

# Cape May Star and Wave

155th YEAR NO. 14 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2009 50¢



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## WEATHER ALMANAC

BY WAYNE ROOP

MARCH			
(Normals: 51°/35°, 4.28")			
	High	Low	Precip.
19	60°	41°	.07"
20	47°	29°	.06"
21	47°	27°	
22	51°	29°	
23	47°	31°	
24	48°	28°	
25	50°	25°	

## 'Scout For A Day' targeting sons of police, fire, EMS

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COUNTY - The Boy Scouts are looking to expand their ranks, so they are turning to men in uniform and asking them to encourage their sons to take up the challenge to become an Eagle Scout.

Cape May County Sheriff Gary Schaffer has partnered with Boy

Scout Troop 73 and the Baysea District to encourage police, fire fighters and EMTs to talk to their sons about scouting. Schaffer, the former director of the Cape May County Police/Fire Training Center, is borrowing that facility to host "Scout For A Day," a program designed to introduce boys 4 to 14 to scouting.

The non-scouts, or hopefully, pre-scouts, will participate in a program

provided by the sheriff, which includes demonstrations of police training at the academy. Later the scouts-for-a-day will hear a presentation from senior scouts to learn about scout activities.

"It's a great opportunity to work with the sheriff, and this exposes kids to some pretty awesome training and great activities we wouldn't get without the sheriff's support," Troop 73

committee chairman David Von Savage said.

The program will actually begin for scouts on Friday, April 3, in the lecture hall at the police academy. Scouts will hear from Dr. Alan Arcuri from the Richard Stockton College on study skills and transformation into high school and college. Later they

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## Cutting positions in Lower?

Council considers doing with two fewer police sergeants

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP - Lower Township Council is looking at doing with two fewer police sergeants, who Mayor Mike Beck said were assigned to administrative functions.

Beck announced on Monday his recommendation to not fill the position held by Sergeant First Class Bill Hienkel, who plans to retire July 1, and to not hire a new officer when a sergeant is promoted to fill a position being vacated when Lt. Christopher Winter retires in 2009 or early 2010.

Beck said the savings on salaries and wages would be about \$50,000 in 2009, but around \$300,000 next year. Councilman Glenn Douglass questioned whether eliminating two sergeant positions would save that much money.

Beck said starting with a base salary over \$100,000 and adding healthcare, pensions, and Social Security, he believed the number would be close to \$150,000 per position.

Douglass said he "totally disagrees" with reducing the number of police officers from 45 to 43.

"Cutting administrative positions redirects duties to others," Douglass said. "So you're reducing the people on the street."

He said patrol officers would be kept off the street while performing administrative functions.

"My concern is that the officers won't have the necessary backup when needed," he said.

Beck said the township had to start reducing the number of personnel it employs or it won't be able to make its

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

The Anna M is shown shortly before being launched at the Cape May Marina. Below, owner Chuck Pritchard can be seen on the vessel he restored over the past six years.



## The Anna M is back at sea

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - The small group of onlookers who braved the cold weather to see the launching of the Anna M broke into applause as she touched water Tuesday, ending a six-year stretch when the vessel was not afloat, and starting its new life as a pleasure craft.

Chuck Pritchard acquired the 47-foot wooden boat nicknamed "The Tower" because the previous captain was often called upon to tow other vessels. Carolanne Galantino, who came down from her

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## Leaving his legacy in stone

Jake Harris lays down his trowel after 61 years

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY - Most people are thinking about retiring when they get to 61. Jake Harris plied his trade for 61 years and is finally giving up the masonry business he started in 1948.

Robert Jacob Harris, born Jan. 10, 1920 in Wildwood, actually worked for another mason-

ry contractor for about five years. According to his daughter, Pamela Harris-Young, her father told about coming home and practicing brick laying, using mud as mortar.

"When he was able to do it perfectly he started his own business," she said.

Harris graduated Wildwood High School in 1940. That year he placed first in the State of New Jersey in the quarter mile.

Harris had already won a silver medal in the Penn Relays in 1939.

Harris went on to Shaw University in Raleigh, N.C., where he was studying biological sciences.

But the U.S. Army had other plans for Harris. With World War II going on, Harris was drafted and sent to the South Pacific. He was already married when he was sent to New Guinea, where he worked as a quartermaster.

Harris returned from the war but not to his studies.

"I picked (masonry) up after the war. I had to do something ... I had a

family," he said.

Harris has been married to his wife Clara for 67 years. According to Clara, her husband loved his work.

"He worked all around North Cape May, Wildwood, Villas,

*'He worked all around North Cape May, Wildwood, Villas, West Cape May ... he worked all over and was well known.'*

-Clara Harris

West Cape May ... he worked all over and was well known," she said.

Clara Harris said her husband worked long hours, often seven days a week. He did brick work, laid driveways, put in pavers, and did stucco and plaster work. Harris said he liked the brick work most of all. His crowning achievement may have been building the home where he and Clara raised three children.

"He did what he loved. He loved building," his daughter said.

Clara Harris said although her husband enjoyed sports, espe-

Please see Harris, page A2

## Fans fall for music as musicians fall for Cape May at Singer Songwriter

By JOHN ALVAREZ  
Cape May Star and Wave



CAPE MAY - Last Friday night, with a tremendous amount of energy, the second Singer Songwriter Festival hit the ground running. Just as it did in last year's initial offering, most of the musicians attending the festival were quickly moving through the streets of Cape May, trying to learn the lay of the land as well as get the location of a particular performer or group they wished to see.

And all seemed to be falling in love with this quaint seashore Victorian town.

"This town is amazing," said Tim Emmerick, 26, of Buffalo, N.Y. Emmerick performed at the Jackson

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave Tom Vollman, from Milwaukee, Wis., performed at the Pilot House on Saturday night.

## New Jazz Fest with new director

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - The Friends of Cape May Jazz started the new year with another unique Jazz Festival planned for April 17-19 and a new captain at the helm.

The board of directors met Feb. 9 and hired Salvador A. "Sal" Riggi Jr. as its new executive director.

Riggi, already a volunteer and board member, served as treasurer last year. Riggi said he brought more than 20 years of high executive management experi-

ence and he believes the board saw it paying off.

"When they saw how I handled financial plans, management plans, rather than go outside they decided to offer me the position," he said.

Riggi happily accepted the position and went to work the next day.

"I had been doing a lot of the work before," he said.

Riggi said he brings a music background to the position he accepted. Now

Please see Jazz Fest, page A10



Courtesy of Harris family/Cape May Star and Wave Jake Harris, shown on a local beach, was a well known figure as a masonry contractor operating for over 60 years.