

Cape May Star and Wave

157th YEAR NO. 1

CAPE MAY, N.J.

SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY

THURSDAY, January 6, 2011

50¢



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SPORTS

Wrestlers win home opener, **B1**

Girls basketball finds tourney tough, **B1**

Fishing report: Catch restrictions outlined, **B2**

CAPE MAY

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JANUARY 2011 TIDE TABLE

	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
1/6	9:14	3:09	9:38	3:04
1/7	9:54	3:49	10:19	4:16
1/8	10:34	4:27	11:00	4:52
1/9	11:14	5:05	11:41	5:28
1/10	11:55	5:46		6:06
1/11	12:24	6:35	12:38	6:51
1/12	1:08	7:34	1:25	7:44
1/13	1:57	8:38	2:19	8:41
New Moon 1/5				
1st Quarter 1/12				
Full Moon 1/19				
Last Quarter 1/26				
Apogee 1/10				
Perigee 1/22				

LT mayor said hiring process was flawed

Voll hired as the new township manager, GOP chairman is now township solicitor

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Lower Township Mayor Mike Beck began his tenure as what some perceived as a lone voice on Lower Township Council by objecting to the process for hiring a new township manager and solicitor.

Beck first challenged the appointment of county



Michael Voll

Republican committee chairman as township solicitor, saying there was no genuine search conducted.

"I think it was a sham. I

'It's not an exercise of power, it's the arrogance of power I object to. You have three votes – why not do it the right way?'

–Lower Township Mayor
Mike Beck

have no confidence you went out to find anybody. This was a search for Mike Donohue," Beck said.

Councilman Thomas Conrad, who was sworn in for his second term at the beginning of the meeting, said there was a search, but there was only one respondent. According to Conrad, three

firms were contacted, but only Donohue responded.

"I find it difficult to believe we couldn't get other people to apply for this position," Beck said. "It's not an exercise of power, it's the arrogance of power I object to. You have three votes – why not do it the right way?"

He said according to his col-



Michael Donohue

leagues on council, the only applicant just happened to be the chairman of the

Please see **Process**, page A2

Cape May collects \$120K in water bills before end of year

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Mayor Ed Mahaney commended Cape May Water/Sewer Utility employee James Wolfe for collecting \$120,000 of \$160,000 in delinquent water bills before the year's end.

Mahaney said Wolfe, a 15-year employee, last week contacted many of the account holders who had past due bills from the billing cycle of July 15 to Oct. 1. Mahaney said many of these customers were facing a Dec. 27 shut-off date, but then the city was hit with the Dec. 26 snowstorm, which dropped about 18 inches of snow on Cape May.

Mahaney said Wolfe found the time to reach out to customers, put some on payment plans, and get most of the revenue in by the end of the year.

FEMA money to arrive

Mahaney said he received a call from the governor's office, Tuesday morning, informing him the city was getting nearly \$50,000 to help cover the winter storm recovery effort from Feb. 5 and 6, 2010.

The city filed a claim for \$66,562.46 and received \$49,921 in a check being released to the county, which is administering the funds, on Tuesday. Mahaney said receiving 75 percent of the amount requested was significant.

"We were allowed to apply for some incidental costs, and some of those were what was eliminated," he said.

Mahaney said the city applied for another \$42,000 in relief for the snowstorm that came just after Christmas.

"It's nice to start the year with almost \$107,000 more than you thought you had," Mahaney said.

Please see **Bills**, page A2



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

Colors of a western sky at dusk

Star and Wave reporter Cain Chamberlin looked up at the sky as he was leaving the office, Tuesday, to cover a wrestling match and saw this remarkable western sky. He was able to capture the image with his camera.

County official collapses at freeholder reorg meeting

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – The reorganization of the Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders got off to a rocky start Tuesday when longtime county Director of the Emergency Management Communications Center Frank McCall collapsed minutes before the meeting.

McCall, 63, of Ocean City, was a former mayor of Wildwood Crest, Ocean City councilman and Ocean City Republican leader. He has served as county Emergency Management director for many years. McCall was standing among the crowd of spectators in the auditorium of the Cape May County Technical High School when the medical emergency occurred and he collapsed.

As news of the incident circulated throughout the room, emergency medical technicians and doctors present attended to McCall and began administering cardio pulmonary resuscitation until a portable defibrillator was used.

The Middle Township Rescue Squad carried McCall from the room on a gurney. He was taken to Cape Regional Medical Center.

The incident left many in the room shocked and visibly shaken, and the meeting began shortly after McCall

Please see **McCall**, page A3

Thornton and Sheppard sworn

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – Former Ocean City Councilwoman Susan Sheppard and incumbent Freeholder Gerald Thornton were sworn in as Cape May County Freeholders on Tuesday at the Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders reorganization meeting at the Cape May County Technical High School.

The event was overshadowed by the sudden collapse of county Emergency Management Director Frank McCall who was taken to the hospital.

Congressman Frank LoBiondo administered the oath of office to both Thornton and Sheppard.

The audience burst into thunderous applause after Sheppard took her oath and her seat on the stage.

Please see **Sworn**, page A3

FH Beyel, Sheets won't run again

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – Two of Cape May County's longtime political fixtures announced they would not seek re-election on the county freeholder board this year.

Freeholder Director Daniel Beyel and Freeholder Vice-Director Ralph Sheets announced on Tuesday that they would serve out their last year on the county board

this year.

Both Republicans made the announcement at the freeholder reorganization meeting.

Their terms will expire in December.

Beyel, 62, of Upper Township, has served on the freeholder board since 1987. He is the longtime director of Administration, Revenue and Finance and Public Works for Cape May County.

Please see **Won't**, page A3

Merion Inn to renovate

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – A fire at the Merion Inn just two days before Christmas didn't keep the local community from filling every seat in the restaurant Monday night – the last night before the inn closed for a 10-week off-season period.

According to dining room manager Richard Turco, the Merion restaurant was at capacity on New Year's Eve as well. He said employees and regular customers were devastated by the fire but made the best of it after the doors opened again on Dec. 28.

"The community support and restaurant staff have been unbelievable," he said.

Turco said the renovations of the second floor where the fire occurred would take place during these 10 weeks and be finished before the Merion opens up

again on March 17.

The fire that broke out in a second floor unit caused damage to the third floor as well. The first floor where the dining room and bar areas are only sustained minor water damage.



The Merion Inn, which suffered fire damage on Dec. 23 was open for New Year's, but is now closed for the season and will reopen March 17.

condition at the time. He is expected to recover fully.

According to Lundholm, Vicky Watson and George Mesterhazy were rescued from the third floor roof by the fire department and had no injuries. Five pets

Please see **Merion**, page A2

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