

Cape May Star and Wave

155th YEAR NO. 31 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2009 50¢



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JULY/AUG 2009 TIDE TABLE					
	HIGH		LOW		
	am	pm	am	pm	
7/30	3:22	4:05	9:17	10:20	
7/31	4:26	5:02	10:13	11:19	
8/1	5:25	5:53	11:07		
8/2	6:18	6:40	12:11	12:01	
8/3	7:05	7:23	12:57	12:42	
8/4	7:47	8:02	1:38	1:25	
8/5	8:26	8:40	2:16	2:05	
8/6	9:03	9:15	2:51	2:43	
Full Moon			8/5		
Last Quarter			8/13		
New Moon			8/20		
1st Quarter			8/27		
Perigee			8/19		
Apogee			8/31		

Laundry room fire sparks motel evacuation

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - A late night fire in the laundry room at the Beach Shack motel prompted the precautionary evacuation of all 65 rooms.

According to Cape May Fire Chief Jerry Inderwies Jr., a guest at the Beach Shack called 911 at 1:19 a.m., July 24, saying he or she could hear a smoke alarm going off and smelled smoke. Inderwies said there was no alarm system because of the date the building was constructed.

Police arrived on the scene first and met individuals near the rear of the hotel who led them to the laundry

annex, which provides laundry service for all Cape Resorts Group properties. Before firefighters were able to gain access to the laundry, smoke could be seen belching from a second floor vent and flames were visible through ground floor windows.

Inderwies said the fire started in a dryer where towels ignited and the fire spread through the room and to an adjoining room before being noticed.

"There was fire, smoke and heat damage throughout the annex," Inderwies said.

Before firefighters arrived police began pounding on doors alerting people to the fire and telling them to

evacuate the motel. People made their way across Beach Avenue to the Promenade where they watched as firefighters arrived and staged their equipment to put out the blaze. Police officers were seen helping elderly guests cross the street.

Once firefighters were able to gain access to the laundry annex the fire was quickly brought under control, but the scene was not cleared until about 3:30 a.m.

Inderwies said there was the smell of smoke in some guest rooms but no fire or smoke damage. He said guests were allowed to return to the wing nearest the Rusty Nail restaurant and bar first. The Rusty Nail was opened

to allow others to wait until it was safe to return to their rooms. Inderwies said the occupants of 13 rooms were relocated to other Cape Resorts properties in Cape May. He said the 13 rooms were able to be reoccupied the next day.

Asked why the unaffected building was evacuated, Inderwies said it was a matter of safety and the peace of mind of the guests. He said if people had not been alerted to the nearby fire they may have wondered why not. Additionally, electrical power and gas service had to be shut off.

"We isolated the power to affected

Please see Fire, Page A2

One arrested in pizza shop theft

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY - Police arrested a borough resident and charged him with burglarizing Italiano's Restaurant, where he had been employed as a delivery person.

The break-in was discovered around 10:30 a.m., July 23, when a side entrance door had been found damaged in an apparent forced entry. The cash register and safe were broken open and a total of about \$14,000 was stolen.

An investigation by the Cape May Police Department led to the arrest of Jared Fratella, 30, of West Cape May.

Fratella had been employed briefly by the Borough of West Cape May in public works, but left borough employment after less than a month on the job. He was employed by Italiano's but only worked about three-and-a-half hours since he was hired in May.

Fratella was brought to the

Please see Theft, Page A2



Jennifer Kopp
Cape May Star and Wave
89 years young!

If you know Cape May, you know Joe Crews riding his bike around town, saying hello to everyone. Did you know he just turned 89? You wouldn't think so, doesn't seem a day over, well ... Pictured above with Crews is Barbara Fischer at his birthday party. And, by the way, he's already planning next year's celebration!



Taxpayers lend a helping hand

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP - When several members of the Lower Township Taxpayers Association asked Township Manager Kathy McPherson, Monday, when they could expect their tax bills, McPherson told them they were having a problem with the machine that folds the bills and stuffs them into envelopes.

Township Tax Collector Sue Jackson said the machine

was folding OK, but was having problems with the envelopes.

McPherson said the Taxpayers Association asked if they could help.

Last Tuesday, Ed Butler, Janet Pitts, Joe and Barrie Winters went to Township Hall at 9 a.m., and along with Phillip Sylvester and Shelby Brown, children of township employees, and stuffed about 5,000 envelopes in five hours.

"It was very nice of them to

Please see Help, Page A2

They Will Surf Again gearing up for Wildwood Crest waves

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - "They Will Surf Again," a headline program for the Life Rolls On Foundation, is planning an adaptive surfing event for Sept. 27, in Wildwood Crest.

According to Chad deSatnick, the northeast coordinator for Life Rolls On, "They Will Surf Again" (TWSA) is a program that allows paralyzed surfers, with the aid of volunteers, to experience what it is like to surf again.

