

Jazz Festival this weekend

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to Billy Eckstein (1914-1993), who was known as "Mr. B," and was considered the most popular ballad singer of the 40s and 50s.

"These two headliners are going to be very upbeat," Riggi said. "And the jams we are going to have, it will add to the excitement."

Riggi said nightly headliners featured in other venues will keep the rhythm going all night.

"We have our usual spread with all kinds of genres of jazz," he said. "Some people who love jazz will listen to the different genres. Others like strictly straight jazz. But I think people will take to it. We're never going to walk away from our core audience, but we are looking other ways as well, we're also looking to a younger audience. We're taking some risks, but that's the only way to grow - to try new things."

Highlighting just some of the upbeat acts, Riggi mentioned headline acts like Andrew "Junior Boy" Jones, whose new CD is "Junior Boy Live," Eddie Shaw, who played with Muddy Waters' Chicago band and

the Howlin' Wolf Band, and Alan Weber, who has become a standard at the Jazz Festival. Newer acts like vocalist Barbara King, guitarist Roni Ben-Hur and percussionist Mayra Casales should help crank up the power.

"I think they will all have people on their feet," Riggi said.

Riggi again said he is disappointed there is no Convention Hall, which would have kept all the acts in Cape May.

"It takes away from the electricity in the city," Riggi said, "there's nothing like 1,200 people walking out of Convention Hall to make the town feel alive."

Riggi said he's actually excited about the weather reports calling for 65 degrees on Friday and 70 to 74 degrees and sunny on Saturday.

"That's an added boost," he said.

Riggi said he was talking with Cape May merchants and many were expressing hope for a good weekend.

"I told them 'I think you might be surprised'," he said.

Riggi said he believes the future for the Jazz Festival is also going to

be good, saying they will ride out the recession and come out bigger and better. In the meanwhile, he said, the Jazz Festival has its own economic stimulus package.

"Because of the recession we put together a program where we're going to try to give our own stimulus. We're offering discounts on weekend passes. If they are purchased by July 1, you'll save \$25 - the cost will be \$125 instead of \$150. From July 1 to Sept. 1 passes will be \$135, and after Sept. 1 they will be \$150," he said.

Riggi said the mood of the Jazz Festival board has been positive and proactive, and the sponsors have responded positively to new plans and projects. He said a number of local merchants have expressed an interest in partnering with the Jazz Festival.

For the first time ever, the Jazz Festival is holding a pre-festival kick-off party at the Mad Batter the day before the festival. The kick-off party runs tonight, Thursday, April 16, from 8-10 p.m., and will feature Lois Smith and Bill McGrady.

"Any other artists are welcome to



Special to the Cape May Star and Wave
Steve Butler will perform a tribute to Billy Eckstein on Friday at Lower Cape May Regional High School.

join in," Riggi said.

The pre-festival party is open to the public.

The schedule, musician's information and sound bytes for the Cape May Jazz Festival can be found on the web at www.capemayjazz.org. For more information or to be put on the mailing list call (609) 884-7277. An All Event Weekend Pass to attend 18 events beginning at 8 p.m. on Friday through 4 p.m. on Sunday is \$150 general admission. Individual Friday or Saturday Night All Event Wristbands are \$55. Saturday Afternoon Jam Wristbands are \$35, Sunday Jams \$25. Reserved Seating is available at the Theatre at Lower Regional High School for an additional \$25 per person.

Complimentary Festival Transportation running every 10 minutes is available between venues all weekend.

The ticket pick-up site is Avondale By The Sea, next to the Inn of Cape May, Beach Avenue at Gurney.

School budget

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administrator have entered into shared services agreements with other schools and county and state agencies. The school currently shares services for: transportation, food services, maintenance, insurance, professional development, Child Study Team services, technology services, purchasing, cur-

riculum materials, use of facilities (gym, pool, fields), electric, telephone, vocal and instrumental music teachers and speech therapist.

At the same time, school enrollment is up to a projected 176 students in the new school year.

The school budget and board elections will be on April 21 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Identity

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and find out whatever information they can related to the incident.

Attorney Samuel Rosenthal was at Tuesday's meeting representing the Ramos estate. Ramos is survived by a wife and a 5-year-old child. The Marine Board of

Investigation called to investigate the sinking of the Lady Mary began Tuesday. Kneen said the hearing was reconvened on Wednesday, but recessed after about a half-hour in order that the Lady Mary's owner, Royal Smith Sr., could secure legal counsel. Smith had earlier chosen to represent himself.

