



INSIDE



SPORTS

CAL championship goes to double overtime, **A14**

Eight hockey players make All-Star game, **A14**

CAPE MAY

'Gravy Wars' comes to Cape May area, **A3**

KIDS

Kids Can Expo, **A3**

MARCH 2010 TIDE TABLE					
	HIGH		LOW		
	am	pm	am	pm	
3/4	10:34	11:05	4:20	4:33	
3/5	11:25	11:58	5:14	5:22	
3/6		12:21	6:12	6:17	
3/7	12:57	1:24	7:15	7:17	
3/8	2:01	2:34	8:22	8:21	
3/9	3:06	3:41	9:25	9:24	
3/10	4:06	4:38	10:22	10:21	
3/11	4:58	5:26	11:09	11:10	
	Full Moon			3/29	
	Last Quarter			3/7	
	New Moon			3/15	
	1st Quarter			3/23	
	Apogee			3/12	
	Perigee			3/27	

WEATHER ALMANAC
BY WAYNE ROOP

FEBRUARY			
(Normals: 42°/28°, 3.36")			
18	43°	30°	
19	45°	33°	
20	45°	32°	
21	46°	32°	
22	42°	33°	.25"
23	44°	36	1.15"
24	45°	35°	.11"

Feb. 25th: peak wind gust W 58 mph @ 10:12 p.m.; snow 1.9".
Feb. 26th: peak wind gust W 62 mph @ 1:30 a.m., snow 2.1".

Sheriff reports on success in his department

By ERIC AVEDESIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – After one year in office, Cape May County Sheriff Gary Schaffer is reporting many successes in his department.

Schaffer implemented changes after asking his employees for ideas to improve operations.

He submitted a yearly report for the county's Law Enforcement Division and Sheriff's Office to the Cape May County Freeholders and noted that 2009 saw many positive changes.

The most significant improvement was the reduction of overtime by 36 percent or \$37,060 in the sheriff's budget, 27 percent or \$62,048 in the correctional budget, 55

'Instead of (municipal) officers transporting a prisoner, we'll come and get them.'
– Cape May County Sheriff Gary Schaffer

percent or \$10,892 in the security budget and 72 percent or \$2,327 in the animal shelter budget for an overall decrease of 31 percent or \$112,329.

The Sheriff's Office assisted local police departments with transporting prisoners for local municipalities from 7 a.m. until midnight. Schaffer said this relieved the burden of local municipalities who transported prisoners to the county jail.

"Instead of the (municipal) City officers transporting a prisoner, we'll come and get

them. That leaves the officers in town to do what they need to do," Schaffer said.

The department established an even shift patrol from 4 p.m. to midnight to assist transporting prisoners, warrant and civil service and routine patrol duties.

The county transported 4,083 inmates and logged in 57,705 miles of county transports in 2009.

The canine unit saw an increase in calls for service by 66 percent in 2009, while decreasing its overtime by 57 percent. The canine unit per-

formed 900 hours of canine training over 211 days, and night training accounted for 21 of those days.

The Cape May County Correctional Facility was built to house 188 inmates. In 2009 there were 2,058 new commitments and 3,088 releases, a huge turnover in one year, Schaffer said.

"I didn't realize that as a police officer that there's that many inmates that go through that facility at any given time," Schaffer said. "That's a pretty big turnover when you consider you have to

process people, fingerprint them and give them cards. I don't think people realize that's what happens."

Officers at the county correctional facility suggested ways of improving the jail, including converting its cable television at the jail to basic cable.

Schaffer said the officers complained of inmates watching programs and listening to rap music featuring violence towards police officers.

"I thought they have more channels than I have at my house or the average person would have. Why are we paying for that?" Schaffer said.

Schaffer said inmates get the very basic tier Comcast offers, about 23 channels.

"You have to have TV there.

Please see Sheriff, Page A2

Fishermen hold major rally in nation's capital

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Last week, about 4,000 fishermen marched on Washington, D.C., to protest what they consider the unnecessary closing of fishing areas of the nation's coastlines.

Capt. Ray Szulczewski of Tide Runner Fly and Light Tackle Charters out of Cape May said the Magnuson-Stevens Act, which manages federal fisheries, has no flexibility. The act requires periodically shutting down fisheries for a 10-year rebuilding period.

"The National Marine Fisheries Service gathered data that is completely flawed," Szulczewski said. "They are developing a new data system – it's being completely revised."

Szulczewski said the data being used by the NMFS for the last 10 years is flawed, but because the agency continues to use this it, the service has recently closed a sea bass fishery the fishermen believe should remain open.

'It's ridiculous how Washington can't get its head screwed on straight for something easy as this.'

– U.S. Congressman Frank A. LoBiondo

"They shut people out of business last year. Some fisheries have recovered," Szulczewski said. "There are a couple new bills that would give some flexibility to review these things on a case-by-case basis."

