

Cape May Star and Wave

157TH YEAR NO. 49 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, December 14, 2011 50¢



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Wildwood Catholic swimmers, 'Small but mighty,' B1

LCMR wrestlers scrimmage, B1

Lou Rodia on Fishing: Christmas Eve, B2

Community Events, A4

TIDES December 2011 Eastern Standard Time

	High A.M. P.M.	Low A.M. P.M.
14	9:58 10:36	3:27 4:23
15	10:42 11:26	4:15 5:08
16	11:31	5:10 5:56
17	12:22 12:27	6:12 6:49
18	1:23 1:30	7:20 7:46
19	2:27 2:37	8:29 8:44
20	3:30 3:45	9:36 9:43
21	4:29 4:49	10:40 10:40

Moon Phases

First Quarter, Dec. 2
Full Moon, Dec. 10
Last Quarter, Dec. 17
New Moon, Dec. 24
Apogee, Dec. 5
Perigee, Dec. 21

The Star and Wave Office will be closed for the holidays on: Friday, Dec. 23 and Friday, Dec. 30. The office will be open on Monday, Dec. 26 and Monday, Jan. 2

CM Tourism Utility approved by a split vote

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – At the Dec. 6 regular meeting, council voted to establish the new City Tourism Utility, the Department of Tourism, Civic Affairs and Recreation and to reinstitute the former Advisory Committee on Tourism.

In doing so, the Tourism Commission has been eliminated.

Of these changes, the only one to receive support from the full council was the establishment of the new Department of Tourism, Civic Affairs and Recreation, which

'We passed it 3-2. Let's implement it. We need to do this for the economic vitality of the town.'

– Mayor Ed Mahaney

replaced the Department of Civic Affairs, which was responsible for handling the city's recreation programs.

Ordinance number 224-2011, establishing the City Tourism Utility, eliminating the Tourism Commission and reinstating the Advisory Committee on Tourism was

approved 3-2 by council. Councilman William Murray and Councilwoman Deanna Fiocca opposed the ordinance.

Both council members opposed the ordinance because they believed the city should not eliminate the Tourism Commission, which

had its own budget funded by a fee attached to the mercantile license. The advisory committee, which was initially created in 2003 and quickly disbanded, has no authority to create legislation or spend money, and will only make recommendations to council.

Fiocca said she was upset about getting rid of a group of people who have done a great job of promoting tourism in Cape May. She said she didn't believe the advisory committee would accomplish nearly as much as the commission did in a short amount of time. She said the advisory committee barely met with one another when it was created

in 2003, while the commission has met on a regular basis and worked well together. She expressed concern the new advisory committee would be as ineffective and short-lived as the previous one. Murray agreed.

"I'm disappointed this commission is being disbanded," Murray said. "I don't think it's a good idea."

Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman said he thought the advisory committee was a better approach, because council had no control over the Tourism Commission's budget. He said he was

Please see **Split**, page A7

Christmas program started with young cop's desire to help

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Thirty-five years ago, Jim Dieterich was a rookie police officer with the Lower Township Police Department

that she had no Christmas for her kids...no gifts, no toys, no tree, nothing. I felt it was necessary to do something."

Dieterich said he went back to the department and tried to convince the other officers, who he described as "these



Special to the Cape May Star and Wave
Jim Dieterich, center above, with some of the students at Maud Abrams School who help with the Lower Township Kids Christmas Program. Perhaps 500 kids will benefit from the program this year.

working the midnight shift. Being the low man on the totem pole, he was sent to answer a call at 3 a.m. reporting a woman crying on her front porch.

"I was the young guy on the squad, and we had a call come in of a lady who was sitting on her porch crying. I went out and she explained

big tough guys, to do something for this family. He said they went to their homes and took gifts, assembled ornaments, gathered food – anything they could think of to help the family. As the coup de grace, Dieterich climbed the fence at Church's

Please see **Help**, page A3

Council takes a second look at smoking ban

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – An ordinance to ban smoking on all Cape May beaches, the promenade and city parks failed after a 2-2 vote by Cape May City Council last month, but they will now look at banning smoking in certain areas.

