

Cape May Star and Wave

155th YEAR NO. 34 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2009 50¢



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	am	pm	am	pm
8/20	8:29	8:48	2:11	2:16
8/21	9:19	9:36	2:58	3:09
8/22	10:07	10:23	3:44	4:01
8/23	10:55	11:11	4:29	4:54
8/24	11:44	11:59	5:14	5:47
8/25	12:34	6:00	6:43	
8/26	12:50	1:28	6:49	7:42
Full Moon			8/5	
Last Quarter			8/13	
New Moon			8/20	
1st Quarter			8/27	
Perigee			8/19	
Apogee			8/3,31	

C-spine injury victim addresses city council

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - David Taylor retired in June 2007, about two months before he visited Cape May, as he and his wife Judy had been doing together for about 30 years.

David had been visiting Cape May with his parents since he was about eight, and he and Judy kept up the tradition, usually getting a room for them and their kids at the Jetty Motel. They celebrated their wedding anniversary in Cape May on Aug. 16, 2007.

The next day, David and his son walked across Beach Avenue at Second Avenue, just as they had done for many years. Arriving at the water's edge David joked with his son saying the waves didn't look very big. "It was pretty calm," he said.

The Taylors liked to go body surfing and father and son went out for a few rides. On his last ride, David went by himself, riding the wave all the way in. As he started to get up he saw a

wave out of the corner of his eye. The next thing he knew he was tumbling in the surf as he was thrown into the shorebreak, a ledge of sand at the water's edge.

"It tumbled me and all of a sudden I felt a snap," David said.

He had been slammed face first into the beach. He later learned his face had been bloodied, but that was the least of his problems. David had no feeling from the neck down.

"It's hard to describe what it feels like to be face down in the water with no feeling in my arms and legs," he said.

Taylor said he didn't panic.

"I said to myself, 'OK, arms and legs, get me out of here!'"

Taylor then looked around, seeing seaweed floating in the water, and he prayed, "Lord, if this what you have

for me - so be it."

Taylor's son, a certified lifeguard, noticed his father lying in the surf and he pulled him partially out of the water, and his daughter, also a certified lifeguard, laid across his legs in an attempt to shield him from the waves.

"(Senior Lifeguard) Al Pappas and his crew were still on duty although it was late in the day - about 4:30 p.m.," Taylor said.

According to Taylor, the lifeguards quickly stabilized him to prepare him for transport to the hospital. As he laid on the beach, the first person he saw over him was his wife, Judy.

"Breathing very shallowly I said, 'This is not good,'" Taylor said.

"We will get through this," Judy told him.

The lifeguards loaded Taylor onto a

Beach Patrol vehicle and took him to a waiting ambulance. He was taken to the Cape May Elementary School grounds where he was met by a medevac helicopter. Once in the air, a paramedic had to make the call either to fly him to Cooper Medical Center in Camden, or to the Atlantic City Medical Center. Since Taylor was able to move his toe the decision was made to go to Atlantic City.

For the first four days they gave him steroids to reduce the swelling in the spinal cord. The doctor performed a laminectomy, a procedure used to remove fluid or tissue putting pressure on the spinal cord, be it blood clots, bone fragments, disc fragments or foreign objects. They also fused the C-3 through C-5 vertebrae with screws and a metal plate, although his injury extended to the top of C-7. The screws, Taylor said, were to protect him from another break in case he falls.

"I have fallen at home a couple of

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"There is no such thing as a minor spinal cord injury."
- David Taylor

Ocean Street Beach remains closed for now

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Some Cape May beaches remained closed Wednesday after being shut down by the county health officer Monday due to possible water contamination due to a sewage spill.

The county said it closed the beach around Ocean Street after about 1,000 gallons of sewage was discharged into a storm drain that drains into the surf at the Ocean Street beach.

City Manager Bruce MacLeod said there was a back-up in a sewer main at Ocean Street and Columbia Avenue, causing an overflow, which subsequently ran into a storm water drain. He said the matter was reported to David Carrick, the Water/Sewer Utility Supervisor, around 7 p.m., Monday, and a sewer jet vac was used to dislodge the clog. MacLeod said the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection was notified, and once that was done the DEP has a sys-

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Little Jazz Giants wow crowd

Above, Jordan Williams plays keyboard with the Little Jazz Giants as does Will Wright, pictured right, the group's musical director. Five members of the group gave a two-hour performance on the Washington Street Mall last week thanks to the Ugly Mug, Cape May Fish Market and Jackson Mountain.



Lower Township council advances windmill ordinance

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP - After working on the ordinance for much of the year, Lower Township Council adopted Ordinance 2009-13, establishing procedures for approving the construction of windmills.

The ordinance passed after second reading and public hearing, and without proposed amendments.

Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare said there were a number of proposed amendments, including changing the setback from 15 feet plus the length of one rotor blade to five feet and one rotor blade.

Councilman Thomas Conrad said he would like to see how the 15-foot requirement worked before making the change, and Councilman Wayne Mazurek said he wanted to hear more comment from the public on the 15-foot setback requirement.

The primary concern is that windmills would fall into a neighbor's yard and cause damage.

Lare said whatever the setback, the windmills needed an engineer's certification that there was a suitable foundation to support the structure. He said the larger setback would force a lot of people to go before the planning board for a variance. Mayor Mike Beck agreed, saying more people would opt to use wind power with the smaller setback.

Resident Joe Winters asked if someone did not need to go to the planning board anyway.

"If it's a conforming use, no," Lare said.

Conrad said if the windmill project met all the requirements the homeowner needed to go to the construction office and obtain a building permit.

Winters also questioned another proposed amendment

- waiving the fees for wind and solar energy projects.

"If you can afford \$15,000 for a windmill you can afford a fee for the paperwork," he said.

Later, resident John Stalford said he supported the ordinance because there are "seniors who can't afford to heat their home every day in the winter." Winters said if Stalford, who is over 80, could not afford to pay his electric bill, he'd "like to know where he is going to get the \$18,000 to \$20,000" to erect a windmill.

Lare said it was not council's place to question Stalford in that regard or question his motives.

Resident Tom Olivio said when he installed a windmill three years ago no one knew there was an ordinance pertaining to windmills. There was, and the setback was only five feet plus a rotor blade. Olivio said he didn't think five feet or 15 feet made a dif-

ference on a 45-foot tower, and he didn't think more than half a dozen people would seek permits over a good number of years.

In other business, the council passed a resolution for a grant application for Naval Air Station Wildwood to make ADA improvements to the 1943 building to make it more handicapped accessible.

"So many things we are trying to do are related to ADA compliance," director Joe Salvatore said.

Council voted 5-0 to appoint Ed Butler to the Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority Board of Directors.

Mayor Mike Beck joked that the five council members would "take the mic and yell down at you." Butler, a vocal member of the community, responded by grabbing the microphone and saying, "I'll just take it with me."

Joe Winters questioned the reason for replacing the gym floor at the recreation department. Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare said the 20-year-old floor only had a 15-year life expectancy and needed to be replaced. Beck said the floor looked shabby and had exceeded its life expectancy.

Winters said shabby was one thing, but replacing it costs

money and he felt they could get more use out of the floor.

Township Manager Kathy McPherson said they would like to replace the floor before it becomes a hazard. Beck said that could come during the middle of a sports season. Council approved the installation of the new gym floor by a 5-0 vote.

Council also passed bond Ordinance 2009-11 providing for the installation of storm water outfall extensions at a dozen street ends in the township. The ordinance for a project which met opposition a year ago passed with no public comment.

School may get new strings

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP - Lower Cape May Regional High School could see an increase in violins this fall if a community outreach program is successful.

Music teacher Lisa Jurewicz said she is looking for string players - violin, viola, cello and bass - to help fill a gap in the school orchestra.

"We're going to try something different," Jurewicz said.

Jurewicz teaches orchestra for one period, and because there is no string teacher at the high school she has no string players to fill that section of the orchestra. She said graduation took her remain-

ing string players, and because there is no feeder program at the Richard M. Teitelman Middle School, she doesn't have an incoming class of string students.

"I'm not saying it's anybody's fault...that's just the way it is," Jurewicz said. "And I think if you are going to have a teacher you should have a full classroom."

Jurewicz is starting her ninth year at the high school. She taught at Teitelman for her first eight years as part of the enrichment program, going in once a week to teach strings.

"Until I got there, there was nothing," she said.

Jurewicz said during her first year teaching at the high school she tried to go back to Teitelman for the enrichment

program, but wasn't allowed to go back contractually.

Former Teitelman music teacher Nan LaCourte tried teaching strings for period but the band was too big, and there were not enough string students to devote a string teacher to the program.

Jurewicz said students at the Maud Abrams School and Sandman Consolidated School get string instruction under Karen Tagney, but their string instruction ends when they get to junior high. Those students, however, would now be permitted to go to the high school for orchestra.

"We will allow anyone from Teitelman to come to the high school on Wednesday for the

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Jennifer Kopp/Cape May Star and Wave

And the Cape May Point beach tag design winners are ...

Kristina Taylor, 9, of Cape May Point and Taylor Mahon, 13, of Lower Township. Taylor won the weekly tag contest with her illustration of a whale spouting a beachball and is the youngest winner in the contest's history. Mahon won the seasonal competition with her version of a sandcastle. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Cape May Point Beach Patrol.