

# Cape May Star and Wave

157TH YEAR NO. 45 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, November 9, 2011 50¢



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### TIDES November 2011 Eastern Standard Time

	High	Low		
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
9	6:39	6:57	12:04	12:49
10	7:14	7:35	12:38	1:28
11	7:49	8:13	1:13	2:06
12	8:24	8:50	1:47	2:44
13	9:00	9:28	2:22	3:23
14	9:37	10:08	3:00	4:03
15	10:17	10:53	3:41	4:47
16	11:02	11:46	4:29	5:35

**Moon Phases**  
First Quarter, Nov. 2  
Full Moon, Nov. 10  
Last Quarter, Nov. 18  
New Moon, Nov. 25  
Apogee, Nov. 8  
Perigee, Nov. 23

## Democrats re-elected in First District race

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN and CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – The Democratic incumbents prevailed in the state Senate and Assembly races Tuesday after Cumberland County gave them a huge, late boost over GOP challengers David DeWeese, Suzanne Walters and Sam Fiocchi. Voters returned Democrats Jeff Van Drew to the Senate and Nelson Albano and Matt Milam to the Assembly. The margins were substantial in Cumberland County, but the Republican Assembly

*'This race is closer than it should be. Once people stop responding to negative campaigns, candidates will stop using them. I am really disappointed with the low voter turnout.'*

- CMC Democratic Chairman  
**Jim Pickering**

candidates had the edge in Cape May County. Unofficial results gave Van Drew a 59-41 percent margin over DeWeese or 11,186 to 7,735. In the Assembly race, Cumberland County voters gave Albano 11,620, Milam 10,355, Fiocchi, 7,957 and Walters, 7,465. In Atlantic County, unofficial tallies show Van Drew had 735 votes to 632 for DeWeese. In the Assembly race, it was Albano, 707; Milam, 636; Fiocchi, 647; and Walters, 660. In Cape May County, Van Drew had a slight edge over

DeWeese, 12,377 to 12,359. In the Assembly race, The two Republicans, Suzanne Walters (12,544) and Sam Fiocchi (12,400) led incumbent Democrat Nelson Albano (12,220) narrowly, but had a healthy lead over fellow Democratic incumbent Matt Milam, who only had 10,987 votes. Overall, the unofficial tally gave Van Drew 24,298 to DeWeese's 20,726 votes. In the Assembly race, Albano earned the highest total with 24,547. Milam had 21,978, Fiocchi had 21,004

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## Douglas Munro, USCG's Medal of Honor winner

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – At the west end of the parade field at the United States Coast Guard Training Center stands a monument honoring the only Congressional Medal of Honor recipient in the history

situation was far stronger than anticipated. According to U.S. Coast Guard Historian, Dr. William Thiesen, on that day, land craft from Naval Operating Base (NOB) Cactus delivered Colonel "Chesty" Puller's marine battalion behind enemy lines at Point Cruz.



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

A statue of Douglas Munro sits at the edge of the parade field at US Coast Guard Training Center – Cape May.

of the Coast Guard. On Sept. 27, 1942, Signalman 1st Class Douglas Munro died heroically at Point Cruz, Guadalcanal when he saved a detachment of Marines from a point where Japanese oppo-

The enemy stronghold was used by the Japanese to spy on NOB operations. Munro was in charge of the original detachment of 10 Higgins

Please see Munro, page A10



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

## Washington Street Mall ready for Thanksgiving

The Washington Street Mall is all dressed up for the holidays, courtesy of the mall merchants. The merchants paid for and decorated the mall before Halloween with holiday appropriate items.

## Oh shoot! Hunting at the WMA

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Lower Township Mayor Mike Beck said the township has been in touch with the state about regulating hunting at the former Ponderlodge Golf Course.

At Monday's council meeting, Beck said about 10 days prior he had received a call about a hunter wearing camouflage and carrying a bow and arrows, walking down Shawmont Avenue. Beck said the next morning he visited the site, and when he arrived a number of people were seen running from their cars as shots rang out from inside the state Wildlife Management Area.



"I'm not against hunting, but I am against hunting on the old Ponderlodge footprint," Beck said.

The nearly 250-acre site was the home to a golf

course, which had been proposed for development, but was ultimately bought by the State of New Jersey. It was deemed the Villas Wildlife Management Area, but more recently has been referred to as the Coxe Hall Creek Wildlife Management Area. Beck said he wondered if the area was large enough to hunt with a shotgun or bow and arrow.

Beck said he related his concerns to state officials and they immediately agreed.

"They've already begun to post (signs), and they want support from council," Beck said.

Beck said the signs would

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## Man vs. invasive species

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT – David Rutherford has become very knowledgeable of the invasive plants growing on Cape Island over the past 20 years. That was when they began taking over his 40-acre property on Seagrove Avenue.

Rutherford said numerous trees and native plants have been killed due to massive amounts of porcelain berry, clematis and English ivy. He said clematis, which is a climbing shrub that engulfs trees and other plants, distorting their growth and ultimately smothering them, has been the biggest nuisance so far. Rutherford said people in the area have been planting them for years as a landscaping vine to put along fences and their homes.

"People liked the beautiful white flowers that grow on them," he said. "Now they've spread and have become



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

David Rutherford points out some of the invasive species of vines that have taken over and choked out many healthy native plants.

invasive – almost as bad as the porcelain berry."

He said during the summer months, it's important to not chop clematis down with a lawn mower because it sends particles into the air, which

can cause severe irritation of the eyes. According to Rutherford, clematis spreads in the fall, much like dandelions do during the summer

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## Cost sharing for police questioned

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Charles Hendricks of Trenton Avenue has been questioning the way in which the shared police services between Cape May City, Cape May Point and West Cape May is paid for by local taxpayers.

At the Oct. 18 Cape May City Council meeting, Hendricks said he had documented reasons to believe "at least one of these jurisdictions is receiving police services equal to twice what they are paying, to a magnitude of \$400,000 per year." Hendricks believes police services in West Cape May are being subsidized by Cape May taxpayers.

According to Hendricks, his conclusion was based on council documents provided

monthly by the Cape May Police Department, which he called "police volume reports." Both West Cape



May and Cape May Point use CMPD services under shared services agreements. The most recent shared services agreement made between the three municipalities will continue until 2015.

Hendricks said he and other

residents were told by Mayor Ed Mahaney at an Aug. 28 meeting that the charges made under agreements are based on the Interlocal Services Agreement formula, which is supposed to make the agreement fair to city taxpayers. He said he was also told that these formulas are confidential and not available to the public under the Open Public Records Act.

Hendricks said he sent a letter to city council members on Oct. 14 expressing his concern about being denied access to the Interlocal Services Agreement formula. He said he was inspired to look deeper into this issue when West Cape May Mayor Pam Kaithern requested more police presence in

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