

# Cape May Star and Wave

155th YEAR NO. 20 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2009 50¢



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**WEATHER ALMANAC**  
BY WAYNE ROOP

APRIL			
(Normals: 60°/44°, 3.51")			
High	Low	Precip.	
30 63°	49°		
MAY			
(Normals: 70°/53°, 3.46")			
High	Low	Precip.	
1 63°	51°	.09"	
2 67°	53°	.19"	
3 57°	51°	.12"	
4 54°	50°	1.03"	
5 61°	51°	.51"	
6 62°	51°	.07"	

## Our Lady Star of Sea closing School will merge with St. Ann's in Wildwood

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - A spokesman from the Diocese of Camden confirmed to parents in a letter Tuesday that Our Lady Star of the Sea Regional School is merging with St. Ann's in Wildwood.

Andrew Walton with the Camden Diocese confirmed the schools would be merging for the 2010-2011 school year, meaning both would continue to operate for one more school year. Walton said the decision to merge the schools is simple mathematics.

"Essentially we have a situation of under enrollment at Our Lady Star of the Sea and at

St. Ann's in Wildwood," Walton said.

According to Walton, there are 162 students currently enrolled at Our Lady Star of the Sea, and just 158 at St. Ann's. The enrollment of both schools is less than the enrollment at St. Ann's in the 1998-1999 school year, when they had 331 students. The same year, Star of the Sea had 247 students.

Walton said ideally the diocese would like to have about 225 students in a single graded K-8 school, but he feels St. Ann's could accommodate the merger.

"Every effort would be made to accommodate every child who wanted to attend the

Please see **Our Lady Star**, page A2

## Commercial divers recover one body from Lady Mary

CAPE MAY - Commercial divers recovered one body from the 71-foot fishing boat Lady Mary 75 miles east of Cape May, Tuesday.

The deceased was identified as Tarzon "Bernie Mac" Smith, the brother of Royal "Fuzzy" Smith Sr.

Coast Guard officials were notified at approximately 8 p.m. the divers had recovered the body, which was transported to Shore Memorial Hospital in Somers Point for identification.

The Lady Mary sank

March 24, leading to an intensive 37-hour search by the Coast Guard covering 3,417 square nautical miles after receiving an

Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon alert. A Coast Guard helicopter crew recovered three Lady Mary crew members, two of which were unable to be resuscitated, Royal Smith Jr., Timothy Smith, and one survivor, Jose Luis Arias.

The accident is still under investigation.

## Community aims to honor fishermen, aid their families

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - In the wake of the sinking of the fishing vessel Lady Mary, members of the community have been organizing their efforts to help families of the six fishermen who lost their lives and to honor them and all fishermen who have been lost at sea.

Office workers at the Lobster House/Cold Spring Fish and Supply Company, who learned of some efforts to help specific families, decided to do something to help all six families.

"There were some other (funds) that didn't incorporate all six and we were hearing from people who wanted to donate money to all six," Debbie Smeltzer said.

Smeltzer said a group of employees at the Lobster House started the Lady Mary Family Fund, but the Lobster House is not sponsoring the fundraising effort.

"Since we were the homeport we looked at each other and said 'We've got to do something'," she said. "We're just trying to help the kids. Everyone will get a portion but we're trying to look out for the kids."

Initially, this is going to be a relief effort for families who may have lost their principal wage earner. One of the fishermen died and left a son in the care of his grandfather.

"We don't know when we're going to distribute the funds. Basically, it's here's some money, we hope it helps a little bit,"

Please see **Fishermen**, page A11



Jennifer Kopp/Cape May Star and Wave

The winning slate of Ramsey Geyer, Pam Kaithern and Peter Burke enjoy the moment at an after election party at the home of Commissioner Dick Rigby, who did not seek reelection.

## Kaithern, Burke and Geyer win WCM commission seats

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY - West Cape May voters reelected Mayor Pam Kaithern, Commissioner Peter Burke, and elected Ramsey Geyer to his first term on the Board of Commissioners.

