

Our Lady Star of the Sea merging

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combined school," Walton said. Walton said current circumstances necessitate the merger. "There have been major efforts in the diocese to strengthen Catholic schools, to market Catholic schools effectively," he said. "Yet the underlying population and demographic characteristics in communities are driving enrollment down." Walton said the situation is similar to public schools, where student populations are declining. According to Walton, Lower Township elementary schools are

down 6 percent, Wildwood Schools are down 4 percent, Wildwood Crest 21 percent, Cape May 25 percent and West Cape May 40 percent. "These are demographic challenges facing the entire region," Walton said. "The hope is that by combining the schools we can strengthen Catholic education for the diocese." Walton said the diocese is trying to ensure a Catholic education is accessible for parents who want it for their children. However, under-enrollment has been affecting the financial aspect of schools and has been putting an increasing burden

on parishes, impeding the ability of the parish to provide the full range of ministry. "Education is important, but so is parish life," Walton said. He said the merger is a way to create a stronger school and provide a stronger program for the students. Two years ago the Camden Diocese made a restructuring of Catholic schools in the diocese. St. Raymond's in Villas was combined with Star of the Sea for the 2007-2008 school year. At the time, St. Ann's was given additional time to reverse the trends. That has not taken place, so this merger is being

enacted. Walton said there would be an effort made to place teachers at the combined school. He said for those who would not be transferred there would be a separation package to assist them while they find other employment opportunities. And as for the vacant schools, that would be up to the transition teams to decide. "Even if necessary this is difficult for families," Walton said. "But we've had a great deal of support from the pastors and administrators of these schools who understand the need to do this." Walton said there would be two

informational meetings for parents, the first being held tonight at 7 p.m. at Our Lady Star of the Sea, and the second on May 26 at 7 p.m. at St. Ann's. He said the school would be combined at the Wildwood campus for the 2010-2011 school year, giving each school plenty of time to prepare for the transition. Our Lady Star of the Sea School was founded in 1920 and the present building was constructed in 1955. St. Raymond's opened in 1963 and operated until two years ago.

Kaithern, Burke, Geyer — WWII tower grand opening

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hearts to do what was right for the town," Kaithern said. Asked about the campaign, which went off without a traditional candidates forum or debate, Kaithern said, "Campaigns are always work - but not as much as when you are in office. There's so much to be done." Kaithern said she thinks being a mother has helped her juggle all her duties, home, work and elected office. "People think this is a part-time, honorary position, but it's a lot of work. But I'm used to juggling things. When you have children, a family, and are running a business you learn to prioritize," she said. Campaign supporters said they had to work to counter misinformation during the campaign. Kaithern said people sometimes don't understand the law and the process of government, and are easily convinced to believe what is

not true. "One thing about this administration was that we always complied with the law. Not following the law is what got the borough in trouble in the first place," she said. Kaithern said a lot of people are happy with the direction the Board of Commissioners has taken the borough and people have looked at the renderings of the commercial district upgrades and have been thrilled. "They say 'Is this really possible?'" she said. "Yes, it is, taken one step at a time." Labrusciano declined to be interviewed by the Star and Wave, but said he went against a "well-oiled machine" and thanked his team for a valiant effort. West Cape May has 779 registered voters, and 440 came out to the polls, with 24 absentee ballots being cast, for a nearly 60 percent turnout.

point on a triangle. The tower communicated with another tower located on the Delaware side, as well as with the gun batteries. The goal was to fire rounds that would hit a moving target. "It's like when a quarterback throws the ball to where the receiver will be," Rogers said. According to Rogers, the azimuth in other tower measures another point on the triangle and they could determine where the line of site crossed and know where to hit every point along that line with the weapon. "This system is more accurate than a battleship. You can hit any point in the water accurately and consistently," he said. Rogers said three enlisted men operated the azimuth. A bell would chime every 30 seconds and one soldier would read the angle. In the

plot room that position would be placed on a map. "The guys in the gun batteries couldn't see their targets, so it was important to be accurate. A half a degree here translates to a half a mile out there," Rogers said, gesturing toward the sea. Rogers said the Army was also responsible for mining the Delaware Bay. The fire control tower was restored at a cost of \$1.3 million funded by grants from the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority, the New Jersey Historic Trust, the New Jersey Historical Commission and a Small Cities Block Grant administered by the New Jersey

