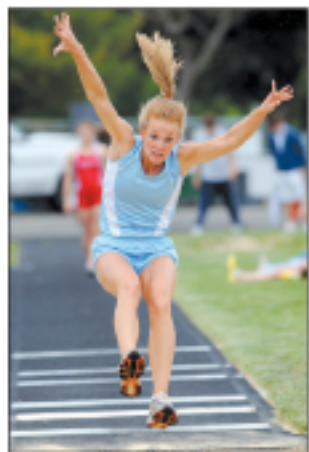


Cape May Star and Wave

154th YEAR NO. 19 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2008 50¢

INSIDE



SPORTS

LCMR has county track champions, **B1**

Lower boys LAX pick up win over Middle Township, **B1**

ARTS

Cape May Stage celebrating 20th season and restored playhouse, **A10**

SOMA NewArt Gallery offers fresh look, **A11**

Beach Theatre has 'high hopes' for season, **A12**

MAY TIDE TABLE

	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
5/15	5:27	6:02	11:27	
5/16	6:15	6:44	12:00	12:09
5/17	6:59	7:23	12:48	12:48
5/18	7:40	8:00	1:31	1:25
5/19	8:19	8:37	2:13	2:01
5/20	8:58	9:13	2:52	2:36
5/21	9:36	9:50	3:32	3:10

HOLIDAY EARLY DEADLINES:

Classified Ads:
Friday at noon

Legal Notices:
Tuesday at noon

Display Advertising:
Friday at 5 p.m.

Mahaney elected mayor, Swain wins council seat

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Dr. Ed Mahaney was elected mayor Tuesday, returning him to the office he held for just a year in the mid-90s.

Mahaney defeated six-year incumbent Jerome Inderwies, taking four of six districts, winning by 73 votes, 530-457.

William G. "Jerry" Gaffney was a distant third with 87 votes.

Terri Swain ran away with the council seat, collecting

480 votes, to 315 for Jeanne Powick. Harry Bellangy had 141 votes, and Jack Wichterman 129.

After hearing the results from District 6 over his cell phone, Gaffney got up and congratulated Mahaney and left. Inderwies waited until the clerk read the numbers before he offered his congratulations.

"It was a great six years. It was a great ride, it wasn't free, but I enjoyed every minute of it," Inderwies told members of the press.

Mahaney has a Ph.D., and is the administrator of the

Woodbine Developmental Center.

He said the citizens of Cape May wanted a change - they wanted open input at every stage of the process, especially with major capital projects. He said the public wants to be involved in the planning of capital projects, from the design, to the permitting, to the funding. Mahaney said he was glad the Convention Hall project was not further along, because he doesn't want to see the wrong type of building built, and he didn't want it built "on the back of the taxpayers."

Mahaney said he would look for grant money in the public and private sector.

The mayor-elect characterized the Convention Hall project as an example of the lack of cohesion in the city.

"My number one priority is to get the community together and tell us how they want the city to go," he said.

He said he wanted to get city council on the same page as the community and to get the boards and commissions to support council. He said the Master Plan review would be a big priority.

When asked about how

much he could accomplish being one vote on council, Mahaney disagreed with that characterization.

"The role of the mayor is to provide leadership," he said.

He said city council sets the tone, the agenda, and the policies, and the city manager carries out the day to day operations of the city.

"The power rests with council, and the council will perform to the utmost with good leadership," he said. "If we have strong leadership we can accomplish anything."

Please see Win, Page A2

Spring 'nor'easter' slams the Cape



Jennifer Kopp and Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

The storms that affected the southern states over the weekend slammed into Cape May Monday with record high winds which wreaked its havoc both on land and at sea. Above, a moored sailboat in the harbor. Above right, a dog frolics at the Cove Beach Monday despite warnings to stay off the beach and at right, a surfer sits at the Wilmington Avenue beach amongst beach erosion.

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COUNTY - The county declared a limited state of emergency at 2 p.m. Monday due to a storm passing through the southern end of the state with winds of 40-45 mph.

Tolls were also lifted on Ocean Drive bridges from 2 p.m. Monday until Tuesday at 10 a.m., for residents attempting to take refuge from coastal flooding. But by 10 p.m., Monday, a wind advisory had been called off, but north winds of 20 to 25 miles per hour were still expected, and high tides on Tuesday were expected to be between three and four feet above

normal. The storm resulting in the rescheduling of the municipal elections in West Wildwood until May 20.

Some 100,000 Atlantic City Electric customers in Atlantic, Salem and Cape May Counties lost power due to downed power lines. According to Sandra May, a spokesperson for Atlantic City Electric, as of late Tuesday morning there were still nearly 18,000 customers without power, over 9,000 of them in Cape May County.

"Currently we're working with county and local government officials to gain access to part of

Please see Storm, Page A2



Many records set at 25th annual World Series of Birding

By R.E. HEINLY
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Over 1,100 birders from all over the nation and from as far away as Spain and the United Kingdom combined to make the World Series of Birding (WSB) a huge success again this year.

This was the World Series 25th Anniversary, having been born in 1984 at Cape May's C-View Inn mainly from the fertile mind of Pete Dunne, now a Vice-President of the New Jersey Audubon Society (NJAS) and Director of its Cape May Bird Observatory (CMBO).

