

Awards

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different hats idea," Nahan said. "As the managing editor of the Star and Wave, Chris is writing a weekly column, a weekly editorial, laying out the paper, doing news stories, taking photographs and writing sports stories and taking sports photos.

"And when no one else is in the office, he is answering the phone and taking calls for circulation and classified ads as well.

"That," Nahan said, "is life at a small weekly newspaper."

Nahan won second place in the over 6,500 circulation category for opinion column writing for a pair of columns, "The Editor's Desk:

Transparency will take work," about how new Ocean City Mayor Jay Gillian will have to work at having an open government, and "The Editor's Desk: Politically correct, uninformed no way to make a decision," a column that also appeared in the Star and Wave. That column was about criticism the newspaper received about an article Chris South wrote about looking back on Cape May firefighters who responded to the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City.

As for the multiple hats scenario, Nahan also received a third place award in the sports action photo category for "Kung Fu Goalie," a photo taken during a Mainland-

Ocean City boys soccer game. He and staff writer Kristen Kelleher shared a third place award for the Ocean City Sentinel sports section in the layout, design and content category.

"Like Chris at the Star and Wave, I write the editorials and occasional columns, I lay out the newspaper, I do most of the sports photography for the Ocean City Sentinel, and now much of the sports writing since Charlie Wood retired, along with the duties of the publisher," Nahan explained.

Nahan and South are past recipients of multiple NJPA awards. This was Kelleher's first NJPA award. A recent college graduate, Kelleher began her journalism career

in mid-2010.

Advertising

Advertising representative Rob Elder and graphic designer Sean Kolman combined to win the first place award for best real estate display ad. This is the second year in a row the two of them combined to win that category. Kolman and Elder are past recipients of multiple NJPA awards.

"What makes that all the more impressive," Nahan said, "is that they only entered two ads this year in the entire competition. In fact, our newspapers did not have nearly as many entries as we have had in many of our past years or nearly as many

as we would have liked.

"It was an unusual year," Nahan added. "Events and timing conspired to limit our participation in the NJPA contest this year. We cut down on our entries quite a bit.

"As an example, we only submitted two entries in the advertising competition, which has multiple categories, and one of those entries took first place. If timing was different, we would have entered more," Nahan said.

"We believe the New Jersey Press Association Better Newspaper Contests are good for us to see how we stack up against our peers in the Garden State. There are some 165 weekly newspapers in

New Jersey that belong to the NJPA so when we compete we believe we are getting a representative sample," Nahan said. "It is a time for us to look back at the work we did the year before and see what we accomplished."

NJPA entries are judged by volunteers from press associations in other states.

"Over the past four years, we are just one shy of 50 NJPA awards for advertising, writing, design and layout, and photography, spread through our staff members," Nahan said. "We are proud of that and believe it speaks well of the work we do and the newspapers we publish for our readers and for our advertisers."

Non-smoking beaches proposed in CM

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman has put together his own "nicotine committee" in an effort to designate non-smoking beaches in the city.

Wichterman suggested making every third beach in Cape May a smoking beach at the April 5 meeting. He said if that were the case, smokers would not have to walk long distances to have a cigarette and people would not be constantly burdened by the smell of cigarette smoke.

"I don't know how often I'll

sit on a beach and somebody will sit in front of me (with a cigarette) and I swear the wind in always blowing in my face," Wichterman said.

He said the beach areas from Grant to Jefferson Streets would remain smoking beaches because multiple hotels are located along that stretch and he would not want to disappoint city visitors and customers.

Wichterman said the non-smoking beaches topic has been brought up in the past but nothing ever came of it. He noted that when restaurants and bars in the state banned smoking, there was

no negative impact on the amount of customers.

"I don't want Cape May to be called any more than they are now, 'the city of no,' but I think we are accommodating the vast majority of people in this country who no longer smoke," he said.

He mentioned 10 municipalities in the state that have already taken action in creating smoke-free beaches, which were Point Pleasant, Seaside Park, Burlington Township, Somers Point, Mount Arlington Borough, Surf City Borough, Ship Bottom, Lavallette Borough, Stafford Township and Rockaway Township.