At the Dec. 6 regular meeting, Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman, who initially proposed the smoking ban, said the city could ban smoking on some sections of the beachfront as opposed to all of it. Wichterman said he would be the chairman of a committee looking into the matter.

When Wichterman first recommended the smoking ban, he said he wanted to see the ban on all Cape May beaches. After the ordinance failed,

Wichterman said he would suggest banning smoking on 75 percent of Cape May's 82 beaches, since statistics show only 25 percent of Americans smoke today. Other council members then suggested it be banned on the promenade and in city parks.

During the public hearing on the ordinance, Nov. 8, numerous Cape May residents and business owners came forward and said a smoking ban of such magnitude would hurt tourism in the city. John Cooke, president of the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape May, said he and the rest of the chamber opposed the complete ban. At the Dec. 6 regular meeting, Wichterman said the chamber would most likely be fine with a partial

Please see **Ban**, page A3



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, Rocky Cosentino, 92, wears the cap of his Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Chapter at a brunch served at the Mad Batter. Cosentino was one of five veterans who took part in a panel presentation at the Cape May Lutheran Church, Saturday, sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities.

Battle of the Bulge vets speak about the war

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Five Battle of the Bulge veterans spoke of battling the elements, fatigue and loneliness while fighting off the advancing German army.

More than a million military men from the Allied forces took part in the Battle of the Bulge, which began Dec. 16, 1944 before an Allied victory was declared Jan. 25, 1945. The battle began with a German military thrust in the Ardennes region of northern France. Part of the German objective was to break the American line of defense and trap them in Belgium and Luxembourg. Instead of meeting the assault head-on, the Americans attacked the northern and southern flanks of the offensive, cutting off the forward German units, before pushing the Nazi army back across the Rhine River.

In the end, there were 81,000 American casualties, including 19,000 killed. The British had 1,400 casualties, with at least 200 killed. The estimate of Germans casualties exceeded 100,000.

On Saturday, Richard Baker, Al Magrowski, Rocco Cosentino, Gus Epple and John Crosby were guests at the Mad Batter where they had lunch with Harry Kulkowitz, 87, who is another Battle of the Bulge veteran. Afterwards, the five guests took part in a panel presenta-

tion sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities.



773rd Field Artillery Bn. patch from World War II

Baker, 90, is a Wildwood resident, who was born in Philadelphia. During the war he was an 81mm mortar gunner serving with the 4th Infantry Division. Baker got a taste of the harsh realities of war almost immediately. Baker was part of the Allied invasion at Utah Beach on D-day. On June 11, 1944, he was seriously wounded. He said he was found half buried in a foxhole, bleeding from his nose, mouth and ears.

"The medic's name was Churchill, and we called him Winston. I told him if he ever saved my life I would kiss his butt in Macy's window at rush hour," Baker said.

Churchill found Baker that day and gave him mouth-to-mouth. Baker credits him with saving his life, although

he never followed through with his promise.

His unit went on to lose 40 percent of its men in the Hürtgen Forest. Baker recalled being in combat 180 days straight, before they were sent to Luxembourg. There the troops were able to bathe, have hot meals and get mail.

"I received a Christmas package, and it contained a little 12-inch Christmas tree," he said.

The soldiers put the tree on a table in a farmhouse where they were being served a meal. He said the food was being cooked inside and served to the men outside. Next to the barn was a large manure pile. Baker said a mortar round came in and landed in the pile, exploded, and splattered the soldiers – and their food – with manure.

They abandoned their contaminated meal and ran for the basement of the farmhouse. One guy jumped up, ran upstairs and returned with the miniature Christmas tree, not wanting it to be lost.

Baker's unit ended up surrounded by German forces, but they held their position from Dec. 16 to Dec. 24, when they were finally relieved by another division. His unit received the Presidential Unit Citation for their efforts.

"But the real heroes are the over 9,000 GIs buried in the cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach," Baker said.

Please see **Bulge**, page A2

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