

Cape May Star and Wave

154th YEAR NO. 1

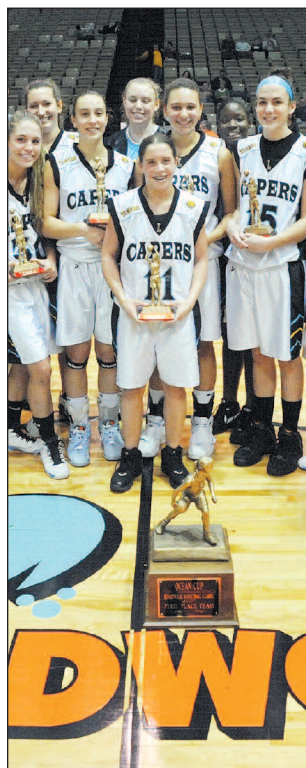
CAPE MAY, N.J.

SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2008

50¢

INSIDE



SPORTS

Lady Tigers win bracket at Basketball Classic, **B1**

Tiger Boys win one of two at Boardwalk Classic, **B1**

ARTS

Center for Community Arts offers new 'Art at the Library' program, **B4**

NATURE

Nature Center of Cape May holds final bird seed sale of the year, **B5**

JANUARY TIDE TABLE

		HIGH	LOW		
		am	pm	am	pm

1/3	4:07	4:21	10:19	10:07
1/4	4:54	5:12	11:10	10:51
1/5	5:39	5:58	11:56	11:35
1/6	6:22	6:42		12:38
1/7	7:02	7:23	12:16	1:18
1/8	7:41	8:02	12:56	1:56
1/9	8:19	8:40	1:36	2:33

Van Drew's Angel's Law in dogfight with AKC

By CHARLIE WOOD
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – At the end of a long, hectic and hot Friday afternoon, New Jersey Assemblyman Jeff Van Drew sits in the calm, cool and quiet of his Cape May County office, nibbles potato salad from a plastic container, and tells the story about Angel. He's told Angel's story before and it has become the

catalyst in one of the most important legislative proposals he has ever put together.

A listener sits back as the story begins.

A couple of men in Pleasantville brought home a pitbull that a neighbor described as a bouncy, alert, healthy looking animal.

The dog was kept in a fenced-in yard, and after a short period of time the neighbor noticed the dog's condition began to deteriorate.

It had lost weight, and bones were showing. The dog was listless, and unstable on its feet.

One day just before Christmas, Van Drew continues, the neighbor found the dog out on the street, apparently it had escaped from the fenced yard, and took it to the emergency veterinary hospital in Linwood.

Vets worked long into the night of Christmas Eve trying to save the dog's life. On

Christmas Day the dog died.

They named it Angel.

"The guys who owned it beat the living daylights out of it every day," says Van Drew. "It had been beaten so badly the veterinarians were unable to save it."

He tells another story about a dog that was found dead beside a road in Cumberland County. Its muzzle and paws were duct taped.

"The dog had been cut open and gutted," says Van Drew.

"It was likely used as a drug mule."

Postmortem tests showed the dog was alive when its abdomen was cut open.

They named it Justice.

Although Van Drew has told these stories before, he is still visibly shaken upon the retelling.

So is the listener seated across the table.

Animal cruelty, whether

Please see Angel, Page A2

Beach Theatre rocks in 2008



Jennifer Kopp/Cape May Star and Wave

A sold-out audience, below right, attended the Beach Theatre's New Year's Eve gala featuring Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band Live in Barcelona concert film. Above, Sue and Tom Carroll enjoy the pre-movie festivities. Above right, Caroline Pessagno gets ready for the show with the traditional bag of popcorn.

CAPE MAY – Bruce Springsteen fans from near and far flocked to Cape May's Beach Theatre for the rare chance to see a special HD concert film of The Boss never before seen on the big screen. The event, which included cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and a midnight countdown, was the debut of a Springsteen project geared toward saving small theatres like those Bruce and The E Street Band played

on their way to the top. The event sold out, and had revelers dancing in the aisles and under the screen.

"This was a fantastic way to ring in the new year, supporting a beloved Cape May landmark and watching this amazing concert film. The picture and sound are so perfect, it was like being transported to the front row," said Caroline Pessagno, a Springsteen

Please see Bruce, Page A8



Take a look back at 2007 and its 'ins and outs'

(Editor's note: This is the second installment of our Year in Review.)