Wichterman said if Cape May were to establish no-smoking beaches like other municipalities, they would all be marked with signage.

Councilwoman Deanna Fiocca said the smoking beaches could also have receptacles for cigarette butts so people won't continue burying them in the sand.

"I see people smoking all the time and then they put their cigarette butts in the sand," she said.

She said Cape May is a "green city" and its beaches were just ranked ninth in the world and second in the nation in best beach destinations by Trip Advisor and having non-smoking beaches could improve that status in future years.

Councilman William Murray was the only council member to raise a question about the matter and asked how it would be enforced on the non-smoking beaches.

"I would think that the people on the beaches would enforce it themselves," Wichterman said.

Murray addressed some concern with Wichterman's response and said citizen enforcement could create problems and altercations.

Mayor Edward Mahaney said Wichterman and Fiocca could work together alongside City Manager Bruce MacLeod and research the

Cape May beaches ranked No. 2 in US

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - If you're looking for a trip to one of the world's top beach destinations in the world this summer, you can stay right here in Cape May City.

The TripAdvisor vacation planning website announced on Tuesday, April 5 the winners of its inaugural 2011 Travelers' Choice Beaches awards. Cape May was ranked second in the nation and ninth in the world. According to the website, winners are determined based on the most highly rated beaches by travelers who posted TripAdvisor reviews. The website uses an algorithm, which measures the top destination rankings according to traveler ratings, highest average rating and the overall volume of ratings. The awards were all based on 2010 reviews.

In the national rankings, Cape May came in second between Myrtle Beach, S.C. and Panama Beach, Fla.

The 2011 Traveler's Choice Best Beach Award says, "Yes, Cape May is, technically, on the Jersey Shore. But it's the antitheses of the Jersey Shore you'll see on TV-instead of nightclubs and tanning parlors, you'll find Victorian mansions and a famous lighthouse."

Cape May's ninth place, worldwide ranking put it right between Punta Cana, Dominican Republic and Santa Teresa, Costa Rica, two very prestigious white sand beaches, according to the website.

"The city is very pleased to have received this distin-

guished citation," City Mayor Edward Mahaney said. "It brings to fruition the dream that Cape May has of maintaining its premiere destination status as the nation's oldest beach resort."

Mahaney said Cape May has been placed on several top destination lists in the past, but this particular list is quite exceptional, given its reputation as a renowned travel website.

He said he attributes these rankings to the hard work of the city and its 50-year maintenance agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers and New Jersey Beach Replenishment programs. Mahaney said the Public Works Department, Department of Environmental Protection and the City's Beach Patrol have always done an outstanding job and continue to do so in keeping the Cape May beaches safe and clean.

Mahaney said the cooperation of local businesses and residents are also a key element in keeping the Cape May beaches a desired destination spot.

"The community takes pride in the cleanliness and friendliness of the beach area," he said.

He said he hopes this will help expand the tourism season in years to come and believes that it gives a strong sense of accomplishment to everyone who made this a possibility.

"This exciting news gives people a motivational boost coming into a new season in a tough economy," Mahaney said. "The town is proud of it."



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Spring lecture series

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE - This year is the 150th anniversary of the start of the American Civil War. The Cape May County Museum will sponsor a Spring Lecture Series that commemorates that event, beginning on Wednesday, April 27 at 7 p.m.



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On May 4, tentatively, Suzanne Gibson, a member of the Civil War Round Table will discuss the role New Jersey women played in the Civil War, both at home and on the battle front. On May 11, military historian Joe Bilby will present a program on New Jersey's African American Civil War troops based on his book Freedom to All, New Jersey's African American Civil War Soldiers. Joe is a noted author of many books on New Jersey's military history and also serves on the New Jersey 150 Committee. Joe will have copies of his book available for purchase and signing.

On May 18, local historian Bobbie Babbitt will recount the story of William Thompson, naval hero and Congressional Medal of Honor winner, who was born and raised in Goshen and was wounded at the Battle of Forts Beauregard and Walker off Hilton Head Island.

Admission to all programs is free and handicapped accessible. Please join us for this interesting series. For more information, please call the Museum at (609)465-3535 or check our website www.cmc-museum.org.



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