

Cape May Star and Wave

154th YEAR NO. 9 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2008 50¢

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Stephanie Dugan hits 1,000 point milestone, **BI**

2002 CAL champion's jersey retired, **BI**

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Spring Brides 2008 Edition

FEB/MARCH TIDE TABLE

	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
	am	pm	am	pm
2/28	12:30	12:43	6:49	6:32
2/29	1:27	1:47	7:52	7:30
3/1	2:31	2:58	8:58	8:36
3/2	3:36	4:04	9:57	9:39
3/3	4:32	4:59	10:48	10:35
3/4	5:21	5:46	11:32	11:25
3/5	6:06	6:28		12:12

Cat advocacy group starts petition to save TNR

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

BETHESDA, Md. – Alley Cat Allies, a national advocacy group supporting feral cats and trap-neuter-return programs, has posted a petition on its website urging Cape May not to buckle to pressure to eliminate its TNR program. The petition, forwarded to some Cape May residents, asked them to sign the peti-

tion to urge the city to resist pressure from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "to abolish its successful humane cat management program known as Trap-Neuter-Return..."

The text of the petition reads:

"We, the undersigned, support Cape May, New Jersey's Trap-Neuter-Return outdoor cat management program.

We urge you not to give in to pressure from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's New

Jersey field office to end Cape May's successful Trap-Neuter-Return program – a move that would result in the cats being trapped and killed.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has presented no evidence that cats in Cape May are causing harm to endangered species in the area. In fact, the federal government's own studies show that habitat destruction and modification are the greatest threats to endangered shore-

birds."

On Wednesday, the Web site indicated there were over 3,500 signatures on the electronic petition. Signatures could come from around the nation.

On Feb. 19, Cape May City Council tabled a resolution adopting a Beach Management Plan, which contains references to feral cat management. The plan calls for the city to:

- Develop a "cat indoors" policy.

policy.

• Phase in a program to require all cats be fitted with a microchip identifying their owners.

• Conduct a cat census every two years.

• Enforce the New Jersey statute prohibiting the abandonment of animals.

• Modify the TNR program to require the "removal or relocation" of all cat colonies

Please see TNR, Page A2

Film Festival's Oscar Night



The 80th Annual Academy Awards

The New Jersey Film Festival's annual Oscar Party was held last Sunday at the Beach Theatre. The Film Festival and the Beach Theatre rolled out the red carpet and had "paparazzi" on hand to interview guests and snap photos as they arrived. Above left, television filers Phil Pizzi and Rick Dee direct interviewers Leslie Donaldson and John Day as they ask Holly Birch, above, of Villas, who is all decked out in her finest, her Oscar predictions. The Beach Theatre Foundation is trying to save the theater from demolition. Volunteers Lynda Cogswell and Regina McCarren, at left with Marilyn Monroe, were on hand to help out with reservations. The New Jersey State Film Festival is the state's premiere film festival dedicated exclusively to the support and presentation of creative, challenging, groundbreaking film and video works by New Jersey filmmakers. The festival is also the region's leading educational and cultural resource for youth and adult learners interested in all facets of the cinematic experience.

Photos by Jennifer Kopp



Recalled beef found in Cape May, Lower school districts

Possibility 'remote' meat could cause adverse effects

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Two of the nearest school districts were among five in Cape May County that received meat ordered destroyed by the Department of Agriculture.

The Cape May School District and the Lower

Township Elementary School District each received some of the meat, as did Cape May Technical School, Ocean City and Upper Township schools.

Joseph Cirrinicione superintendent of Lower Township schools, sent a memo to staff and parents informing them the district had received 10 cases of "fully-cooked beef patties." The recall included the beef patties and other beef items such as taco meat, frozen steaks, meatballs, and barbecue nuggets.

The meat allegedly came from meat packing houses using "downer cows" – cows that were apparently too weak or sick to walk. Although none of meat has

been identified as being tainted by disease, the government forbids the slaughter of downer cows for commercial purposes because of the added risk of disease. Videos were released showing packing plant employees kicking and prodding weak animals with electrical prods to get them to walk, or lifting weak animals with forklifts. Inspectors are supposed to monitor slaughterhouses for abuse.

Cirrinicione said Lower Township received a shipment of the meat on Aug. 15, and it was served Sept. 7 and Oct. 2.

"We have not received any more of the product since

Aug. 15," he said.

Cirrinicione said he wanted to stress that the Department of Agriculture deemed this action a Class 2 recall, meaning there was a "remote possibility" consuming the meat would cause adverse effects. "All the meat was consumed a minimum of four months ago," Cirrinicione said.

The superintendent added that the school has no more of the product on hand and has nothing to destroy. He said the product was all received fully cooked, and all the meat served in the school is thoroughly cooked.

"There is no medium rare meat served in Lower Township schools," he said.

Cirrinicione said the schools also test food products before it is served.

Victoria Zelenek, superintendent at the Cape May City School said some of the fully cooked meat patties were served on Feb. 4. She said Cape May City School was not

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Gaffney planning run in May

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Defeated in the 2006 Cape May municipal election, former councilman Jerry Gaffney is planning to turn in petitions for the 2008 municipal election in May.

However, he is not sure whether he would like to run for mayor or councilman.

"I'm trying to formulate a plan," Gaffney said. "People say do this, do that, run for this seat, that seat...whatever seat, they are all the same party. There are five people (on council), one acts as mayor, the authority is all the same," Gaffney said.

The difference is if Gaffney runs for council he would not face an incumbent because Councilman David Craig has decided not to seek reelection. Mayor Jerry Inderwies

has already said he would seek reelection in order to see current projects finished, and former Ed Mahaney has picked up petitions for the mayor race.

Gaffney said there are a number of issues that have caused him to want to return to politics. One of them is the Convention Hall project, which has recently been delayed by a year.

"This is the largest single financial endeavor the city has taken on or will take on," Gaffney said. "The cost is \$10 million, but I think it will be higher."

Gaffney said he still believes as he did two years ago, that Convention Hall should be built on the same foot print or slightly larger.

"I don't believe they should take down the solarium," he said. "It might not be a wise decision."

Gaffney said there still seems to be a problem with the communication from council to the public.

"Or lack thereof," he said. "That's the most pressing problem. That is what I hear from people."

Gaffney said there is a constant lack of communication from council members to the public about some of the biggest issues, such as the amount of money being spent.

"And there are many committee meetings, too many decisions being made with out full facts being put out to the public," he said.

Gaffney said he is concerned about the public comment policy and what he described as "the restrictions being put on the public," including one opportunity to come to the podium and

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Kids Can Expo



Jennifer Kopp/Cape May Star and Wave

The Nature Center of Cape May held its annual Kids Can Expo Sunday at Cape May's Convention Hall. Favorite Kids Can Expo activities included ocean touch-tank critters, the rescued animals of New Jersey Nature, hands-on environmental science and natural history, make-n-take crafts, great food, face painting, and games. Above, Savannah Bruno, age 6, and sister Alexandra, 4, of Cape May decorate take-home magnets. Special guests included the Gibson School of Irish Dance and the Joanne Reagan Dancers, and the Just-4-Fun Railroad Line as well as LCMR students performing "Corner Cafe."