U.S. Congressman Frank Pallone (D-N.J.) has introduced legislation, which has 20 co-sponsors, calling for new science to be applied when deciding to open or close fisheries. One of the co-sponsors is Second District Congressman Frank A. LoBiondo.

"The U.S. Department of Commerce, through the National Marine Fisheries Service, clearly missed what they should be doing regarding fishing stock by sound science," LoBiondo said. "We have legislation

Please see Rally, page A2

Harnessing sun power in the Point



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Chris Boehmke from Trinity Solar works on the roof of the Marianist Retreat on Yale Avenue in Cape May Point. The project included the installation of 95 solar panels between the retreat center and the community living center. The investment will combat high electrical bills, and should pay for itself in less than seven years.

Victorian retreat center now using modern energy source

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT – According to tradition, a bride should wear something old and something new on her wedding day.

At the Marianist Retreat in Cape May Point, they are marrying an old Victorian building with state of the art technology. It's truly a marriage of convenience.

According to Marianist Retreat Center Director Anthony Fucci, the old building is expensive to heat. The last electric bill for the 22-bedroom facility was \$2,524 for the period from Jan. 12 to Feb. 9. The building uses electric baseboard heat, and some parts are air-conditioned, meaning they can face high electric bills in winter and summer.

Fucci said he proposed the idea of installing solar panels to cut their electric bills and the governing board voted to approve the idea. By Monday, Trinity Solar had installed most of the 95 solar panels on the roof of the center's main building. He said Trinity, out of Freehold, would also install panels on the community residence, where three brothers and

a priest live.

Fucci said the 19 kilowatt, \$119,000 project is an investment.

"We were getting hammered on our electric costs, and that was one of the driving forces for reducing energy costs," he said.

Fucci said the state is granting the center a \$19,000 rebate, which is \$1,000 per kilowatt. The center did not qualify for any federal tax credits on this project because it is tax exempt. Fucci said the center is paying the additional \$100,000 from its endowment, which is significant but not limitless.

"Over the years we have built a capital endowment to maintain the building. This building requires so much maintenance," he said.

Fucci said they did not do fundraising for the project because it will generate (no pun intended) revenue. Solar panels generate Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs) for the consumer, which are traded on the market. At the time Fucci put together his proposal for the governing board, SRECs were fetching \$650 per 1,000 kilowatts

annually. He said he believes they can count on \$500/1,000kilowatts annually. He said the SRECs would be used to pay back the endowment. The entire project would pay for itself in less than seven years. He said the return on investment is about 15 percent, and is most likely to increase over time.

Besides the 22 rooms, the retreat center has a main chapel, dining room, and parlor, all of which are air-conditioned in the summer, along with the offices. The center hosts retreats for families, mainly in the summer, youths, young adults, widows, widowers, men and women.

The center also hosts school retreats, such as one from St. Rose in Bellmawr, which was having one there this week. Colleges such as St. Joseph's, the University of Delaware, and Villanova have also used the center.

The Marianist Retreat Center, located at 417 Yale Ave. in May Point, is funded completely by fees and donations.

Free fishing registry bill stuck in committee

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

TRENTON – A bill sponsored by state Sen. Jeff Van Drew creating a free saltwater fishing registry is still in the Environmental Committee, allegedly because some senators want a paid saltwater fishing license.

Van Drew said he proposed the idea of having a free, online registry for saltwater fishing because he believes the little guy, the grandfather who wants to take his grandkids fishing, should not have to pay a fee to do so.

Additionally, he said it would just create another fund for the state to raid.

The federal government passed a law requiring each state to have a saltwater registry, which is not technically a license. Van Drew

'This is one of the few God-given things we don't charge for...'
–State Sen. Jeff Van Drew

said the reason they want to do this is because the government believes it can have better science and more accurate information about catches.

"The purpose of the registry is to obtain information. The method now is cold-calling fishermen. They want a registry of people who do fish and have a proper list rather than literally a random list," Van Drew said. "If you don't establish your own state registry by the end of this year the federal government will do it for you, and if you don't have your own they

have the potential to charge you."

Van Drew said it is incumbent upon the State of New Jersey to create its own registry, just as other states have. And since

New Jersey already has the highest property taxes and some of the highest fees in the country, the highest room tax, highest corporate tax, and sale tax, he said, it would be an accomplishment for New Jersey to say it is not going to create another fee.

"This is not the charter boats. They pay already. This is one of the few God-given things we don't charge for, and I would rather have a registry – have people go to the DEP web site, register on line

Please see Stuck, page A7



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Art in the park?

Someone has been decorating trees and lamp posts in West Cape May's Wilbraham Park with colored yarn. Borough officials are uncertain whether it's art or graffiti.

Town hall meeting today on city parks

CAPE MAY – The third of four scheduled town hall meetings dealing with parks and public space improvements will be held today from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Cape May City Elementary School. Students from Temple University's School of Environmental Design will present multiple designs for upgrading Rotary Park, Harbor View Park, and a citywide pedestrian trail. Input will be solicited from the public and used in determining the final designs for these projects, which will be presented at a meeting on May 5.