

Cape May Jazz Festival April 8-10. See our insert for schedule.



INSIDE



SPORTS

Lady Tigers Lacrosse loses nailbiter, **B1**

LCMR Boys Lacrosse's Johnston saves 36, **B1**

Lou Rodia: Trout season opening day, **B3**

CAPE MAY

Community Events, **A4**

TIDES April 2011 Eastern Standard Time

High		Low	
A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
6 10:28	10:38	4:18	4:07
7 11:03	11:14	4:56	4:41
8 11:41	11:55	5:37	5:21
9 12:27	6:24	6:10	
10 12:45	1:24	7:19	7:08
11 1:44	2:32	8:20	8:17
12 2:52	3:43	9:23	9:29
13 4:01	4:48	10:22	10:37
Moon Phases			
New Moon, April 4			
First Quarter, April 12			
Full Moon, April 19			
Last Quarter, April 26			
Apogee, April 6			
Perigee, April 19			

To grow or not to grow – some like declining population

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – Historically, Cape May County's boom years were most of the 20th century. In 1920, 21,380 people called the county home. That number increased to 31,416 in 1930 and dipped to 30,868 in 1940. Population steadily increased from 39,081 in 1950 to 50,515 in 1960 and 61,524 in 1970, roughly 10,000 people each decade.

The 1980 census recorded 84,246 residents, the largest growth the county has seen in many decades.

The population in 1990 was 97,079 and nudged upward in

'Cape May shows up fairly wealthy, but it's mostly retirees, not people making a living there.'

– Richard Perniciaro, Ph.D.

2000 to 102,326. In 2010, the census recorded the population as 97,265, the first time the county's population fell since 1940.

Economic conditions could hamper any real, steady growth, according to Dr. Richard Perniciaro.

He said Atlantic, Cumberland, Cape May and

Salem are among the poorest counties in New Jersey.

"Cape May shows up fairly wealthy, but it's mostly retirees, not people making a living there," Perniciaro said.

The seasonal nature of the county becomes apparent when examining the number of housing units.

Cape May County has

98,309 housing units, with 40,812 occupied and 57,497 vacant.

Ocean City leads Cape May County in the number of housing units, with 20,871, of which 5,890 are occupied and 14,981 are vacant. Lower Township, which has double the population of Ocean City, has only 14,507 housing units, of which 9,579 are occupied and 4,928 are vacant. Middle Township has the third highest number of housing units at 9,296. Cape May Point, the smallest borough in size and population has the fewest housing units at 619.

Cape May City has 4,155 housing units, of which 2,698 are vacant.

Perniciaro said many in the county don't want to attract younger families and believe the county is "fine the way it is."

"There are some pro-development people and there's a large group of we shouldn't be doing anything. People look around and say we've heard a lot of these economic development tales before. When they happen, it brings people and traffic and taxes go up," Perniciaro said. "So many times politicians use economic development as a way of controlling taxes and getting commercial activity to pay some of the taxes, and that is a difficult sell."

Beach Theatre appeal continues

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – There appears to be no end in sight for an appeal to the Zoning Board filed by Frank Investment after the Historic Preservation Commission denied their request for a partial demolition permit. As was the case when they last assembled, last week's hearing went three and a half hours, nearly all of it between the examination and cross examination of a single witness.

The appeal hearing continues tonight at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall.

On Thursday, March 31, the entire meeting was dedicated to testimony and cross-examination of Prof. Richard Longstreth, a witness called to rebut the testimony of George Thomas, a lecturer on historic architecture at the University of Pennsylvania. Thomas testified that the Beach Theatre was of no architectural significance. He also discounted claims by representatives of the Beach Theatre Foundation, the theater was historically significant because of its builder, William C. Hunt, and architect William Lee. Thomas said Hunt was

basically out of the business in 1950 when the Beach Theatre opened. He also testified Lee was an architect of little renown, and not a significant designer of movie theaters.

Longstreth testified he had written an article on Lee and called him, "quite an interesting character."

"Lee was not only regionally a key figure, not only with silent films but into sound, but Lee was known nationally after the war," Longstreth said.

Longstreth said most theaters across the nation were built by a fairly small number of people, of which Hunt was one. He said Hunt was involved in the development of the Beach Theatre, corroborating testimony given at the last meeting by Paul Andrus. Andrus provided Longstreth with perhaps 20 references to the Star and Wave's coverage of the planning, construction and opening of the Beach Theatre, including opinion columns saying what a boon to the town the new theater would be.