"It's an adaptive surfing program for paralyzed individuals," deSatnick said. "Depending on the number of people who sign up we could have eight to 20 spinal cord injury victims in the water."

DeSatnick himself narrowly escaped a spinal cord injury in 2001, when while surfing he was thrown headfirst into three or four inches of water.

He cracked two cervical vertebrae and doctors thought he might not walk again, let alone surf. He did walk again and is now working with Life Rolls On to help other people with C-spine injuries.

DeSatnick said with volunteers in the water, participants in They Will Surf Again don wetsuits and lifejackets and get on a surfboard with the help of volunteers. Many of the participants are surfers who were injured and this might be their first surfing experience after their accident. DeSatnick was at a recent event in Long Branch, which attracted some 20 to 30 paralyzed surfers. DeSatnick said despite the name, the participants do not have to have been surfers prior to their paralysis.

"Three or four (at Long Branch) had surfed prior to the event, but the majority were not necessarily surfers prior to the event," deSatnick

said. "Most of the participants have spinal cord injuries, but the event is not limited to that."

DeSatnick said although spinal cord injury is the focus of Life Rolls On, the organization doesn't limit its efforts to spinal cord injuries or paraplegics.

"A person doesn't have to be paralyzed to participate in They Will Surf Again," he said.

DeSatnick said the event makes him realize how lucky he was to escape more serious injury.

"Before I used to say that I feel really lucky, but when I got involved with TWSA I learned injuries could be far worse. I went to TWSA in June, and it reinforced the fact that my injury was very serious and the results could have been way different for me," he said.

DeSatnick said Life Rolls On purchased a beach wheel

chair this spring and donated it to the city of Cape May.

DeSatnick said They Will Surf Again is a weekend-long event, and Life Rolls On founder Jessie Bilbauer will be in town on Friday, Sept. 25, and will be speaking at Lower Cape May Regional and Middle Township High Schools.

On Saturday, Sept. 26, Life Rolls On is holding its fourth annual east coast golf tournament at Cape May National Golf Course. Since 2006 the LRO East Coast Golf Tournament has raised \$85,000.

The registration fee is \$150 per person or \$550 for a foursome before Sept. 15. After Sept. 15 the fees go up to \$175 per person and \$600 per foursome. Individuals, groups or businesses may make donations or sponsor a hole for the tournament.

An after-golf party is planned for 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

at the Harbor View Restaurant.

They Will Surf Again is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 27, in Wildwood Crest.

Life Rolls On (LRO) is a non-profit 501(c)3 Foundation that exists to be a grassroots resource and an advocate on behalf of young people who have sustained a spinal cord injury (SCI). Locally, the organization

helped provide signs at beach entrances reading "Dangerous Shorebreak" in an effort to prevent more SCIs from occurring.

For more information about the events or to register, contact: LRO Golf Tournament, Northeast Coordinator Chad de Satnick at chad@liferollson.org/ www.liferollson.org/ njgolf, or call 609-780-1986 (fax 609-884-2545).

Coast Guard crew from Cape May intercepts drug boat

MIAMI - The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Vigorous intercepted the motor vessel Capt. Lem, 170 miles southwest of Jamaica on June 15.

In accordance with international law, the Coast Guard requested permission from the Honduran government to board and search the vessel. Honduran authorities confirmed the vessel was Honduran flagged and authorized the crew of the Vigorous to search the vessel.

During the search, crewmembers from the Vigorous noted a suspicious tank onboard. Upon opening the tank, 77 packages were observed. Further tests revealed the packages contained a total of 3,300 pounds of cocaine.

The crew of the Vigorous transferred the alleged crewmembers and cocaine to FBI agents in Port Canaveral, Fla., on Monday.

The Coast Guard Cutter Vigorous is home-ported in Cape May.

Cape Mays fare well at art show

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE - Artists from our local area representing the lower portion of the county, took home numerous prizes from the 35th Annual Senior Art Contest held in June.

More than a dozen seniors from Cape May, Cape May Point, West Cape May and Lower Township took prizes in the annual art show sponsored by the county Department of Aging. This year, 55 Cape May County residents aged 60 and over entered 103 original works of

art in the following categories: Oil, Acrylic, Watercolor, Pastel, Drawing, Sculpture, Photography, Computer Graphics/Digital Imagery, Mixed Media, and Craft.

Richard King, 73, of Villas took a first place in the drawing category with a pen and ink titled "Rooftops of Cape May." This work features The Abbey in middle and in the four corners some of the other bed and breakfasts in the area done on a rough-edged paper. This is the second year in a row King won

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Photo by Kaleigh Kathern

Cape May Point Mascot Races

Kennedy Schuster, 9, of Cape May Point, is all smiles at Cape May Point's Mascot Races. For results, see Page B8.