

Cape May Star and Wave

155th YEAR NO. 26 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2009 50¢



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INSIDE



ARTS

George Burns comes alive at Cape May Stage, **A15**

Access to Art's Chamber Music Festival, **A2**

COMMUNITY

Cape May County 4-H Fair preview, **A4**

NATURE

Nature Center begins summer programs, **A16**

JUNE/JULY TIDE TABLE

	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
6/25	10:51	11:06	4:35	4:32
6/26	11:47		5:27	5:31
6/27	12:00	12:45	6:19	6:32
6/28	12:56	1:44	7:12	7:35
6/29	1:53	2:43	8:05	8:39
6/30	2:53	3:42	8:59	9:44
7/1	3:54	4:39	9:52	10:46
7/2	4:54	5:31	10:44	11:43

1st Quarter	6/7
Full Moon	6/15
Last Quarter	6/22
New Moon	6/29
Perigee	6/23
Apogee	6/10

Deadline approaching for State Assembly run

By ERIC AVEDESIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

Republicans in the First Legislative District who want to run for State Assembly have until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, June 26 to submit their letters of intent to their county chairmen, David Von Savage of Cape May County, Cumberland County leader Bob Greco or Atlantic County leader Keith Davis.

Upper Township Committeeman Frank Conrad withdrew from the Assembly race over the weekend. Conrad's running mate, attorney Michael Donohue of Dennis Township, endorsed Ocean City real estate agent and local Republican leader John McCann as Conrad's replacement.

Conrad withdrew from the race during the weekend, citing he wanted to dedicate his time and energies to his high-

way safety equipment and party supply businesses.

But the GOP in the First Legislative District, which comprises Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland counties wants to open the process to any prospective candidate to face Democratic incumbent Assemblymen Nelson Albano and Matt Milam.

Each of the three counties in the district will vote on a replacement candidate by Wednesday, July 1.

Donohue said it was "unfortunate" to see Conrad withdraw from the race.

"His family is his first priority. In order for him in this economy to maintain the small businesses that he runs, he's got to give that his full attention," Donohue said. "This is a very difficult economy and there have been a lot of New Jersey small businesses that have been driven out of the state. Frank is

fighting to maintain his so he can provide for his family."

Rumors that Conrad did not get along with Donohue or his campaign manager, Peg Emberger first circulated on the PolitickerNJ website on June 21.

The website posted a response from Conrad that claims the story of any conflict between himself, Donohue and Emberger was false and planted by their political opponents.

"Mike and I were a winning

team and we have been and will remain friends and political allies. The fact that people operating on behalf of our opposition are taking shots at Peg and

Please see State, Page A9

Kites to return over Cape May

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Cape May will be the host site for a kite festival for the first time in over a decade, when it hosts Kites Over the Cape, June 27-28.

Phil Broder has organized a couple dozen kite festivals over the past 15 years. Broder, who is the educational director at the Wetlands Institute, moved to the area six years ago. He said he heard of a kite festival in Cape May, but didn't have many details.

"I don't know when it ended. I think it was when a kite shop in town closed," he said.

Terry Brown, director of the city's Department of Civic Affairs, said he recalls a kite festival taking place about 15 years ago, but only for the one year. He believes the kite festival would be nice for Cape May.

"I'm happy about it. It would be very colorful. We used to have a Hobie Cat regatta and that was very colorful," he said.

Broder, who edits KITING

Magazine, said the intention is to start this year and try to make it an annual event. With this year being the 400th anniversary of Cape May's discovery, it was decided it would be a good time to resume the kite festival.

"We're going to encourage people to bring kites to fly. If they don't have them they can make them," he said.

Kites Over the Cape has scheduled kids' activities on both days. Children will be able to build and decorate their own kites in a tent on the promenade, then fly them in a special children's area on the beach.

Broder said the kids will make their kites out of Tyvek, rather than paper. Tyvek is the kind of material they use for FedEx envelopes, and to wrap new construction as a moisture barrier.

"It's as easy to work with as paper, and it lasts longer," Broder said.

There will be other events for the kids - candy drops from kites, altitude races,

Please see Kites, Page A9



Jennifer Kopp
Star and Wave

Harbor Fest 2009

Rain did little to dampen the spirits of the chefs competing in Harbor Fest's "Scallop Cook-Off," above. At right, a mermaid seems right at home on the bank of the Cape May Harbor. Though the weather was horrible, to say the least, and many scheduled events had to be cancelled, the festival went off anyway bringing many hearty souls - with umbrellas - to browse the vendors, feast on fun food and listen to some great music. The festival began with a Friday night blessing of the harbor.



Coastie offered plea in sexual assault

Gunner's mate also charged with child endangerment

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - A Coast Guardsman charged with aggravated sexual assault and child endangerment has been offered a plea agreement by the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office.

Assistant Prosecutor Marian Ragusa said the offer was made a couple of weeks ago and is still being consid-

ered.

