

Cape May Star and Wave

155th YEAR NO. 27 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2009 50¢



INSIDE



THE STAR AND WAVE WISHES EVERYONE A SAFE AND HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY

JULY 2009 TIDE TABLE			
	HIGH	LOW	
	am	pm	am
22	4:54	5:31	10:41 11:43
23	5:50	6:28	11:34
24	6:41	7:44	12:35 12:21
25	7:27	7:46	1:21 1:05
26	8:10	8:26	2:04 1:47
27	8:51	8:04	2:44 2:27
28	9:29	8:42	3:22 3:05
29	10:07	10:17	3:58 3:43
Fall Moon	27		
Last Quarter	215		
New Moon	221		
1st Quarter	228		
Perigee	221		
Apoogee	277		

Agreement reached with state on East Cape May

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Mayor Edward Mahaney announced an agreement between development corporation East Cape May Associates and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection that will end a nearly 20-year old dispute over a significant portion of a 96-acre site

east of Pittsburgh Avenue known as the Sewell Point Tract.

Mahaney said in the 1980s the city received an application to develop the area with 366 residential units. Had the application gone through the city would have been responsible for between \$4 million and \$5 million in infrastructure improvements, including the construction of a second water tower. However, litigation ensued

between the developer and the DEP, who was later joined by the American Littoral Society.

Mahaney said in 2003 an attempt was made to limit development to the least environmentally sensitive portion of the tract, which is what the announced agreement attempts to do. The agreement announced Tuesday by Attorney General Anne Milgram and acting DEP Commissioner Mark

Mauriello sets aside about 18 acres for development of 71 market rate homes as well as 14 affordable housing units.

The city and DEP would become joint owners of the remaining 78 acres, and according to Mahaney, the joint acquisition would not cost the Cape May taxpayers anything.

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Free summer jazz starts

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - A new initiative by the Cape May Jazz Festival is bringing jazz to Cape May during the summer.

Traditionally, the Cape May Jazz Festival has held musical events twice a year - once in April and again in November. According to Jazz Festival executive director Sal Riggi, the Jazz Festival is trying to let people know about them while there are a lot of people in town.

"The organization never did any real marketing or promotions during the peak tourists season - the summer," Riggi said. "We need to let people know about our festivals, draw more attention to the festivals, and expand our customer base."

Riggi said summer jazz events would help bring more tourists and more business into town, particularly to the mall area.

This first, free summer jazz event will be held tonight from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the lawn at Congress Hall, Beach Avenue and features Michael Pedicin, who started as a saxophone player in Philadelphia and ended up playing with the likes of Maynard Ferguson and Dave Brubeck.

"We've had him at a couple of our festivals. He's always been a big draw for us," Riggi said.

Riggi said he would be going before city council with another free summer festival concert.

"Tentatively, we have the Little Jazz Giants," Riggi said. The Little Jazz Giants are a collection of musical prodigies, Riggi said, and he would like to have them perform on the Washington Street Mall, as did a chamber music ensemble of high school students.

"It needs to be cleared through council, and they probably will, like they did with high school band," he said.

Riggi said a portion of Decatur Street was

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Chelsea Smith/Cape May Star and Wave

One big quacker!

Is it a plane? Train? No, it's a kite! This "What the Duck" kite was part of last weekend's "Kites Over the Cape" event which was held as part of Cape May's 400th Anniversary celebration. For more more photos, see page A14.

New vision for Beach Theatre

Boutique hotel adds innovative touch

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - The Beach Theatre Foundation presented a vision for developing the site and saving the historic theater, June 27, and believe it fits with its creative and innovative beginning.

The Beach Theatre was considered innovative for the time. Built in 1950, the idea of a strip of retail stores, especially one incorporating a movie theater, was a relatively new concept.

The foundation has worked with DAS Architects to come

up with a design that features a boutique hotel above the theater and ground level retail units. Supporters of the Beach Theatre Foundation gathered in the Henry Sawyer Room of the Chalfonte Hotel to see what might be the best attempt to save Cape May's only remaining movie theater.

A rendering created by DAS Architects shows a two-story hotel built atop the theater and retail space, following the unique curvilinear design of the Beach Avenue side of the site.

David Schultz of DAS

Architects, who also serves as an advisory board member to the Beach Theatre Foundation, said the hotel rendering adds a certain elegance to the appearance of the Beach Theatre, which opened June 29, 1950.

"It's amazing it survived 59 years," Schultz said.

Schultz said the Beach Theatre has a history of running first run movies as well as classics.

