



INSIDE



SPORTS

Valcarce takes 3rd at Region 8 Tourney, **B1**

Lady Tigers win season finale, **B1**

Caper Tigers top Oakcrest, **B1**

CAPE MAY

Community Events, **A4**

March 2011 (Eastern Standard Time)

	High		Low	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
1	5:38	6:04	11:45	11:49
2	6:21	6:45	12:27	
3	7:01	7:22	12:33	1:04
4	7:37	7:57	1:13	1:38
5	8:12	8:30	1:51	2:10
6	8:46	9:03	2:28	2:41
7	9:20	9:35	3:04	3:11
8	9:53	10:08	3:40	3:41
9	10:27	10:43	4:18	4:13

Moon Phases

New Moon, March 4

First Quarter, March 12

Full Moon, March 19

Last Quarter, March 26

## Resident asks WCM not to pay for excess water

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – Borough resident Bud McDonough addressed the Board of Commissioners, last week, recommending they not pay the city of Cape May water that cannot be accounted for.

“I’m making this request on behalf of the community in whole and the water users in particular, so we the people are only paying for the water that is being used by the borough and all registered metered residents,” he said.

*‘The excess should not be paid to Cape May city.’*  
– WCM resident Bud McDunough

“The excess should not be paid to the Cape May City water department until it is proven that we are at fault in the missing water problem that now exceeds 17 to 22 million gallons per year, at a cost over \$100,000 per year.”

McDonough, who presented his recommendations to the commissioners in a letter,

said the borough has proof through its own quarterly meter readings of how much water was used in West Cape May. He said payments to Cape May should reflect only those gallons of water, and any additional money should be held in a secured account until it is proven that the loss of water is the legal responsi-

bility of the borough.

Mayor Pam Kaithern said that the borough met with Cape May city officials to further discuss the water issue between the two municipalities.

One problem discovered by an Eden Water Resource Recovery expert was a master meter in Wilbraham Park that was too large in diameter. The expert recommended replacing the existing meter and Kaithern said the matter has been discussed with Cape May.

The borough extended their contract with Eden Water

Resources Recovery at the Feb. 9 meeting, paying an additional \$17,000 on top of the \$15,000 already paid in the initial contract for meter testing and calibrations. The new contract is to pinpoint the problem with the meters and if warranted, seek restitution from Cape May.

“The consensus there was to continue working together and try to determine the best possible meter to put as a replacement in Wilbraham Park,” she said. “Professionals from Cape

Please see Water, page A2

## LT road projects discussed at county Transportation Conference

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – Cape May County Engineer Dale Foster discussed the \$1,842,173 state funded Bayshore Road resurfacing project and other Lower Township road improvement projects at last week’s Transportation Infrastructure Conference, hosted by Cape May County.

The Bayshore Road resurfacing improvement project was designed by the county engineer’s office, and includes resurfacing Bayshore Road from Weber Avenue to Miami Avenue in the Villas section of Lower Township.

“The road has seen better days,” Foster said. He said the project is scheduled for completion by Memorial Day. The road will receive seven-and-a-half inches of new surface, which he said is a very deep depth for resurfacing.

He mentioned other roadway improvements that are currently under design, which include more construction on Bayshore Road. Foster said safety improvements were being designed by Orth-Rogers and Associates on Bayshore from Sandman Boulevard to Town Bank Road. He said a safety audit would be performed there along with the resurfacing.

Foster expects a Fishing Creek Road construction project from Bayshore to Seashore Road to go into the design phase shortly.

Foster said French and Parrello Associates are currently studying storm water infrastructure improvements in Cape May city for a possible project as well.

There are still plans for overpasses to replace the stoplights on the Garden State Parkway in Cape May Court House, but the project is being held up by environmental permits.

John Withers, supervising engineer of the New

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Photo by CWO Veronica Colbath/U.S. Coast Guard Public Affairs

Chief Petty Officer Kristin Werner pauses for a photo while she and other company commanders attend to her new company, Sierra 184 at the United States Coast Guard Training Center Cape May. Werner, who is in her 16th year in the Coast Guard was promoted to “Chief” on Tuesday – the first female gunner’s mate to achieve that rank.

## The first female gunner’s mate to become a Chief Petty Officer promoted at TRACEN-Cape May

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Kristin Werner joined the Coast Guard in 1995 and like most guardians, completed her basic training in Cape May. Last year Werner, 34, returned to Cape May to become a company commander, responsible for training new recruits.

“I picked up my first company 15 years to the day that I was picked up,” Werner said.

Remarkable, yes, but Werner has earned another distinction, one she never gave any thought to. On Tuesday, Werner became the first female gunner’s mate in the Coast Guard to reach the rank of Chief Petty Officer.

A gunner’s mate is responsible for handling and operating all kinds of weapons and weapons systems – from .40 caliber handguns, the M-16, shotguns, to .50 caliber machine guns and 76mm fixed guns mounted on ships.

This was perhaps an unusual choice for someone who never handled firearms in the civilian world, but perhaps a good choice for someone looking for “hands-on” work.

“I wanted a job that was hands-on, and I talked to people and this seemed like the job I wanted,” Werner said.

Gunner’s mate was established as a rating in 1797. Women have served in the rating for only the past 35 years. Of the 695 gunner’s mates on active duty, 37 (5 percent) are women.

“I love it. It gets really hands on, I get to teach other members of the Coast Guard how to use

the weapons, I’m not stuck inside, I enjoy trouble shooting...” Werner said, her excitement evident.

Werner was born in Seattle, and enlisted in the Coast Guard in October 1995. She spent a year on the Ceremonial Honor Guard in Washington D.C., and then went to A School, which is where guardians get training for their rating (job). She spent 10 weeks at the gunner’s mate A School in Yorktown, Va., studying electronics, hydraulics and weapons systems, and related subjects.

Werner did three tours in seven years on a high-end cutter. The Coast Guard conducts boardings when inspecting fishing boats at sea or when searching vessels for drugs or illegal immigrants. Werner said whenever they conduct boardings the guardians are armed, which of course applies to gunner’s mates.

In June 2010, Werner went to school to be a company commander, what other branches call a drill instructor. She graduated in September and picked up her first company in October. Werner was scheduled to pick up another company, Sierra 184, on Friday. The company, which graduates on April 15, began with 79 recruits. Werner is one of three non-commissioned officers responsible for training the company.

Before picking up the company, Werner would not sit down because she did not want her uniform to become wrinkled. Werner said she has

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

### Panel discussion on Black churches held

There was a panel discussion at the Carriage House on the Physick Estate hosted by the Mid-Atlantic Cetner for the Arts and Humanities, Sunday, sponsored by the Center for Community Arts. The panel was part of the Black History Month celebration titled “Can I Get a Witness? A Testament to the Black Church in Cape May County.” The panel included Rev. William McClurkin from Mount Olive Baptist Church (out of photo), Cape May Court House, Lois Smith, music director at Macedonia Baptist Church, Cape May, Elder Vera Smith, First Baptist of Whitesboro, Douglas Burton, a steward at Asbury AME Church, Wildwood, Elder Barbara Freels from Allen AME Church, Cape May, and Bishop Edgar Robinson of the Christ Gospel Love Center, Whitesboro. See related story on page A3.

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