

# Cape May Star and Wave

155th YEAR NO. 7 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2009 50¢



INSIDE



## SPORTS

Lady Tigers burst Oakcrest's bubble, **A14**

Wrestlers loss to Buena dashes tourney hopes, **A14**

Lou Rodia: Know your knots, **A14**

## CAPE MAY

Nature Center kids expo is Feb. 22, **A7**

See what's coming up in the area, **A11**

## LOWER TOWNSHIP

Spray-paint vandalism spree investigated, **A5**

Police bust residents with drug possessions, **A5**

## PEOPLE

Engagements, births and scholarships, **A4**

## OUTDOORS

Bird watching: A favorite pastime, **A12**

Roses are top flower this week, **A12**

## Beach fill doubles

81,000 more tons of sand will be dumped at Coast Guard base

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - A reevaluation of the beach replenishment project taking place at the U.S. Coast Guard base has resulted in a second contract for an additional 81,000 tons of sand.

City Manager Bruce MacLeod took part in conversations with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection regarding the current project, which called for 151,000 tons of sand to be trucked to the feeder beach located at the Coast Guard base. Each day, roughly 300 truckloads of sand was expected to be driven from the sand mine in Middle Township to the feeder beach, so named because the sand is expected to drift down to Cape May city beaches.

MacLeod said the original contract was nearing completion and the decision was made to exercise an option to place about another 80,000 tons at the site. MacLeod said with the new contract the amount of sand being shipped was nearly double the original amount. According to MacLeod the changes also result in a \$55,000 refund to the

Please see **Beach**, page A2



John Alvarez/Cape May Star and Wave

## Thinking spring in Cape May

Plenty of people have taken advantage of the unseasonably warm weather over the past week to stroll the beaches, promenade and streets of Cape May. However, all good things must come to end - a possible snowstorm is in the forecast for the weekend.

## Cape May cops cause (laughing) riot at fire hall

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY - Who would believe it, but the Cape May Police Department is going to cause a riot at the West Cape May Fire Hall.

The truth is, this is the fourth year in a row the Cape May Police Athletic League (PAL) of Cape May, has been behind a mid-winter riot it refers to as a Comedy Night Social. Comedy Night is a fundraiser for

PAL programs, and according to event organizer and Patrolman Tony Genaro, the event has been a big riot for the past couple years.

Genaro said it began as a way to break out of the winter doldrums and raise money for PAL. He said the first year was not a huge success in terms of numbers, but it inspired people to come out for the second and third year's shows, sometimes battling the elements for the sake of a good laugh. He said people have been learning what a riot the show

has been and the response he is getting is that people are once again going to support the Comedy Night Social.

"Even in this economic situation people are looking forward to it. It doesn't look like a hard sell at all," Genaro said.

Genaro said he asked one person if he would be attending this year's Comedy Night and he said, "Are you kidding? Last year I was in tears."

Please see **Comedy**, page A2

## Verdict is in: LCMR Mock Trial heads to regionals

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE - The Lower Cape May Regional High School Mock Trial Team headed to New Brunswick this morning to compete in South Jersey Mock Trial competition held at the Law Center.

The LCMR Mock Trial team earned the right to compete in the regional competition by beating the Middle Township High School Mock Trial Team, Feb. 5 in Cape May Court House. According to LCMR Mock Trial advisor, Tom Higgins, the team's success this year is part of a history of achievement by mock trial teams at the school.

"We have had some success over the years," Higgins, an AP U.S. History teacher said.

Higgins has been the head mock trial coach at Lower for eight years and served as the assistant prior to that. He has worked with teams that reached the state finals in 2005 and finished second

Please see **Mock Trial**, page A3



Special to the Cape May Star and Wave

The Lower Cape May Regional High School Mock Trial team won the Cape May County Championship against Middle Township High School and is competing today in New Brunswick for the South Jersey title. If successful, the team will compete for a state championship.

## Keep romance alive this Valentine's Day with flowers, candy - or cheese

By JOHN ALVAREZ  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - In his 18th Sonnet, the Bard William Shakespeare wrote the immortal adoring line, "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?" He then conjured other such romantic images which, over the centuries, has warmed many a cold heart.

