

# Cape May Star and Wave

161ST YEAR NO. 22 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2015 75¢



## HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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## STUDENTS STUDY PLIGHT OF THE MONARCH

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# Cape May asks judge to eliminate police monitor

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Appearing before county Superior Court Judge Christopher Gibson on May 22, Cape May presented its arguments why a monitor appointed by county Prosecutor Robert Taylor should be removed from the city's Police Department.

Cape May was represented by special counsel Todd Gelfand, who was seated next to the mayor at the plaintiff's table. City Manager Bruce

MacLeod and City Solicitor Tony Monzo were seated in the audience, along with some residents of Cape May and members of the media.

Taylor represented himself, accompanied by First Assistant Prosecutor Robert Johnson.

The city is arguing the Prosecutor's Office is interfering with its ability to communicate with police administration. Cape May currently has no police chief. Gelfand told Gibson that former police chief Capt. Robert Sheehan continues to supervise the department. City Council voted to

demote Sheehan on March 3.

Gelfand said the city wanted to resume control of administrative matters of the Police Department but was not trying to affect Taylor's authority when it came to criminal matters. He said having a monitor in place was affecting how the city handles Open Public Records Act requests. While the city clerk would normally handle OPRA requests, it now goes through the Prosecutor's Office, which puts the city at risk for lawsuits.

Gelfand said it needed to be on record that the Prosecutor's Office

essentially has conducted a hostile takeover of supervision of the city's Police Department. He said there was no rule of law in attorney general guidelines for a "takeover" of the Police Department.

Taylor said MacLeod, Mahaney and Monzo broke attorney general guidelines of confidentiality on its internal affairs investigation repeatedly by releasing information to the media and public. Taylor said the monitor was placed to maintain the integrity of the internal affairs investigation of the two most superior offices in

the Cape May Police Department, Sheehan and Lt. Chuck Lear.

Taylor accused Monzo of reading only part of First Assistant Prosecutor Johnson's letter aloud in a March 3 City Council meeting, falsely implying that Sheehan was under criminal investigation.

He said he warned Monzo not to release confidential information on the internal affairs investigation but Monzo then spoke with a local newspaper reporter. Taylor referred to the

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## Kicking off summer season in the sun



Kim Royster/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Matthew and Ryan Palmer play soccer on the beach in Cape May with Will Pollard. Memorial Day weekend brought near-perfect weather for the unofficial start of summer. At right top, Taylin Palmer soaks in the sights and sounds. At right bottom, a mother and son play in the sand.



## Lower Twp. OKs animal protection ordinance

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township Council approved an ordinance regulating the treatment of animals in regard to chaining or tethering a dog outside and exposing a pet to temperature extremes.

The ordinance was introduced March 6 and has been discussed at each meeting since that date by council and members of the public, in particular prohibiting dogs from being left outside in very cold weather or inside a garage in hot weather.

The ordinance states: In extreme weather below 32 degrees and above 90 degrees and in major storms when evacuation is recommended, all outdoor dogs and indoor/outdoor cats, with the exception of feral cats, must be brought indoors whether tethered or kenneled, unless the kennel is heated or air conditioned in accordance with the safety code. Indoors will include any area of the residence and shall conform to the above temperature specifications and must be adequately ventilated.

Villas resident Helen Thompson asked how "adequate ventilation" worked in winter. Township Solicitor David Stefankiewicz said council elected not to have a "one-size-fits-all" definition and "elected

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## Cape May salutes soldiers with songs, service, somber ceremony

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave



World War II veteran John Seubert speaks about the Merchant Marine during Cape May's ceremony.

CAPE MAY — The city honored veterans and those who lost their lives in America's wars during a Memorial Day service May 25 in Convention Hall.

The service opened with six patriotic songs and hymns sung by the Cape Harmonaires, a barbershop harmony ensemble. An invocation was offered by Pastor Jeff Elliott of Cape May Lutheran Church.

Ron Stenlake, commander of American Legion Post 193, thanked Boy Scout troops 73 and 84 and Cub Scout packs 73 and 84 for helping place almost 750 flags on graves. He said the numbers of our fallen heroes are not just statistics, they are real people with real families who lived in real communities. Stenlake said long after the battlefields have been silenced

### Sunset Beach salute

Marvin Hume honored during flag ceremony at Sunset Beach.  
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and the bombs stop exploding, the children of our fallen warriors will still be missing a parent, spouses will be without their life partners and parents will continue to grieve for their heroic sons and daughters that died much too early.

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE  
U.S. Coast Guard recruits fire a salute to mark Memorial Day on the beach in front of Cape May Convention Hall.

## WASHINGTON INN

Serving Dinner from 5pm

### CAPE MAY RESTAURANT WEEK MENU \$35

**First Course**  
Grilled Shrimp and Oaxaca Guacamole  
Spring Spinach and Strawberry Salad  
Almond Crusted Goat Cheese with Fresh Pickled Beets  
Roasted Ramp and Scallion Vichyssoise Soup

Fresh Berry Shortcake with Whipping Cream  
Classic Creme Brulee

**Entrees**  
Washington Inn Crab Cakes with Roasted Red Pepper Sauce  
Grilled Organic Meyers Steak  
Seafood Cioppino with Garlic Rouille  
Plancha Seared Chicken Saltimbocca



Open Daily  
with Wine Flight Menu

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