Department of Community Affairs. The World War II Fire Control Tower No. 23 is owned by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Forestry, and is leased to Cape May's Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts. Grand opening ceremonies will begin in the parking lot across from the tower at 10 a.m. The US Coast Guard Band from USCG Training Center Cape May will play patriotic music and the Color Guard will present the colors. World War II veterans will be present and will be honored; a dove release will honor

their service to our country. Public officials including Freeholder Leonard Desiderio, Congressman Frank LoBiondo, Senator Jeff Van Drew, Assemblymen Nelson Albano and Matt Milam, representatives from the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts (MAC) and those involved with the restoration project will be making remarks before an official ribbon cutting. The public is invited to climb the tower for free following the ceremony. The World War II Fire Control Tower No. 23 is located on Sunset Boulevard in Lower Township near Cape May Point.

Ponderlodge

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said. "So far, the college is supportive and wants to go forward, and the DEP is supportive and wants the college to go forward." Van Drew said one of the main concerns of people who live in the vicinity of the Ponderlodge is that the place be safe, secure, monitored and buttoned up, sooner rather than later. "We hope to move quickly, we have to make sure it won't take years to move on this," Van Drew said. And in the meantime, the site would have to have the security and safety the com-

munity is insisting upon. Van Drew said the proposed meeting is imminent, and could take place this week or the beginning of next week. He said the parties would negotiate the exact terms of an agreement needed to move forward. That agreement, he said, would essentially be between the DEP and Stockton. Van Drew said most of the site, hundreds of acres, would remain virtually untouched if Stockton establishes a satellite campus there. "The work to be done would be in the immediate area where the buildings exist," he said. "The other good news is

that it would create a small number of jobs, bring an educational facility to this area, increase property values, and would make Cape May County have its first four-year branch campus." Van Drew again said the main concern from members of the public is that the site be cleaned up and made safe in the very near future. Secondly, they would like some allowance made for the community to have access to the natural areas. "We want to make sure that happens," Van Drew said. Lower Township Mayor Mike Beck said things look good for the proposed campus. "We're hoping that it turns out positive. We're looking forward to working with them, sitting down and talking. This is a good move for Stockton and a homerun for Lower. I think they would be excellent neighbors," Beck said. Beck acknowledged there had been some public opposition to the proposal, but he didn't think it was significant. "People are trying to be protective of the township. At the end of the day, a college would be a good neighbor," he said. "Any issues out there that could be put on the table, we could resolve them. We will listen and do what we can." Beck said other municipalities would kill to be in Lower Township's position, adding Stockton couldn't ask for a better location to put a college for environmental studies.

**SUNSHINE NOTICE
NOTICE OF MEETING**

PUBLIC NOTICE, is hereby given to all persons that the Washington Street Mall Management Company, Inc. will be holding its business meeting at 7 pm on Monday, May 18, 2009 in the City Hall Auditorium, 643 Washington St., Cape May, NJ. This announcement is being given in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, Ch. 231, Laws of 1975.

Diane L. Weldon, City Clerk

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TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

HUGH YARD SALE - 135 Emerald Ave., W. Cape May. Sat. & Sun., 5/16 & 5/17, 8 am - 12 noon. Furniture, toys, books, Lenox, swing set etc.

**WHAT IS A FAIR DEAL?
HELP A VET - SPEAK UP!**

The City of Cape May has proposed amending Article 1 of Chapter 379 of the Code for the City of Cape which regulates Peddlers, Hawkers and Vendors within the City limits. Ordinance #181-2009 seeks to amend Article 1 Chapter 379 to restrict vending by veterans AT-LARGE-LOCATIONS. The City claims these restrictions are due to concerns over public health and safety. We believe a compromise can be worked out for the handful (13) of county licensed veterans who seek to lawfully earn a very modest living. By restricting the proposed areas veterans are allowed to vend, the City will have succeeded in eliminating all but 7 (see map below) economically viable locations to sell hot dogs, beverages and snacks to residents and visitors of Cape May. In a tourist community, such as ours, is it too much to ask for an additional 6 spots to vend our wares. Please help the veterans of our country and county. Speak up and let your views be known to the Mayor and City Manager, call...

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