Schultz said the concept for the boutique hotel was designed for Cape May,

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Beach safety a vital concern

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Before the two city schools recessed for the summer, a team of fighters and lifeguards visited the schools and talked to the students about beach safety.

Paramount in their concern is the recent increase in C-spine injuries due mainly to a shore break created by beach replenishment projects.

A shore break simply means there is a steep rather than gradual slope to the beach, and the waves break when they hit the shoreline. Swimmers and surfers face the risk of a C-spine injury when they are propelled into the shore break by ocean waves, or even when struck in the back by a wave.

"One of the worst injuries can occur when a person is walking out of the water," Lt. Harry Back of the Cape May Beach Patrol told the students.

Back said anyone who develops a pain in the head, neck or chest after being struck by a wave should have it checked out.

"Don't take it lightly - tell someone. And if someone else is injured, tell a lifeguard

immediately," he said.

Back showed a brief video about Jesse Billauer, an experienced surfer who on March 25, 1996, was thrown headfirst into a shallow sandbar. The impact broke his C-6 vertebrae and severed his spinal cord, leaving him a quadriplegic.

"Jesse Billauer was a really good surfer and he had an accident in the waves. It could happen to anyone," Back said.

Also speaking to the group was Chad DeSatnick, who had his own C-spine injury while surfing in 2001.

"It doesn't matter what your ability is," DeSatnick said.

In the summer of 2001, DeSatnick was surfing at Cape May's Poverty Beach and he rode a wave in too far. His surfboard struck the sand and he was thrown headfirst into three or four inches of water. He broke two vertebrae - C-6 and C-7, but he was fortunate because he did not sever the spinal cord.

DeSatnick said there are about 1.25 million people in the United States who have had spinal cord injuries. There are about 12,000 more injuries each year, coming in a variety of ways: car acci-

dents, sports injuries, falling off a horse, etc.

And although he didn't sever his spinal cord, DeSatnick couldn't work for a year after his surfing accident.

Back and DeSatnick were joined by Fire Chief Jerry Inderwies and Firefighter Ed Zebrowski. All four individuals have been members of the Cape May City Beach Patrol, and as firefighters, Inderwies and Zebrowski are trained in water rescue operations. They, along with Back, showed the students how an injured person is "packaged" for transport to a hospital.

Inderwies said he has seen a dramatic rise in spinal cord injuries in the last several years. He contacted DeSatnick two years ago after a bather was paralyzed saying there was a need here that had to be addressed.

"We wanted to get some awareness out there, to try and make an impact," Inderwies said.

The four gave one presentation at the Cape May City School and a second at Our Lady Star of the Sea Regional School before the end of the

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Rocky, the Cape May County Zoo's 500-pound male Amur Tiger seems to enjoy lounging in his new habitat which opened Monday after a \$45,000 makeover.

Rocky gets home makeover

Tiger's new digs include a waterfall

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE - Talk about an extreme home makeover. How about when the home belongs to a 500-pound tiger named Rocky?

County and zoo officials held an opening ceremony Monday to announce the opening of the tiger's habitat after a \$45,000 makeover, including his own private waterfall.

Nothing apparently is too good for the nine-year-old tiger, who has been a favorite of the zoo staff and public since he arrived eight years ago. Rocky, an Amur Tiger (formerly known as a Siberian Tiger) was born at

Great Adventure and was hand-raised by Dr. Hubert Paluch, Director and Veterinarian at the Cape May County Zoo.

Paluch said the improvements to Rocky's habitat were shared by Cape May County government, the Cape May County Zoological Society and private donors.

"We tried to adapt the habitat for him and we think he'll be more comfortable in the new exhibit," Paluch said. "It's a nice exhibit and a nice start on our cat exhibits."

Paluch said the zoo hoped to start on a long-term upgrade of its cat exhibits, and are planning to upgrade the exhibit for Brutu, the zoo's male African Lion, next.

"We're looking for people to help with the other exhibits," Paluch said.

By help, Paluch meant donations, either of funds,

materials or labor. Rocky's new waterfall was paid for through a \$25,000 contribution by the Dana Kull Memorial Fund. Tuckahoe Turf Farms of Hammonton, New Jersey, owned and operated by George and Janice Betts, donated the sod for the exhibit valued at \$3,000.

Freeholder Director Dan Beyel said Tuckahoe Turf Farms also provided the sod the Phillies play on, and gave them credit for the Phillies winning the World Series. Beyel also praised the partnering of efforts by county government, zoo personnel, the zoological society and the private sector.

Cape May County Park and Zoo employees did much of the work to the improvements of Rocky's exhibit, including \$16,000 in fence improve

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