Burke was the top vote-getter with 295 votes, seven votes ahead of Kaithern. Geyer finished with 274 votes, just 25 ahead of Jim Labrusciano, who claimed 249 votes or 22.51 percent of the total. Labrusciano came in second in District 2, where only seven votes separated the top vote-getter from the fourth place candidate.

Kaithern, Burke and Geyer finished much stronger in District 1, finishing with 158, 157 and 144

votes respectively. "I'm glad the silent majority wasn't silent," Burke said of the election results.

"It was close, but a fair assessment of what the community is looking for," Geyer added.

Kaithern said she was simply going "back to work."

By work, in the immediate future, Kaithern was referring to settling the Plan Endorsement project, and returning to court at

the end of the month. She said the reelection and election of a new team member was a validation of the work she, Burke, and Commissioner Dick Rigby have done over the last four years.

"People recognized that we worked hard for everyone in the community. At the same time, we realize you can't make everyone happy, but we worked from our

Please see **Kaithern**, page A2

*People recognized that we worked hard for everyone in the community ... we worked from our hearts to do what was right for the town.*

-Mayor Pam Kaithern

## World War II Fire Control Tower is open to public

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP - The World War II Fire Control Tower that had long sat neglected is having a grand

Historian/Interpreter for Delaware State Parks at Cape Henlopen State Park, has been giving visitors the history of the tower, which was operated by the U.S. Army during World War II.

"We were in the process of restoring gun batteries, when we found out MAC was restoring this tower. We had already done several years of research on this

tower," he said. Delaware State Parks loaned the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts an azimuth, which MAC accepted the responsibility to restore. Rogers said the azimuth was used to find one

Please see **WWII**, page A2

*The grand opening is this Saturday, May 16, at 10 a.m.*

opening, Saturday, May 16, at 10 a.m.

The tower opened to the public on March 27, and charges admission - but the public is being invited to tour the tower free of charge for the grand opening.

Mike Rogers a

## Still pondering college use of golf course

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP - The former Ponderlodge Golf Course could still become a satellite campus for Richard Stockton College, but the process has been delayed while the parties try to come up with a mutually agreeable meeting date.

A spokesman from Stockton said it has been a challenge trying to get all the players in the same room at the same time. He said the college is still interested in

pursuing a satellite campus for environmental studies at Ponderlodge, and they are in the process of trying to arrange a meeting with the Department of Environmental Protection, which owns the approximately 250-acre site.

State Sen. Jeff Van Drew said he has been trying to quarterback a meeting between the DEP and Stockton.

"I'm trying to get everyone on the same page," he

Please see **Ponderlodge**, page A2

## West Cape May a little sweeter with opening of Ellie's Bakery

By JOHN ALVAREZ  
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY - True bakers know the warmth in the kitchen doesn't just come from the oven but from the love they put into their confectionary creations. Such a baker is Ellen McDevitt, owner of Ellie's Bakery on Broadway in West Cape May.

Originally from Pittsburg, Pa., it wasn't until McDevitt was living in New England with her husband when she

started baking.

"I was at home with a little child, my first daughter, Ellen Jr., living in New England, 600 miles from anyone I knew, with snow everywhere," McDevitt said.

"I could only play so much of the game Candy Land, so we would go into the kitchen and bake. Also, my husband was a great eater and he loved anything I'd bake. It got to the point I would be baking about three times a week.

"By the time we had our second daughter, Katie, baking in the kitchen

is where we would go and play," McDevitt continued. "We were so engaged, it was a very relaxing time. I

*'Whenever I took baked goods to a picnic or a party, people would take my stuff and hide it so it would be there at the end of the day...'*

-Ellen McDevitt



Christopher South and John Alvarez/  
Cape May Star and Wave

Ellen "Ellie" McDevitt shows off her wares at the newly opened Ellie's Bakery in West Cape May. Left, more samples of Ellie's baked goods.

had special aprons I would tie around them and they would stand on chairs. We just would do things in the kitchen and have conversations. By the time they were 8 years old, they could handle a pastry bag."

After years of "playing" in the kitchen with her daughters, McDevitt started noticing a trend with confections.

Please see **Ellie's**, page A11