

Cape May Star and Wave

153rd YEAR NO. 20 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2007 50¢

INSIDE



SPORTS

Baseball, softball and lacrosse at LCMR, **B1**

AREA

102 teams compete in World Series of Birding, **B2**

CAPE MAY

Jane Austen comes to Cape May, **A13**

RELIGION/OBITUARIES.....A6
OPINION/LETTERS.....A8
ARTS.....A10
MOVIES.....A13
WEATHER.....A14
SPORTS/OUTDOORS.....B1,2
EDUCATION/YOUTH.....B3
COMMUNITY/LIFESTYLE..B4
CLASSIFIED.....B8,9,10,11
PUBLIC NOTICE.....B11

MAY TIDE TABLE				
	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
10	2:14	3:01	8:40	8:49
11	3:19	4:05	9:36	9:59
12	4:23	5:04	10:30	11:04
13	5:23	5:59	11:22	
14	6:20	6:51	12:05	12:13
15	7:15	7:41	1:02	1:03
16	8:09	8:32	1:57	1:53

Inside:
Season
premier of
the Sure
Guide!

Police say no credible handgun threat at LCMR

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA – The Lower Township Police Department maintains that there was no credible threat at Lower Cape May Regional High School this week, despite an abundance of rumors suggesting otherwise. District superintendent Jack Pfizenmayer said atten-

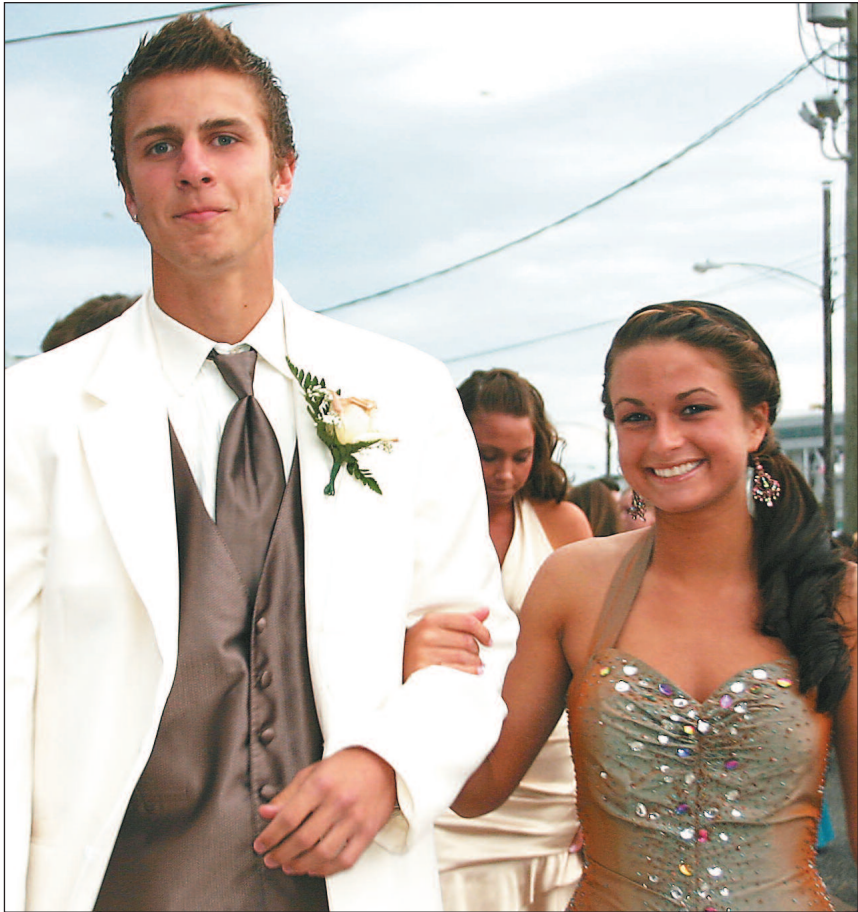
dance figures were back to normal Wednesday morning after two days of higher than normal absences blamed on the rumors. Pfizenmayer said there were about 100 more absences than normal on Monday and Tuesday. According to Det. Sgt. Thomas Keywood with the LTPD, there were rumors of someone carrying a gun to school, which he said had “taken on a life unto them-

selves.” The rumors stemmed from alleged retaliation threats after a fight on May 2, around 1:30 a.m., between juveniles in the Rio Grande section of Middle Township. A juvenile male had his jaw broken in a fight with another juvenile from Lower Township. Keywood said since the incident there were rumors of retaliation, which started to spread including rumors of

kids having handguns and bringing them to school. Keywood said the Lower Township police had been investigating the case since early Friday, May 4, and found no evidence to substantiate the rumors. “We followed up on the rumors and found nothing credible,” Keywood said. The police did make one arrest related to the May 2 fight, charging a juvenile

from the Villas section of Lower Township with aggravated assault. Keywood said the nature of the injury to the other juvenile was the basis for the aggravated charge. “A broken jaw would definitely be aggravated,” he said. Keywood said it was the injury to the Middle Township youth that gave the

Please see LCMR, Page A2



Remember your prom?