Johnathan M. Wyne, 34, a third class gunners mate was arrested Dec. 11, 2008 and charged with sexual assault, child endangerment. Ragusa said under the plea agreement she offered, Wyne would plead guilty to first degree aggravated sexual assault.

"That's one of the most serious first degree crimes in New Jersey," Ragusa said.

Ragusa added she feels the state's proofs are very strong.

Wyne, if found guilty could be subject to up to 20 years in state prison. Ragusa said the plea agreement she offered Wyne was 10 years in a New Jersey state prison, subject to

Megan's Law, and to have parole supervision for life.

Wyne is represented by H. Parker Smith, but according to Ragusa, the U.S. Coast Guard is monitoring the proceedings.

"They have jurisdiction to file their own charges as well," she said, "but I think they are waiting to proceed, or not. Our sentence should be acceptable to them."

Wyne is scheduled to have another status conference on June 26, which would be the final status conference before the case goes to trial. If Wyne accepts the plea then, Ragusa said, he would receive a sentencing date for some time in August or September. She

said Wyne would have to be diagnosed by Adult Diagnostic Treatment Center in Avenel before sentencing.

Although still lodged in the Cape May County Correctional Center, Wyne is under a no contact order with the victim and members of his family.

Ragusa said there was also a court hearing involving the Division of Youth and Family Services.

Wyne, a 12-year member of the Coast Guard, was arrested after a joint investigation by the Coast Guard Investigative Service and the Cape May Police Department.

Economy, weather mean slow start to season

Business owners hesitant to pass judgement

By DANA EISELEN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - A weak economy and only five dry days out of the first 22 days of June has made for a soft beginning to the summer season in Cape May.

Restaurants and B&Bs are feeling the effects and reacting to new customer patterns.

David Craig, owner of the Lucky Bones Backwater Grille, said buying habits have changed.

"Some are getting water instead of soda, or one beer instead of two. They switched from martinis to beer," said Craig.

He has seen a shift in dining habits; more diners come for lunch than dinner now.

"Lunch seems to be a little bit busier. They tend to be eating the bigger meal in the middle of the day."

And the weather has definitely taken a toll.

"People are looking at the weather on their computers; they aren't coming down if the weather isn't good."

Despite the early challenges of the season, Craig is optimistic about the summer, and has been able to keep prices the same. "People are still shopping for value," he said.

Rick Conley, owner of the Depot Market Cafe, has noticed people are looking for bargains. He said that because his eatery is "more reasonably priced" than many Cape May restaurants, it "should be okay."

"This year my menu is very cost effective. If I do a grilled salmon, you can get that here for \$14.95, whereas most restaurants in Cape May will charge \$25 for the same thing. We are doing more sit-down dinners. I'm kind of hoping that works to my side," said Conley. He said a family of four will be more

likely to eat at his place for about \$60, instead of paying a \$100 bill at another restaurant.

While Conley feels his prices are competitive, he does not feel that Cape May is a competitive vacation destination, and blames that, in part, for slowing business.

"I'm not going to pass judgment on summer until the Fourth of July. But there are only so many things you can do in Cape May. The bottom line is that you can get a hotel and go to the Caribbean for a week for an all inclusive vacation, and that's cheaper than it is to come to Cape May for a week," said Conley.

"This is not a family-oriented place. There is not a lot to do on a rainy day and that makes me nervous."

Bed and breakfasts are feeling vacationer cutbacks, too. Lucille Doherty, co-owner and innkeeper of The Dormer House, said the combination

of bad weather and the economy is costing business, but she continues to be optimistic.

"I think the bed and breakfasts are still going strong. People are still going away. Maybe they just stay less days and that's how they are saving money," said Doherty.

"It is still okay and that's the bottom line. Some guests have said 'we're going to get pizza,' and I thought 'wow, they used to go fine dining,' so that's how they're cutting back."

The Fairthorne Bed and Breakfast is "not going to have a banner year," according to co-owner and innkeeper Ed Hutchinson, but said, "It's going to be a good year." He has also noticed the cutbacks his customers are facing, but doesn't think the season will be as gloom and doom as some business own

Please see Season, Page A9



Special to the Cape May Star and Wave
A restored stained glass window at the First Presbyterian Church of Cape May.

Stained glass reflections

CAPE MAY - In celebration of the completion of the stained glass window restoration at the First Presbyterian Church of Cape May, Pastor Jim Richards will preach a series of sermons based on the scenes depicted in the windows. The series will run through July 26 and will be presented at both the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services.

Of particular interest may be the "mystery window" which church mem-

bers have been trying to identify, showing a traveler resting at Christ's knee. Pastor Richards has discovered that it was inspired by a painting by German artist Bernard Plochhorst called "Christ, the Comforter." Other sermons are titled "Come to Me," "The Woman at the Well," "An Easter Reflection," "Knocking at the Door," "Paul in Athens," and "The Women at the Tomb."

Please see Glass, Page A2