

Cape May Star and Wave

158TH YEAR NO. 4 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, January 25, 2012 50¢



LCMR boys beat Egg Harbor Twp., B1

Holden leads LCMR over WWC, B1

Lou Rodia on Fishing: Catching Porgy, B2

Community Events, A4

TIDES
January 2012
Eastern Standard Time

	High	Low		
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
25	9:12	9:38	2:46	3:21
26	9:52	10:19	3:30	4:00
27	10:32	11:01	4:15	4:39
28	11:13	11:44	5:00	5:18
29	11:57	5:49	5:58	
30	12:31	12:45	6:42	6:42
31	1:23	1:41	7:41	7:32

Moon Phases

First Quarter, Jan. 1,30
Full Moon, Jan. 9
Last Quarter, Jan. 16
New Moon, Jan. 23
Apogee, Jan. 2,30
Perigee, Jan. 17

The Free Meal Center hits a \$50K bump in the road

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

BURLEIGH - Douglas Jewell has a funny way of looking at a bill for \$50,000. "It's just a bump in the road," Jewell said.

That's the kind of optimism Jewell has about The Free Meal Center (TFMC), the non-profit he and his wife Joyce started two years ago.

Jewell put out a press release saying TFMC was facing eviction if they didn't come up with \$50,000 by March 31. An addendum to the contract of sale on the property says unless TFMC pays \$50,000 by April 1, they

"This won't deter us at all. We have a vision and a mission here."

- Douglas Jewell
The Free Meal Center

would have to vacate the property.

The Jewells began their project on March 15, 2010. The plan was to create a center where anyone could walk in and get a free lunch. Their target groups were primarily the elderly on fixed incomes and children.

They found a suitable building at 1206 Route 9 South in the Burleigh section of Middle Township. The asking price was \$325,000. Jewell said they found a benefactor who pledged to cover up to the entire amount. He said he is sure they have the purchase of the property cov-

ered, but he is trying to make sure they have the \$50,000 as a contingency. According to Jewell, they weren't concerned about the \$50,000 because of their benefactor, but the owner is now being firm about the April deadline.

Since taking possession of the property, they have been very busy. They first gutted half the building for rewiring. Jewell said when their electrician was making last looks in the early summer of 2010, he determined all the wiring had to come out of the building.

Volunteers spent this past summer gutting the rest of the building.

"We've got 3,000 feet of new wiring put in the building for a security system and phones. We will have Internet, but not TV," Jewell said.

Jewell said crews have been working on the facility every Wednesday. TFMC has put an addition for the kitchen on the back of the building. They have had a plumber cutting lines in the concrete floor in preparation for laying new drain lines.

Jewell said TFMC has had over 500 people contribute "sweat equity" volunteering their time to work on the project. They have had another

Please see Free, page A2

Beach project ends at CG training base

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Capt. William Kelly, Commander of U.S. Coast Guard Training Center Cape May said he was amazed to be standing on hundreds of yards of white sandy beach last Wednesday, where water

Guard Training Center. The project pumped 620,000 cubic yards of sand from an offshore borrow area and placed it on the TRACEN beaches. According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, that amount is equivalent to about 62,000 dump truck loads of sand. Lt. Col. Philip Secrist



Special to the Cape May Star and Wave

Above, the feeder beach at the USCG Training Center after the beach fill project. Sand here will eventually land on Cape May beaches.

was normally six feet deep at high tide due to beach erosion.

"Coastal erosion was beginning to threaten our ability to conduct our vital missions here," Kelly said at the afternoon press conference.

The U.S. Coast Guard, City of Cape May, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had just announced the end of a \$9 million beach replenishment project at the U.S. Coast

said the borrow area was two miles offshore from the base.

It was brought to the Training Center because the beach there is considered a "feeder beach," and the ocean current will carry the sand to the popular tourist beaches in Cape May City, while protecting property along the shoreline.

"Erosion was significant and we needed to get a replenishment project under

Please see Beach, page A2



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Sign of the times

2012 means it's time for a new sign on the front of the Cape May Lumber Co., on Park Boulevard. Tony Simon (foreground) assists local sign painter Brian Demusz (on ladder) with hanging the new sign. The old sign is actually of 1960s vintage. A newer sign, from the 1980s was removed to make way for the new sign. Hopefully it will be a sign of economic prosperity for all of Cape May in 2012.

