

Cape May Star and Wave

153rd YEAR NO. 23 CAPE MAY, N.J.

SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY

THURSDAY, MAY 31, 2007

50¢

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CAPE MAY

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JUNE TIDE TABLE

	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
31	8:21	8:38	2:15	1:54
1	9:00	9:16	2:55	2:31
2	9:39	9:54	3:35	3:09
3	10:19	10:33	4:16	3:50
4	11:01	11:15	4:57	4:34
5	11:47	5:41	5:24	
6	12:01	12:39	6:27	6:20

Cape May remembers those who have fallen

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Cape May joined the rest of the county, and indeed the nation in honoring its war dead, Monday, continuing its own tradition of launching a memorial boat laden with flowers into the surf near Convention Hall.

As hundreds of visitors enjoyed the beaches and various amenities of life at the shore, Mayor Jerry Inderwies spoke about remembering those who were killed in battle trying to preserve American freedom.

Inderwies said the holiday was created after the Civil War, but today often is not remembered the way it should be. Many of those beachgoers would gather and watch as the ceremonial boat was launched from the beach.

But earlier, Inderwies reminded those gathered inside Convention Hall that war “scorches the earth and hearts of mankind,” but said it is worse to have a peace without security and freedom.

“I ask you today to pray for peace in the Middle East and for our troops to return home safely to their friends and family,” Inderwies said.

Captain Sandra Stosz, commander of the Coast Guard Training Center, said the observance of Memorial Day was never more relevant than it is today. She said the Coast Guard is replacing its ship and aircraft fleet in order to meet the increased demands on the nation’s longest continued seagoing force. Homeland security duties have been intensified for the Coast Guard while other duties have not diminished.

Over the weekend, Stosz said, the Coast Guard rescued

four people on a sinking vessel five miles off the coast of Ocean City, rescued three people whose canoes capsized around Seaside Heights, and released a 600-pound dolphin from a crab pot line near Townsends Inlet.

“Most of our recruits, these days, join for the education, travel and training, but we are still doing the same thing we’ve done since 1948,” she said.

West Cape May Mayor Pam Kaithern said she was awed and inspired by the numbers who came out to observe Memorial Day in Cape May, and to remember everything those who died in war did for their country and communities.

Kaithern spoke of the history of Memorial Day, and how it began, some say, with the soldiers tending the graves of their sons who were killed in the Civil War. They noticed the untended graves of some union soldiers and decided to tend to them as well, believe they deserved the same respect.

Kaithern urged the veterans in attendance to tell their stories of their service to their country, to repeat it, write it down, and spread the word to following generations.

Cape May Point Mayor Malcolm Fraser referred to Moses, saying he told the Israelites to follow him and he would lead them to the promised.

Fraser said for over 400 years, immigrants came to America and made it the most productive and wealthiest nation in the world.

“The rhetoric said we



reached the promised land,” he said. “But it seems we’ve ground to a halt.”

Fraser said Congress and the state government seem to be stagnant in what they are doing, and he urged America and the state of New Jersey to reassess what it is doing.

“We need to redefine our goals and not rest on our laurels,” he said. “We need to work to reestablish our leadership role in the world.”

Jim Roney, chaplain of VFW Post 386 said Memorial Day is sacred to all veterans, but the sacrifice of those killed in action becomes meaningless without remembering.

“By honoring our war dead we keep their memory,” he said. “Attending ceremonies like this is the most visible way of remembering.”

“With two wars underway we have no excuse for not remembering,” Roney added.



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Top, members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary launch the memorial boat, on Monday, off Cape May’s beach. Above, is the Civil War era gravestone of James S. Washington at the Bethel Union Cemetery in Lower Township which was recently cleaned up by the Cape May Diamonds baseball team.

Still looking to maintain funding

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH

Cape May Star and Wave

TRENTON – Assemblyman Jeff Van Drew said he thought a meeting with the Assembly Budget Committee went well, but the fight isn’t over to restore roughly \$2.7 million of the \$12.7 million earmarked to promote tourism annually in New Jersey.

“Everyone articulated the need well, but we are still trying to get the statutory amount of \$12.7 million. In the law that minimum amount was supposed to be

put in (the budget),” Van Drew said.