Today, where almost everything is stated with a text message, expressions of love have been

reduced to the phrases like "I Heart U" appearing on a person's cell phone or in an e-mail. Simply put, with all the options we have to connect with each other, some people have difficulty when it comes communicating how they feel.

As Feb. 14 approaches, just tapping a few keys on your PDA will most likely not be seen as very romantic. When it comes to Valentine's Day, some traditions should be followed, such as giving flowers, candy or a simple card.

Kate Entwisle, owner of Kate's Flower Shop, has great advice for those thinking of flowers this Saturday.

"The gentleman would usually buy red roses," she said. "Usually the purchase is a dozen, but sometimes it's just a single rose."

In some cases, there's a rush by the forgetful folk who quickly needed to grab a quick gift for their valentine, which is fine for Entwisle.

"Hopefully, there's quite a few,"

she said of latecomers. "In the flower business, Valentine's Day is one holiday where you just cross your fingers and hope because it's last minute for some people. It's the one holiday you're less able to predict."

"I've also seen women buy flowers for men," Entwisle added. "Not as often, but it does happen."

When asked if her loved ones buy her flowers for Valentine's Day, Entwisle just smiled and said, "I buy candy."

Candy is another Valentine's Day standby. At the Fudge Kitchen on the Washington Street Mall, manager Paul Moller sees people buying mixtures of candy for the holiday.

"We sell fudge hearts, which is a heart shape we fill with our homemade fudge," he said. "We sell that during the holiday as well as all different type of varieties of chocolates."

Please see **Valentine's**, page A5

## Half Moon Gala ticket deadline noon today

CAPE MAY - Help kick off 2009 by celebrating the 400th Anniversary of Cape May at the Half Moon Gala, to be held at Congress Hall this Sunday, Feb. 15, at 7 p.m. Enjoy a buffet dinner, cocktails, music and more.

The gala will mark the official coronation of the 400th Anniversary "King and Queen of Cape May." Charles "Bud" Swain and Patricia Milligan. The coronation will include an honor guard and renaissance dancers.

Additional entertainment will include a Victorian fashion show and the official launch of the "400th Anniversary Beard-Growing Contest," which will end on July 4. Tickets for the Half Moon Gala are \$50 and can be purchased through the Greater Cape May Chamber of Commerce by calling (609) 884-5508; ticket sales are limited. Proceeds benefit the 400th Anniversary of Cape May Celebration.

For more information, schedule of events or to become involved, please visit [www.capemay400.org](http://www.capemay400.org).

## DNA detectives roll into Teitelman School

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA - A mobile science classroom in the form of a 40-foot bus made a stop at the Richard M. Teitelman School Wednesday as part of a statewide program to promote science to middle school students.

The Rutgers Science Explorer bus arrived with its mobile faculty of graduate students Patty Irizarry and Alli Candelmo, who presented a lesson on identifying cells by their DNA. Irizarry, a graduate student in molecular biology, and Candelmo, who is working on her Ph.D. in marine ecology, presented a program called "DNA Detectives," in which the middle school students learn about extracting DNA from molecules in order to identify the species.

Asked if the subject matter was too advanced for middle school students, Irizarry said a lot of

kids are used to TV programs such as "CSI," which regularly deal with the subject of DNA. Irizarry said most kids today come into the lesson with some understanding of DNA (Deoxyribonucleic acid), but the program gives them a more visual representation of DNA.

The program shows the kids basic cell construction including the DNA, which she said is "a very long molecule."

"If you took human DNA and stretched it out it would reach to the moon and back," she said. The teachers took the students through the scientific process of identifying a plant cell by its DNA, starting with simple information gathering such as asking local people about the plant. The process continues through research, which today means searching the Internet for information. Eventually, the process



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Brandie Newman and Megan Pride work on a DNA project aboard the Rutgers Science Explorer bus that visited Richard M. Teitelman School on Wednesday.

Please see **DNA**, page A2