Parking permits concern

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dents and rental units."

Monzo also said there was a problem of assigned spaces not being near the residence they were meant to accommodate. He said some proposed changes to the ordinance including limiting the permit to in-town residents, keeping the designated to within a 300 foot area from the permit holder's property, and eliminating permits for multi-family structures.

City Manager Bruce MacLeod said he would like to see language in the ordinance requiring the permit holders' vehicles to be identified. Monzo said if the ordi-

nance was updated to give the licensing office the authority to set requirements, the office could set that condition.

Councilman Niels Favre did not want to act too swiftly to eliminate second home owners from obtaining the permits.

"I'd like to hear from second home owners who don't rent," he said.

Mayor Edward Mahaney said that would be one controversial issue - awarding permits to residents only versus non-residents. Mahaney said there were 47 permits issued and three more were under review. He said if city council wanted to address the permit issue they should do it now.

However, Mahaney said there are downtown streets where on-street parking is a nine-month issue.

Favre said he agreed that the ordinance seemed to be getting away from the original intent, and he didn't want on-street parking permits to become a way of increasing property value.

A parking committee originally calculated the cost of a permit to be \$450, but the decision was made to reduce the cost for the first year, down to \$350, with the fee amount to be revisited in December 2009. The ordinance changed being considered would not affect the cost of a permit in 2009, but an

increase might be considered in 2010.

Bob Biehn, who was a member of the traffic committee that made recommendations on the permits, said the original intent of the ordinance was to create parking for those who owned houses built long before the automobile became such a common facet of American life.

"The original concept was to give relief for those properties with no other options," he said.

Resident Pat Borgeaux said she was willing to pay more for a parking permit, but not if it meant giving permits to those who own but rent out their property.

Lady Mary sinking

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when at about 7:20 a.m. she got the call to prepare for a search and rescue (SAR) mission. Coast Guard watchstanders at the Atlantic City air station received an EPIRB signal at 7:07 a.m. and again

at 7:15. She said by about 7:55 a.m. she, the co-pilot, the flight mechanic and a rescue swimmer were flying toward the position given by the EPIRB.

Pena testified she and her crew arrived on scene around 8:20 a.m., spotting a signifi-

cant fleet of fishing vessels and a commercial tanker. Shortly thereafter one of the crew spotted a life raft in the water. Initially, one of the crew thought he saw someone stick a hand out of the raft, which has a tent-like cover and flap. But when rescue swimmer Petty Officer Third Class David Downham reached the raft it was empty.

In the water, Downham radioed the helicopter and reported the model and serial number and then punctured the raft with a knife. Procedure calls for them to "scuttle" a life raft so it is not reported again, requiring another search and rescue to be initiated.

With Downham back in the helicopter, Pena climbed to 300 or 400 feet so she could communicate with the air station and Downham got out of his gear. The helicopter loses radio communication when hovering over the water to pick up swimmers or victims. When they gained altitude she spotted a plank and a red survival suit. She again lowered the swimmer into the water and Downham reached Arias, who was clinging to the plank.

While hovering, Pena spotted another survival suit, and with Arias and Downham back in the helicopter, she moved to the second survival suit and lowered the swim-

mer. Downham reached the victim and attempted CPR while in the water. The unresponsive victim was brought into the helicopter and this time Downham stayed on the hook and was lifted to the spot where another suit was sighted. At that time, Pena told Downham they only had five minutes of fuel remaining as they picked up the third man, also unresponsive.

Downham testified the signs of death were more extreme on the third victim, so he began CPR on the second victim, which continued until they reached Air Station Atlantic City. Investigation board chairman Cdr. Kyle McAvoy asked Downham to clarify the signs of death.

"Rigor mortis was extreme in the third victim and not as extreme in the second," he said.

Smith questioned the Downham about his "getting out of his gear," as Pena had put it. He characterized the Coast Guard crew's behavior as "lollygagging," with Downham taking off his suit between the time they spotted the life raft and the first survival suit. Downham said his getting out of his gear consisted of taking off his swimming mask and fins. McAvoy asked how long it took him to get back into his gear and

Please see Lady Mary, page A11

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