

Cape May Star and Wave

155th YEAR NO. 37 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2009 50¢



INSIDE



COMMUNITY

400th Anniversary celebration photos, **B1**

Labor Day Slow Food in West Cape May, **A4**

SPORTS

LCMR Tigers getting ready for gridiron, **A11**

ARTS

SOMA Gallery featuring Stan Sperlak, **A14**

SEPTEMBER 2009 TIDE TABLE

	HIGH	LOW		
	am	pm	am	pm
9/10	12:18	5:43	6:46	
9/11	12:43	1:18	6:36	7:52
9/12	1:50	2:28	7:40	9:04
9/13	3:09	3:42	8:53	10:13
9/14	4:25	4:52	10:06	11:14
9/15	5:31	5:54	11:13	
9/16	6:29	6:49	12:09	12:14
Full Moon		9/4		
Last Quarter		9/11		
New Moon		9/18		
1st Quarter		9/26		
Perigee		9/16		
Apogee		9/27		

Cape May Seashore Lines makes surprise visit

It's been four years since the our station has seen a train

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - The rails from the old track running from the Cape May Transportation Center area barely visible on the west side of Broad Street these days so it was a sur-

prise for many people to see two diesel locomotive engines coming around the bend headed for the train platform in Cape May, Aug. 28.

As the train became visible it slowed and then stopped as Cape May Seashore Lines owner Tony Macrie looked over the vegetation growing out over the tracks. Macrie stopped the train and with his workers cut back the tree branches and weeds extend-

ing out over the rails. According to Macrie, he and his crew had spent a month clearing vegetation that had grown among the rails running from Tuckahoe to Cape May.

"We haven't been here for four years," Macrie said. "It's very important for us to be here."

Macrie said now that the track has been cleared, and the test train consisting of

two locomotives had crossed the canal bridge and made it into Cape May, he hopes to have the train here more often.

"We have a few events planned for the fall," Macrie said.

Macrie said there was talk the train wouldn't make it to Cape May again, but in his words, "Seeing is believing."

He said they missed the summer season, but the over-

growth after four years was so bad it still took over a month to clear it with a brush-cutting machine. But now that the way is clear, the bridge is functioning and the track is stable, Macrie feels his train will be in Cape May more often, which he thinks will benefit both the city and the train lines.

"Cape May has been good for us, and we've been good for Cape May," he said.



Rich Reinhart Memorial Clamshell Contest



Jennifer Kopp/Cape May Star and Wave
Cape May's Annual Rich Reinhart Memorial Junior Clamshell Pitching Contest was held Sept. 4 in perfect weather on Windsor Beach. Fifty young clamshell throwers from ages four to 17 competed in singles and doubles contests. Above, Karley Stephens, 3, of Media, Pa., Reinhart's granddaughter, shows off her ribbon. Top left, Joey Sharnikou and Blayden Reid show off their style in the junior division; left, Kevin Thomas, 15 and sister Paige, 13, Stephanie Donahue and Mark Morey show off their trophies in the teen doubles division.



Non-natives bone up on English at First Presbyterian

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - There is an old joke that says a person who speaks two languages is bilingual, and a person who speaks three languages is trilingual. So what do you call

a person who speaks only one language? An American.

Speaking the English language works out well for us Americans, most of the time, and it comes naturally for us. But if you are visiting from another country, or especially if you have established resi-

dency here and want to speak English well, it takes a lot of work to develop fluency.

According to Jackie Richards, who is heading up an English class at the First Presbyterian Church of Cape May, there are many non-native speakers in the area

who want to improve their English so they can function in the English speaking world.

Richards, the wife of Rev. Jim Richards, pastor at First Presbyterian, said the church started their free English classes in April 2009 to assist the non-native population with English, primarily visiting students who are working in the area, or immigrants. Richards said they tried to get the word out through fliers, posters, notices in newspapers and on radio stations, and by contacting schools.

"A lot of it was word of mouth," Richards said. "People just talked to other people about it."

Richards said it's time to get the word out again.

"So we can get people who

have time now to do this," she said. "It makes for a long day when they have been working."

Richards said attendance dropped off during the summer when people worked long hours, perhaps working two jobs. But they still had only one or two weeks this summer when no one showed up and she is hoping the class size will grow again.

Richards said one thing they do to encourage people to attend is to invite them to bring their school-aged children. During the off-season, they regularly had three to five children coming with parents who are trying to catch up with their children's command of English. There were also those who were hoping to be able to function better on the job.

"A lot of them want help with their speaking. We found that most of the ones who come here are on a pretty high level because they have jobs and are speaking enough to get by. They just want to improve. Sometimes the employers have told them they say things wrong," Richards said.

There are also a few homemakers who are afraid to get out and talk to anybody, Richards said, so their children are the only ones learning English, which they do in school.

However, sometimes the kids need extra help as well, and the class tries to provide help where they can. Richards said the native speaking volunteers in her

Please see English, Page A7



Jennifer Kopp/Cape May Star and Wave

The party's over - it's back to school!

Schools opened around the region the past two weeks. Jake Pender, 5, of West Cape May, wears a most appropriate shirt to his first day of kindergarten at West Cape May Elementary School. We wish you the best of luck as you begin your new career!

Owners pay for lost water

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - If a Cape May homeowner is away and a home water line ruptures, the owner is responsible for paying for the water used. On the other hand, the city doesn't count that lost water on the property owner's sewer bill.

Last week, Cape May City Council voted to forgive the sewer portion of bills for two properties that experienced a "catastrophic occurrence" in their water lines, making for an excessive water bill.

City Manager Bruce MacLeod said since the water doesn't flow into the sanitary sewer system, the city doesn't

insist the property owner pay the sewer charge. However, they must pay for water usage.

Deputy Mayor Niels Favre asked if the city was not able to detect abnormal water flow with the new electronic radio meters which can be read from a remote location. MacLeod said the city would have that capability after it acquired the necessary software to perform that kind of diagnostic. MacLeod said there are approximately 2,000 meters installed at homes that need the software upgrade. The extra meters the city has on hand have already been upgraded. Favre said the upgrade was good for the city, adding,

"Our goal is to preserve water."

Meanwhile, homeowners can invest in their own water leak detection systems. One area business, Sound Advice in Rio Grande, installs water sensors, which can be installed behind appliances, such as a washer or refrigerator with a water line. The sensor can detect a leak and turn off the valve for the supply line within seconds, and notify the homeowner or a designated maintenance person of the problem. This allows the water weak to be turned off before there is major damage or a large water bill.