost an estimated \$9,000 in revenues due to this government shutdown.

State officials notified MAC Director Michael Zuckerman that since the state does not have an adopted and signed budget for fiscal year 2018, all non-essential state operations would be closed effective midnight July 1. The closings included all state parks, forests and recreation areas. The stalemate caused the cancellation of several MAC programs and tours.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
The Cape May Lighthouse was among the state facilities that were closed starting July 1 due to the state budget impasse.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Stepping out in style

Capt. John P. Baron leads the Hegeman String Band of Philadelphia down Beach Avenue as part of Cape May's Independence Day parade July 1. Below left, the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center Cape May honor guard and recruit band. Below middle, Colonial Musketeers of Hacketstown. Below right, the West Cape May Volunteer Fire Company.



Homeowner: HPC living in past on solar

Won appeal of rejection, says standards outdated

By CAROL R. EMMENS
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The use of solar panels raises questions about zoning regulations everywhere, particularly in Cape May, where it is complicated by the fact that the city has National Historic Landmark status. One city homeowner who was denied permission to install the panels fought back and won. In addition to a zoning board, Cape May has a Historic Preservation Commission. The HPC has seven members appointed by the mayor, and one of its responsibilities is to make recommendations about external modifications to existing structures. The commission and Zoning Board are currently debating the issues of authority and responsibility, with the former complaining that the latter has overturned its decisions on appeal without justification.

The use of solar panels is growing throughout the country, and New Jersey is among the leaders. According to the Solar Energy Industries Association, New Jersey was fifth in the nation in 2016 for cumulative solar capacity, and installations continue at a rapid rate. Are solar panels acceptable on a historic home? Are there guidelines for them? Currently, neither the state nor the city has written ordinances or guidelines for installing solar panels on such structures. The HPC has stated that it adopted the guidelines of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The guidelines require the panels to be "minimally visible." There already were historic homes with solar panels in the city when one homeowner ran into obstacles. Washington Street resident Robert Anderson said the HPC misstated the justification.

The use of solar panels See Solar panels, Page A2

Car stolen, couple faces slew of charges in Point

CAPE MAY — Two suspects were arrested in connection with a robbery that occurred in Mantua Township and the theft of a vehicle in Cape May Point. According to Cape May County Prosecutor Robert Taylor and Cape May Police Chief Anthony Marino, on June 26, the Mantua Township Police Department responded to an armed robbery outside a Lowe's

Home Improvement Store on Woodbury-Glassboro Road in Sewell. A credit card stolen during the robbery was later used in Cape May on the same date. The suspects in the robbery were described as a Hispanic male and a white female traveling in a white Ford Taurus. On June 27 in a seemingly unrelated incident, detec-

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City to test beachfront PA for emergency use

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city is in need of an operating PA system along the beachfront that would be used to warn bathers of an approaching thunderstorm or other hazardous situations. A demonstration of a new PA system will be conducted at 11 a.m. July 12, according to Dan Shustack, the city's purchasing agent and technology expert. During a Beach Safety

Committee meeting June 26, he said Metro Sound Pros would hold the demonstration on the Promenade across the street from the Kiwanis clubhouse. "They are going to simulate how high the speaker system has to be," Shustack said. He said Metro Sound Pros would test three types of speakers. A demonstration of speaker types was held in Seaside Heights with Shustack, Public Works Superintendent Joe Picard and

Beach Patrol Capt. Buzz Mogck in attendance. Shustack said Seaside Heights has PA speakers for its beach and promenade. Committee member Jack Wichterman noted the city had some funds in capital spending for a PA system but not enough for the entire beachfront. "We planned on doing it in phases with phase one and phase two," Shustack said. Wichterman offered to meet with Sen. Jeff Van Drew to determine if state

funding may be available for the project. Councilwoman Patricia Hendricks said she would accompany Wichterman to meet with Van Drew. Beach Patrol Capt. Geoff Rife said the beach patrol has been without a functioning PA system for several years. "It's a public safety issue of not being able to alert a two and half mile stretch with thousands of people on it if there is pending danger

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