The WSB is now an international birding institution and phenomenon known simply from its initials. This year

records were set for number of teams entered (120), total participants (1,100), and teams in the statewide (37), Cape May County (17), Cape Island (17), and Youth Division (19) competitions. In addition it raised a record projected \$700,000 for conservation causes, extending the overall total of money raised over the years to over \$9,000,000.

The event now draws coverage from the national media including a team from the nature program Animal Planet which covered this year's Silver Anniversary of the Big Day.

Teams compete in 11 categories, some roving statewide, some in a designated limited geographic area, some in Cape May County,

and some south of the Cape May Canal on Cape Island. Some teams just stay within a 17' circle (the Big Day Big Stay). There are senior and youth divisions as well as the open ones. All raise money for birding-related conservation charities via pledges per bird tallied. Sighting or hearing a bird counts.

Top-level teams use extensive scouting, travel in vehicles and uniforms and use optics supplied by sponsors which are mainly optics companies or birding groups. It's a midnight to midnight quest with the finish line at the West Cape May Fire Company Hall.

While many participants are driven to compete and excel, still more do it for just the joy of participation and to

raise the money for birding causes. All share in the camaraderie of what has become a celebration of birding.

Birders never take themselves too seriously; however, birds, birding and conservation always, but themselves, never. The names several teams adopted exemplified this: Luna-Ticks, Nine Inch Rails, Not Too Swifts, Wandering Tattlers, Zen Zuginruhe, Birds of Play, Always Terved On, plus Cuckoos, Dodos, and Loons. In the latter category one local loon was encountered lounging in a beach chair on the Cove Beach urging participants to be less driven, less hurried, less concerned with exact identification and listing. Most participants polite-

ly ignored him. A few tried to add Grey-crested Loon to their totals but this was disallowed by WSB officials.

This year a total of 271 species of birds were recorded, just one short of the record and remarkable on a day when the weather was far from favorable and cooperative. Highlights included Glaucous Gull, Pileated Woodpecker, Eurasian Collared Dove, White-faced Ibis, Manx Shearwater, Long-billed Dowitcher, Curlew Sandpiper, and Mississippi Kite.

The overall winners were the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club's Lagerhead Shrikes with a total of 229. The Maryland Yellowthroats won the Cape

May County competition with 187. Wild Bird Magazine's Zen Zuginruhe took the Cape Island Cup with 145. The Cedar Run Runners took the Senior Division with 161. In the 3 youth divisions Nikon Optics Blue Oystercatcher Cult won for grades 9-12 with 215, Maryland Ornithological Society's Chuckle Heads won for grades 6-8 with 152, and Steiner Optics Merlins won for grades 1-5 with 121. The Limited Geographic Area winners were the Atlantic County Utilities Authority's Wrending Talons who tallied 162 in their county while the Big Stay was won by the Lorrimer Lounging Lards with 67. The Digiday

Please see Birds, Page A2

Point elects first woman commissioner

CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT - Cape May Point has its first woman to be elected commissioner since the borough was founded in 1878.

Anita vanHeeswyk was the number two vote getter out of four candidates for the three commission seats.

Deputy Mayor Carl Schupp received the most votes with 128, van Heeswyk had 122, and Commissioner Joe Nietubicz was reelected with 112 votes. The fourth candidate, Linda Adams, finished with 81 votes.

Mayor Malcolm Fraser did

not seek reelection after 16 years in office.

Van Heeswyk said it felt good to be elected and was grateful to the voters in Cape May Point, but downplayed the significance of being the first woman elected commissioner. She said it would have been more of an issue 35 or 40 years ago, but the Point has already had female commissioners, although they were appointed.

Van Heeswyk said she arrived in Cape May Point in the mid-1960s, but her husband's family has vacationed in the Point since 1901. They summered in their own home here since 1932. She said she

feels she brings this history with her.

She also feels strongly about some local issues, such as keeping autonomy for the Point.

She said in a time with a push by the state for small communities to consolidate it's important to keep sense of character in Cape May Point, of being a village on its own.

"And I'd like to make sure that families can continue to walk to beach safely, that traffic isn't an issue. I'd like it to maintain a sense of sense or feeling like it did years ago," she said.

Van Heeswyk said she would be meeting with the

other commissioners on Monday to discuss which department she would assume responsibility for. Fraser was in charge of public works, and Schupp handled finance, while Nietubicz oversaw public safety.

She said she would be more apt to handle finance, whereas Schupp has eight years experience on the board of commissioners, and is familiar with all departments.

"Wherever we three fit in, we all have a great commitment to the Point and will choose where we fit in," she said.

Cape May Memorial Day service

CAPE MAY - Cape May City will host a Memorial Day Service at the Columbia Avenue monument beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, May 26. Participants will include City officials, local veterans organizations, the rifle team, a bugler, the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

At noon, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 08-02 of Cape May will conduct their annual Memorial Day commemorative ceremony on the beach.

The flower boat will be in place on the beach at Gurney Street shortly before noon and will be attended by flotilla members, U.S. Coast Guard color guard, rifle squad, and bugler who will play taps at the launching.

Coast Guard Station Cape May will have one of their small rescue boats on static display on Beach Drive during the ceremony. For more information, please call John Gallagher at 884-7181.