"This was a big deal," Longstreth said of the Beach Theatre when it opened. "It was the intention of the owner for it to be

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Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

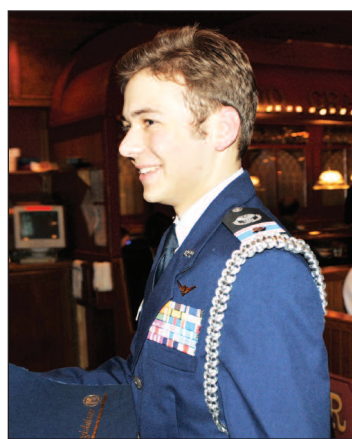
Seal rescued at the Cove

A juvenile gray seal was rescued by the Marine Mammal Stranding Center out of Brigantine, Friday. According to the center's director, the seal is responding to medication for an injured shoulder and is eating on its own. The center is currently caring for 23 seals, about half of which are pups.

Rutherford receives Mitchell award

WEST CAPE MAY – Cadet Dylan K. Rutherford of West Cape May, a member of the Cape May County Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol since 2006, received the organization's General Billy Mitchell Award on March 31 at the Rio Station Restaurant in Rio Grande. This award is named in honor of Brigadier General Billy Mitchell, an aviation pioneer.

In addition to being surrounded by family and friends, many dignitaries were present at the ceremony to present the Mitchell Award as well as other commendations. They included a representative of Congressman



Dylan Rutherford

LoBiondo's office, State Sen. Jeff Van Drew, Assemblymen

Nelson Albano and Matt Milam, the Honorable Pam Kaithern, Mayor of West Cape May, New Jersey Wing Director of Cadet Programs Lt. Col. Michael Sperry, and Deputy Group Commander Maj. Kevin Barstow. Cadet Rutherford offered his thanks to all in attendance saying, "You are all family to me and I want to thank you for helping me along the way. Whether it was at school, archery, in my business or just around the community, I could not be standing here without all of your support."

Please see Award, page A2

Old Grange has new flair

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN Cape May Star and Wave

COLD SPRING – What began as a vision of the ideal restaurant, turned into a reality for award-winning chef Tony Clark over the past month as he, close friends and family put together a fine dining establishment at the Cold Spring Village.

The Old Grange Restaurant, located on 735 Seashore Road at the entrance to the Historic Cold Spring Village, has changed ownership multiple times, but now it's Clark's turn and he is determined to bring his success in the restaurant business to the Cape May area. The grand opening was held last night after some soft openings held over the weekend. His soft openings consisted of friends, family, movers and shakers who helped make the restaurant a reality and even some Facebook buddies.

Growing up in Westmont,



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

Tony Clark and the pastry staff prepare several attractive and delicious desserts for their dinner guests. From left to right: Clark, pastry cook Morgan Kampmeier and pastry chef Jamie Hankins.

N.J., Clark spent most of his weekends and summers in the Cape May area as a child. He worked in Lare's Dutch

Kitchen in Villas as teenager, which is where he found his

Please see Flair, page A10

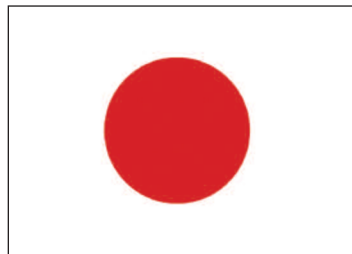
Pilates-Yoga studio holding benefit

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – There are some people out there who will bend over backwards for someone in need or just a good cause in general. At the Balance Pilates and Yoga Studio, they will do that quite literally.

Yoga instructor Karin Rossi Gleason will host a benefit class on Wednesday, April 13, with the proceeds going to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and their effort to help the children of Japan, who have suffered through earthquakes, a tsuna-

mi and now nuclear radiation. "I really didn't see any kind of benefits being held around



town to help people in Japan," Gleason said. "I just felt like we needed to do something."

She said she approached

studio owner Judy Heany and asked if the benefit would be a possibility.

"I think it's a great idea," Heany said. "It's always good to think outside of this area and help other people."

Gleason said she wanted to donate the proceeds to UNICEF because she has four kids of her own and couldn't imagine them going through the anguish children in Japan are facing. She is also a certified children's yoga teacher, which comes into play during her "Joyful Yoga" class. She said this

Please see Yoga, page A4

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