Compiled by
CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
and **LESLIE TRULUCK**
Cape May Star and Wave

April 2007

Beach tent ordinance introduced during marathon meeting

CAPE MAY – Near the end of a four-hour city council workshop, Cape May City Council voted 5-0 to introduce an ordinance regulating beach tents on leased portions of the beach. City council broke tradition and allowed public comment on Ordinance 99-2007 – "an ordinance amending the regulation of structures on beach strands." The ordinance was created principally to regu-

late beach tents or cabanas on portions of the beach leased to private businesses, such as hotels.

Steve Bacher, Bob Jackson challenge for freeholder seats

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – Steve Bacher, the executive director of the Center for Community Arts in Cape May, and former West Cape May Mayor Bob Jackson announced their intention to oppose incumbents Ralph Bakley and Gerald Thornton in the freeholder race.

Private use of township equipment?

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Lower Township has put the kibosh on private use of township equipment after receiving an anonymous report of a police officer allegedly using

a boom truck to trip tree branches.

An anonymous source sent a letter and photograph to local media saying the same information had been sent to the Cape May County prosecutor, Lower Township Police Chief Ed Donahue and township manager Joe Jackson.

Bond ordinance passes amid calls to condo the mall

CAPE MAY – After city council voted 5-0 to introduce a \$3.5 million bond ordinance for revitalization of the Washington Street Mall, critics of spending the money suggested the city sell or lease the mall to the existing merchants. Larry Meuntz, owner of Alexander's Inn on Washington Street said he agreed the mall was the "beating heart" of Cape May and needed to be upgraded. But Meuntz added concerns

about the financing of the mall and the increased tax burden.

Meuntz suggested a different approach, saying the city should consider selling the mall to the current property owners.

New parking meters high tech, user friendly

CAPE MAY – The city of Cape May installed new state of the part parking meters in parts of the city. Last year there were 102 parking meters in the municipal parking lot on Jackson Street. In 2007 there were only two multi-meters, known as a "pay and display" type meter. Drivers could can park anywhere in the lot and pay at one of the two meters, which will issue a receipt, which the person puts on the dashboard of his or her vehicle.

May 2007

City asked to OK pedicabs

CAPE MAY – The city was asked to modify an ordinance proposed in November 2005 and allow a local businessperson to run a pedicab service in Cape May. Pedicabs resemble a rickshaw but with a bicycle in front and a three-passenger seat behind. Pam Smarro, a mall business owner, told city council an ordinance had drafted an

ordinance in 2005 but it was never introduced. Smarro said she would like city council to reconsider the ordinance saying, "I'm interested in opening a pedicab business in Cape May."

Raise parking meter rates, committee chairman says
CAPE MAY – The chairman of the parking subcommittee to the Revitalization Advisory

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City, Van Drew discuss abandoned boats

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The mayor, city solicitor and members of other local organizations met with Senator-elect Jeff Van Drew, last Friday, to discuss abandoned marine vessels in Cape May Harbor.

According to Deb Spinella, Van Drew's chief of staff, the meeting was made at the request of an individual constituent and was not advertised to the local media.

Mayor Jerry Inderwies said Van Drew expressed concern over the potential pollution being released into the harbor from abandoned vessels. Legislation was pending in both houses of the legislature; however, the bills died when the legislature recessed before the end of the year. Inderwies said Van Drew

intended to introduce new legislation when the legislature reconvenes Jan. 7.

According to Inderwies, Van Drew said he was confident the new legislation would go through.

Companion bills were introduced by Van Drew in the Assembly and in the State Senate by Sen. Nick Asselta. Assembly Bill A-3767 and Senate Bill S-2273, introduced in the 2006-2007 legislative session, were intended to make it easier for municipalities to remove sunken or abandoned vessel from a municipal waterway or land. It would have also increased the penalties for the violation of current law concerning the abandonment of a vessel on public land or waters. The legislation would designate abandonment of a vessel a disorderly persons offense, punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 and not more

than six months in prison.

City solicitor Anthony Monzo said the legislation being proposed would not create additional measures, but would expand the ability to regulate abandoned vessels to the municipalities. City manager Lou Corea asked, if the state had legislation pertaining to abandoned vessels, why it did not enforce its own legislation.

"It sounds like they are putting it on the local taxpayer," he said.

Monzo said the legislation would allow the municipalities to fine those who abandon boats and to recover costs through a court action.

Van Drew said that was true – that the legislation would give municipalities the ability to recoup the cost of removing

Please see Boats, Page A8



Cape May Star and Wave file photo

New parking meters referred to as "pay and display" and touted as user-friendly replaced conventional meters in April.