Lack of quorum delays township council action

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS - The two members of Lower Township Council who showed up for last week's regularly scheduled meeting stayed an hour and a half before Mayor Mike Beck announced no meeting would be held.

Beck and Councilman Glenn Douglass showed up for the meeting, while two other council members, Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare and Councilman Thomas Conrad were on vacation.

Lare was apparently on a family vacation he had been planning for over a year. Conrad was said to have been

on a trip to Pennsylvania with his wife.

The council meeting could still have gone on.

The Lower Township Republican Committee was in their own meeting in the nearby Senior Center selecting their appointment to fill the vacant Ward 2 council seat, which has been vacant since Dec. 14, 2011. Council failed to make an appointment at the Jan. 4 reorganization meeting, when Conrad nominated former mayor Walt Craig. Conrad and Lare voted for Craig's appointment. Beck and Douglass, voted against Craig.

Beck served on council when Craig was mayor, and

he blames the council majority for putting the township in tough financial conditions. Douglass opposed Craig's nomination for reelection in 2008, which resulted in Craig not being nominated. Craig was charged with a DWI, which was part of Douglass' motivation for opposing him. According to Douglass, he decided to run after talking about the matter with people in the township.

Council has 30 days after a member vacates his or her seat to appoint a replacement. With a deadlocked council, the responsibility for appointing a replacement goes back

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Tourism Utility budget announced

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA - In his proposed 2012 Cape May City Budget, City Manager Bruce MacLeod announced the new Convention Hall would be operating through the new Tourism Utility with a \$1,075,000 budget.

The Tourism Utility was created to begin in 2012 as a self-liquidating utility, like the Water-Sewer Utility and Beach Utility. The initial budget for the Tourism Utility was developed using funding from numerous sources. Council voted to eliminate the Tourism Commission in late 2011, and its \$72,500 surplus was transferred to the new utility's budget. The dedicated recreation account was also closed by the city, and the remaining \$22,500 from that account was also added to the Tourism Utility budget.

Mercantile license fees were also dedicated to the

Tourism Commission, but the \$68,000 revenue from 2011 would also be put into the new utility. The city anticipates \$65,000 in revenue from half



of the rent paid by the two retail spaces in the facility.

Another \$80,000 for the new Convention Hall and Tourism Utility is being taken from the \$1.1 million made in 2011 from the city's room tax for hotel and motel rooms.

MacLeod said the city has also looked at revenue sourc-

es from various recreation programs. Camps and preschool activities are totaling approximately \$79,000, fitness and exercise programs are estimated to bring \$38,000, and dance programs are estimated at \$15,000. MacLeod said the revenue from arts and crafts shows estimates around \$65,000 and there is also \$45,000 anticipated to come from swimming programs, leagues and swim teams.

MacLeod said \$16,000 is anticipated from eight concerts being held at Convention Hall throughout 2012, which means rental fees for the facility are set at \$2,000. Rental fees will also be implemented for banquets, weddings, and other events at the hall. A ticketing system has been created, which MacLeod estimated will generate \$12,000 for the utility.

MacLeod said with all funds

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Cape May, Stockton partner on arts events

CAPE MAY - The City of Cape May has scheduled a news conference for Thursday, Jan. 26, at noon at Cape May City Hall, 643 Washington Street.

This news conference will constitute the major component of a brief special City Council meeting. The purpose of this event is to approve, announce, and explain the establishment of a formal partnership agreement between the City of Cape May and the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey for the initial purpose of presenting Summer Concerts, Professional

Children's Theatre productions, and additional performing arts events during the



next two years.

Cape May City Council will approve a formal Resolution authorizing and directing

the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Convention Hall Concert Series Agreement on behalf of the City. Officials of the City of Cape May and Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will participate in the formal signing ceremony during this special City Council meeting/news conference. This formal partnership is an important element in the City's long-range sustainability and economic development initiatives that will enable Cape May to provide the quality of life that motivates individuals and

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