

Cape May Star and Wave

154th YEAR NO. 2 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2008 50¢

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SPORTS

Victoria Wermuth makes basketball 1,000 Point Club, **B1**

LCMR wrestlers win by forfeit, **B1**

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ARTS

Stahlhuth directs 'Fanny and Walt' in Atlantic City, **A10**

NEW!

Check out what our 'Inquiring Photographer' is asking, **A5**

JANUARY TIDE TABLE

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1/10	8:56	9:19	2:17	3:10
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1/12	10:13	10:43	3:44	4:27
1/13	10:56	11:31	4:35	5:10
1/14	11:45		5:31	5:56
1/15	12:27	12:42	6:35	6:49
1/16	1:29	1:48	7:45	7:49

New Convention Hall plans discussed by city

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – City council viewed a presentation from the firm hired to prepare an initial design for a new Convention Hall, which would resemble the structure destroyed by the 1962 storm. City manager Lou Corea said the city's recommendations for the new design were a two-story building with a

symmetrical design, reflecting the style of the building before the 1962 storm.

The city will take pre-bids for retail to ascertain the revenue source, he said. The Jan. 2 presentation was for the purpose of getting approval from city council for the preliminary design and to move forward with the new design.

Martin Kimmel of Kimmel-Borgette said the footprint would be the same as the existing Convention Hall and

the solarium. He said the design they prepared called for a flat floor and normal audio, light and sound systems. There would be a raised stage and dressing rooms. There would be a symmetrical entrance leading into a great hall. There would be space for a restaurant in the northeast corner.

The height of the first floor great hall would be about 24 feet.

The second floor would

have a main hall with a southwest view. Kimmel said the city has to choose from options for designing the second floor. One option includes balcony seating for the auditorium. He said there was also fly space needed above the stage area, but much of the second floor would be public meeting and display areas.

Kimmel said they prepared a preliminary view of all sides of the building, but

there had not been much discussion about the exterior other than the Beach Avenue side. The preliminary view includes an ocean side bay window off the meeting room.

Councilman David Kurkowski asked Kimmel what kind of chairs would be used for performance seating. He said a lot of money would be spent on the facility and it should have chairs that

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Leslie Truluck/Cape May Star and Wave

A cotton topped tamarin looks beyond the glass holding area while a peacock defends its territory at the Cape May County Zoo.

Safety: A priority at the Cape May County Zoo

By LESLIE TRULUCK
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COUNTY – On Christmas Day a Siberian Tiger escaped its moat in the San Francisco Zoo killing one person and injuring two others before it was shot and killed by police.

Investigators ultimately question edwho was at fault, whether the tiger was taunted or if the rampage was due to the sub-standard height of the wall that separates visitors from the animal.

The Cape May County Zoo prepares for crisis situations using mock drills, training senior staff

with tranquilizer guns, enforcing zero tolerance with taunting, and by simply being familiar with the personalities of each animal.

The Siberian tiger, male African lion, snow leopard, spotted leopard, cheetah, black bear and alligators are the most immediately threatening animals found at the county zoo, according to Supervising Animal Keeper Vince Sonetto.

The alligators are kept inside during winter months but are exposed in the summer.

"If a bison or other large animal gets out, that's not good either," he said.

Sonetto said the main difference

between the county zoo's precautions compared to another zoo is how some zoos use wet or dry moats to surround the big cats' pen island. The counter-instinctual moat forces the cat to go down before it could try to go upwards.

The county zoo holds the American bison, buffalo and elk, along with deer and emu in gates with a raised wooden walkway through the habitat. The large cats are kept in tall cages throughout the raised walkway.

The bear are contained in a 15-foot chain-link fence with an overhang and electric wire at the top.

"Gravity will take over if the ani-

mal gets that far and the electric fence wire will cause it to jump off if it furthers to that point," Sonetto said.

A New Jersey Sheriff's Office Park Unit sub-station is located on the zoo premises to shorten response time in a crisis. Sonetto said personnel are trained to double- and triple-lock the doors after-hours.

The zoo prepares for dangerous scenarios through mock situation training in which select senior staff

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members are trained to use tranquilizer guns.

Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts in need of stiff drink

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The board of trustees of the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts (MAC) approached council last week seeking the issuance of a club license to help offset the cost of maintaining its programs and facilities.

According to the ABC Handbook, "A 'Club License' is one that is issued by a municipality to a corporation, association or organization that is non-profit and operating for benevolent, charita-

ble, fraternal, social, religious, recreational, athletic or similar purposes."

MAC executive director Michael Zuckerman addressed council and said MAC seems to meet all the qualifications and would like to begin serving alcohol in the team room café during special events, such as weddings and private parties.

"Since 1999, the tea room and cafe has been improving amenities for visitors," Zuckerman said. "There are more and more private parties and weddings, and it's important to sustain the tea

room cafe."

Zuckerman said MAC just recently became aware of the club license, which are held by five organizations in Cape May, including the Beach Club, the VFW, the Marlin and Tuna Club, the Corinthian Yacht Club and the Kiwanis. Zuckerman said MAC would like to be able to provide a full range of alcoholic beverages for weddings and private parties, and serve wine during regular business hours. He said alcohol sales would make it more economically feasible to operate the team room cafe.

Besides filling out an application form, which Zuckerman said MAC hoped return to the municipal clerk by the end of the week, MAC would need conceptual approval from city council.

Council did not take any formal action, but would be required to make several ordinance changes. City council would have to change the zoning ordinance to allow

alcohol sales at the Physick Estate because it is a change of use. Changes to the current lease for the Physick Estate would also have to be approved by council. Public hearings would be held on each action.

Club license normally only allow sales to club members and their guests. Councilman David Kurkowski asked how MAC would define its mem-

bers. Zuckerman said anyone who pays dues is a voting member, but the sale of alcohol would be limited to those over 21, according to state law.

"What if the person throwing the party is not a member," Councilwoman Linda Steenrod said.

"They have to become a

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Mazurek opposes \$ change

By LESLIE TRULUCK
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Council member Wayne Mazurek opposed and the board approved a third change order adding \$38,580 towards the Freeman S. Douglass, Jr. Memorial Park Project to excavate sand and replace topsoil, around the perimeter of the baseball field. Mazurek said the project is now up to a cost of \$639,234.

Mayor Walt Craig, upon consulting the township engineer, later said it is actually the fourth change order though it was presented as the third at the reading Jan. 7.

Mazurek said though the township may have originally made a mistake in allocating funds for the project "at some point we need to stop the change orders and work with the funds we have."

The original contract estimated the cost using the discount topsoil from the Burlington Municipal Utility Authority. Craig said the discount topsoil is no longer available because the mix is not as abundant this time of year.

The project was put out to bid and came in at \$585,000, well under the township's bond amount of \$660,000.

"I don't understand how the excavation for the topsoil was not in the original part of the process. What good was the bid process if the vender is going to get all of the bond money anyway?" Mazurek asked.

Craig said the change order did not go out to bid because of the "substantial savings" when the Cape May County MUA was able to find additional soil mix from the Burlington County MUA.

Mazurek said the additional change order allows the con-

tractor to purchase materials at a non-bid price.

The previous change orders were for additional work requested by the township to install an electronic gate at the park entrance, Engineer Marc DeBlasio said.

Council approved an expenditure of \$16,500 for the electronic gate at the park's entrance Nov. 19. Mazurek also opposed the electronic gate change order.

"I was elated when it hit \$585,000 and it's creeping back up there, so let's keep an eye on it and be sure to stay within the amount we allocated: \$660,000," Mazurek said.

Township Manager Joe Jackson said the project is close to completion.

Resident Bob Hartman asked council if a net will be installed behind the goal posts to prevent footballs from flying out onto Route 9. The posts are less than 25 yards from the street.



Vincent Henry is first baby of the year

The first baby born in the New Year at Cape Regional Medical Center was a boy to Louis and Cassandra Innamorato of Lower Township. Vincent Henry Innamorato was born at 12:43 a.m., Jan. 1, and was 6 pounds, 14 ounces, and was 19 3/8 inches long.