

GAZETTE

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Covering: Seaside Park • Seaside Heights • Ortley Beach • Lavallette • Normandy Beach • Pelican Is
• Toms River • South Toms River • Dover Twp • Beachwood • Bayville • Pine Beach • Ocean Gate • Be
• Pt. Pleasant Borough • Pt. Pleasant Beach • Bay Head • Mantoloking • Lacey Township • Forked River
• Tuckerton • L.B.I • Jackson • Lakewood • Manchester • Whiting • Lakehurst

INSIDE



REALTORS®

Ocean County Board of Realtors® News



TOMS RIVER SCHOOL NEWS

For news and writing for and by students, teachers & faculty turn to pages 14

COUNTY EVENTS CALENDAR

CLASSIFIED ADS & COUPONS...

pages 12-13

Computer Forecast Roadwork and construction around the County

Page 2

Weather

Page 2

Seaside Park

pages 3&5

Seaside Heights

page 6

Lavallette

page 8

Fishing Report &

Tide Charts

Page 10

The Italian Corner

By Albert Isola

Page 16

Toms River & Area

Throughout

Ocean County & State News

Throughout

Toms River Schools &

Straight Talk by

Michael J. Ritacco

MAN DROWNS IN BAY OFF LAVALLETTE

By Pete Smith

SCUBA and Rescue units from all over Ocean County descended upon the Lavallette bayfront on the afternoon of Sunday August 6th, when a canoe passenger was reported submerged off of Lavallette Avenue. Teams from Lavallette, Seaside Heights, Dover Township, Ocean Beach, The New Jersey State Police, and others searched the water for about two hours before the victim, reported to be a 33 year-old male, was found drowned near where the incident occurred. The area where the canoe overturned is surrounded by houses that are built right up against the bulkhead. With the beautiful weather, many residents were outside in their backyards or on their docks and witnessed the event. One neighbor said she heard commotion, and saw three men struggling on a canoe, screaming at each other in a language she believed to be Spanish. Then the canoe overturned, and one of

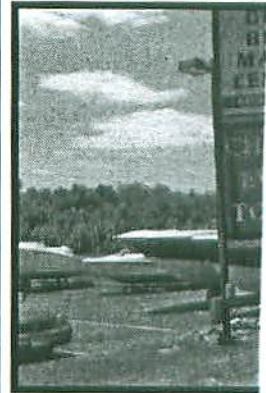


The usually tranquil waters of the bay off of Lavallette Avenue in Lavallette were the scene of a large rescue operation when a canoe passenger was reported submerged, and later drowned on the afternoon of Sunday August 6th. Seaside Heights SCUBA team members are seen in the photo: (Todd Larson on Jet Ski, Billy Rumbolo and SCUBA team Captain Aaron Deluca in the boat, and Brian Dardis in the water.)

the three men went under the water. When the incident was reported, Lavallette Police Department officers responded quickly, and several of them apparently had jumped in the water in almost full uniform to assist. Loyal Gazette readers will remember that reporter Pete Smith is heavily involved in Ocean County's Water Safety Day, and last month was embedded with the Blacksheep Squadron, an airborne unit

that patrols the skies of Ocean County, and assists with submersion calls. During the recent event, The Blacksheep Squadron planes were seen crisscrossing the skies over Lavallette. A video of Water Safety Day, featuring the Blacksheep Squadron, remains available to view free online at the following website: www.youtube.com

CHARITY TO B OCEAN



During the month of 2006, a portion of all from boat purchases at three locations of Ocean Beach Marina will be donated to Ocean of Love help families with children suffering from cancer. An undisclosed final amount will be donated to Ocean Love.

Owner of Ocean Beach Marina, Lou Mercatanti sponsored this event. Mayor Dandolphi, office consultant and Jared Gaccione, Br

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