It is certain that students from Lower Cape May Regional High School will remember this year's Junior Senior Prom held last Saturday at Convention Hall. Top left, Alex Shea on the arm of escort Eric DeShields gets a most enthusiastic response from a young admirer. At left, Prom Queen and King Ashley Walker and Greg Palmer make their entrance down the red carpet as Lia Buggs and escort Bill Porch are all smiles as they climb the stairs to Convention Hall. More photos on Pages A8 and 9.

Photos by Jennifer Kopp

City agrees to loan starter money to Beach Theatre

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Ask and you shall receive. Cape May City Council authorized a \$100,000 loan to the Beach Theatre Foundation so it can enter into a lease agreement with Franks Investments. The agreement will give the foundation an option to purchase Cape May's only remaining movie theater. Foundation members Gerry Gaffney and Harley Shuler raised the issue at the May 1 city council meeting, saying the funds were available from a \$634,000 grant the city had

received from the state Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Gaffney said part of the purpose of the small cities grant was to fund endeavors to create jobs. “We would use the money to lease the theatre and work to acquire it,” Gaffney said. The Beach Theatre Foundation was hoping to get the money in the form of a loan/grant or low or no interest loan. Gaffney said the money would give the foundation 12 months to refurbish the theater and create a venue for the arts, including various festivals held in Cape May. “The whole theme is to provide Cape May with a grand

theater that is a comfortable place to go see arts, films, stage productions...” Gaffney said. Gaffney said jazz festival functions could be moved from Convention Hall, where the acoustics “are terrible.” He said the people in Cape May are adamant about the idea of saving the theater and restoring it to the 800-seat facility it once was. Shuler said besides the commercial productions, the theater would also be a place for film and arts education. Gaffney said the foundation was hoping to get the money without a payback date, saying they would prefer to have no payments required during

the first year. Councilman David Kurkowski said he agreed with the idea of a loan rather than a grant. Councilwoman Linda Steenrod said she supported the project, saying “The work already done shows what can be done if people work together.” City council unanimously passed a resolution support-

ing the \$100,000 loan to the Beach Theatre Foundation. City solicitor Tony Monzo said a vote by city council would authorize the city to approach DCA about the loan, and to begin negotiations with the Beach Theatre Foundations. Gaffney said he was happy with city council's action, indicating their action would

promote donations to the foundation. “Some people don't want to donate until something is set in stone, so to speak,” Gaffney said. The foundation later issued a press release quoting Steve Jackson, president of the Beach Theatre Foundation, Please see Beach, Page A2

Global warming addressed

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Susan Kurkowski, daughter of Councilman David and Myra Kurkowski addressed residents in Cape May on the topic of global warming and how it could affect Cape May. Kurkowski, an attorney who lives in New York, said her intention was to motivate people to start doing something about global warming in their community. “People think it's too big of a problem to do anything about, so they decide they won't do anything,” she said. “The purpose of my presentation is to show the town what can be done and should be

done when make decisions.” The Cape May Environmental Commission in conjunction with Swains Hardware has initiated a campaign to try and get all Cape May homeowners to agree to switch over to energy saving light bulbs. Additionally, Kurkowski said the city could join about 400 towns across the nation in signing the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. By signing the agreement, the mayor pledges to take action in the community to reduce global warming pollution. Kurkowski said Cape May has a vested interest in this because it has water on three sides. Global warming contributes to rising sea levels.

Kurkowski said there are things even a small town like Cape May can do, but collectively they can make an impact on global warming. “In some sense has to be a grass roots local movement, doing little everyday things,” she said. The most prevalent greenhouse gas – a gas which allows the sun's rays to penetrate but holds the heat radiated back from the earth's surface – is carbon dioxide. Residents in Cape May could help reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by walking or bicycling rather than driving a car. “All this will affect every person down the road,” Please see Global, Page A3



Ghosts of Cape May set to music

Eliot Bailen, pictured, composer and principal cellist of the New York Chamber Ensemble, is participating in this year's Cape May Music Festival Educational Outreach Program, sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts. There are three remaining scheduled dates when Bailen will visit area classrooms, whose students will assist him in crafting music to accompany his original composition “Ghosts of Cape May: A Musical Interpretation.” Bailen will rehearse students to prepare them for performing at the Young People's Concert on Friday, June 1 at 10:30 a.m. at the Paul W. Schmidtchen Theatre in Lower Cape May Regional.