Van Drew said he would like to see a “poison pill” put in the legislation in order to ensure the funding would be kept in the budget.

“Like with beach replenishment – if they don’t fund the \$25 million fully, the state loses its ability to collect the transfer fee from which it comes. I would love to see the tourism legislation changed to have that poison pill in there,” Van Drew said.

State statute requires no less than \$12.7 million be funneled from the state’s occupancy tax into tourism. The

governor said he would like to reduce that number to \$10 million in the 2007 budget. With the poison pill in the legislation, the state wouldn’t be able to collect the hotel/motel room tax unless tourism is fully funded.

“I think that is a valuable piece of legislation,” Van Drew said.

At the 2007 Cape May County Tourism Conference, state Sen. Nick Asselta criticized the governor for what he said was an illegal cut to the state budget. However, Van Drew said the budget trumps the legislation calling for the funding, particularly

because the law doesn’t say what would happen if tourism were not funded according to statute.

Van Drew said there would be more budget meetings announced, and they would do their best to assemble anywhere from 30 to 50 people throughout state to give testimony on tourism. He said the last meeting was very thorough, with representatives from north, central and southern New Jersey giving testimony. He said for the previous meeting, held May 10, they had to assemble a delegation very quickly.

Chief wants more officers – gradually

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH

Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Recently, the Lower Township Police Department announced the formation of a new court security detail in order to comply with state regulations. At the time, Lower Township Police Chief

Edward Donahue said the detail was being added despite demands already placed on his department – a department the chief said could use an additional five officers over a year and a half ago.

In September 2005, Donahue provided the Township Manager Kathy McPherson and Mayor Walt

Craig with a 32 page proposal recommending staff increases between August 2007 and January 2010. In his report, Donahue said he would like to have two more officers in 2007, and additional two in 2008, and one more in 2009 to bring the total number of officers to 50. According to the 2005 report, which used 2004 census figures, Lower Township had a year-round population of 22,945, and the LTPD had 45 full time, sworn police officers. The city of Wildwood had a year round population of 5,436 and 48 full time officers. Middle Township had a population of 16,405 and 52 officers, and Ocean City had 17,378 full time residents and 64 full time police officers.

Donahue said Lower Township also has a wide area of varied geographical features which his department has to patrol.

“We go from farmland to Diamond Beach. We have 12 marinas and 10 campgrounds. With new homeland security concerns we have to monitor the second largest community fishing industry on the east coast, the Coast Guard base, the Cape May County Airport, the ferry ...we have to be concerned the

terrorists realize they are there, too,” Donahue said.

The department also has responsibilities that, while they are not demanding staff be employed all the time, they do create extra demands. The Lower Township Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Unit teamed up with the Middle Township Police Department and the Cape May County Prosecutor’s Office to share resources, but that means LTPD officers may be called away in the event the SWAT team is needed. Lower Township coordinates all the training for the unit.

In addition, if the Cape May County Search Plan is put into effect in response to a major criminal event, the LTPD is responsible for manning a fixed post at Routes 9 and 47 in Rio Grande.

The Cape May County Police Academy is also operated with instructors pulled from local police departments. At any time, some LTPD officers are either in training or providing training at the police academy.

Officers are also absent for vacation, sick days or personal days.

Please see Chief, Page A2



On May 19, Dylan “Taps” Rutherford, a member of the Civil Air Patrol Cape May Composite Squadron, participated in Echo Taps Worldwide. Rutherford was chosen as the music director for the Annapolis National Cemetery location. He and eight other players sounded Taps at precisely 1100 hours. Among the members of the Annapolis contingent were seven members of the all volunteer Baltimore Ravens Marching Band. Pictured is Rutherford in the field of grave markers at the Annapolis National Cemetery which is primarily a Civil War burial ground.

The Star and Wave office has moved!

Yes, we’ve moved, but not far – our new office is still in Park Center. Our new building and unit number is Building 4, Unit 28, just around the corner from Kate’s Flower Shop. Our phone numbers remain the same (609) 884-3465 and 884-3466 however we are updating our phone system with voice mail for the convenience of our customers as well as staff.

We invite you to check out our new digs! Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Come by and have a look!