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CAPE MAY

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February 2011
(Eastern Standard Time)

	High	Low	High	Low
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
17	6:47	7:16	12:11	12:58
18	7:35	8:04	1:03	1:44
19	8:23	8:52	1:55	2:29
20	9:10	9:41	2:48	3:15
21	9:59	10:33	3:41	4:03
22	10:51	11:27	4:37	4:53
23	11:47	5:36	5:48	

Moon Phases

New Moon, Feb. 2
First Quarter, Feb. 11
Full Moon, Feb. 18
Last Quarter, Feb. 24
Apogee, Feb. 6
Perigee, Feb. 19

CM library closes for HVAC work

CAPE MAY – The Cape May City Library, located at 110 Ocean Street, will be closed starting Tuesday, Feb. 15, for renovations to the air-conditioning system. It is anticipated that repairs will be completed by March 15.

During the closure, the book drop will remain open. Also, patrons are invited to visit other county library branches including the Lower Cape Branch in the Villas and the Wildwood Crest Branch. Additionally, the bookmobile will be at Yale Avenue in Cape May Point every Friday from 10 a.m. until Noon.

As requested material comes in, patrons will be called and asked at what other library branch they would like their items sent to for pick up.

For additional information, please call 463-6350 or visit the Library's website at www.cmclibrary.org.

County tax increase less than one percent

By ERIC AVEDESSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – Cape May County Freeholders introduced the county's \$143.7 million 2011 budget on Feb. 8.

The tax rate increase is less than 1 percent, making the new rate 18 cents.

The proposed fiscal 2011 budget increases by \$1.8 million over this year's county budget. The county tax levy rises from \$92.4 million to \$93.7 million. Balancing the budget uses \$12.1 million of the county's \$24.2 million

'As we move forward facing future economic uncertainties, we will stay the course in changing the face of county government with new ideas, innovations and different methods in getting things accomplished.'

- Freeholder Director Dan Beyel

surplus. Freeholder Director Daniel Beyel said the budget reflects two years of "careful" and "comprehensive" review of county operations to cope with "difficult economic

times. "As everyone knows, Cape May County isn't unique with its financial losses. Just about every municipality, county, the state as well as the nation is feeling the effects of our

protracted depressed economy. But I believe Cape May County government is doing an outstanding job in reacting as well as being proactive to these unusual economic challenges," Beyel said.

Beyel said 80 percent of county departments either reduced their operating expenses or kept them at a zero increase. He said except for an additional \$1.8 million in employee health insurance and \$1.4 million for the county's pension payments, all other operating expenses have minimal increases. He said shared services

expanded, allowing the private sector to manage some county operations. An attrition program helped reduce the county workforce by 70 full-time positions and saved an estimated \$3.5 million annually.

According to Beyel, the savings kept the 2011 budget and tax levy less than 1.5 percent increase. He said the longer term effect helps enable the county to stay within the state mandated 2 percent spending cap.

The county saw revenues

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Stig Blomkvist announces bid for freeholder seat

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Former Lower Township Councilman Arthur "Stig" Blomkvist is hoping to become the next freeholder from the southern end of the county.

Blomkvist, who served as deputy mayor from 196

'We need someone on the freeholder board who represents what is going on in the county, with the people. We are a tourist driven economy and the job situation is tough.'

- Stig Blomkvist

to 2000, and then as Ward 3 councilman from 2001 to 2007, thinks this is the right time for him to run for county office.

"I'm really happy with the makeup of the county organization, as far as process," Blomkvist said.

The Cape May County Regular Republican Organization, under the leadership of chairman Mike Donohue, has elected to hold a party convention for those interested in running for office in Cape May County. In addition, committee members will be able to cast ballots using a voting machine,

Please see Stig, page A2

'Youngbloods' for West Cape May VFC



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, left to right, new West Cape May firemen James Cox and Jerry Harper.

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – Most people would refrain from running into a burning building to see if anyone was inside, but Cape May residents Jerry Harper and James Cox say it's in their blood.

Cox and Harper, both 21, were accepted into the West Cape May Volunteer Fire Company in late January. Cox is a third generation fireman and sort of a legacy at the West Cape May VFC, since both his

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Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave
Above, left to right: Harbor View Restaurant Chef Glenn Turner, Owner Capt. Fred Ascoli and Chef Chris Stewart stand in the kitchen where Turner and Stewart, along with head chef Bill Hennessey, will be preparing their unique and delicious cuisine for the Wild Game Valentine's Dinner on Feb. 21.

Are you game for a different kind of Valentine's Day dinner?

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – If you're looking to take your loved one out for the most unique Valentine's dinner they've ever had, perhaps you should consider taking your dear to dinner for...well, for deer.

The Harbor View Restaurant, overlooking Cape May Harbor, is hosting a wild game dinner on Monday, Feb. 21. Owner, Capt. Fred Ascoli and restaurant sous chef Chris Stewart

said a lot of their regular customers are outdoorsmen and involved with hunting and fishing so this seemed like a great way to draw in a crowd during the off-season.

This six-course dinner starts off with a wild game sausage sampler platter for appetizers, which consists of rabbit with mango chutney, venison with dried cranberry-pale ale glaze and wild boar with a blueberry sauce, all served up with an apple cabbage kraut. Also as an appetizer, there is a house-

smoked barbecue pulled pheasant slider with pickled cucumbers.

The best part is, everything featured on the menu is home-made according to Ascoli.

"I'd say 98 percent of all the food in this restaurant is made from scratch," he said. "We have really great chefs here."

He said all the certified meat is shipped in from wild game purveyors and the restaurant chefs work their magic, making

Please see Game, page A2

VIM provides care to uninsured

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – For the past nine years, medical professionals taking part in Volunteers in Medicine of Cape May County have been lending their time and assistance to the 3,500 patients without health insurance who have come through their doors.

According to VIM Executive Director Jackie Meiluta, there are currently over 96,000 residents in the county and nearly 9 percent of them are uninsured, which works out to roughly 8,500 people. Since the Cape May County VIM opened on March 12, 2002, there have been 17,000 patient visits overall and an average of 25,000 volunteer hours per year.

Meiluta said VIM was started by a group of individuals from

the Cape Regional Hospital. "It's a true community effort,"



she said.

There are around 15 doctors who volunteer at the clinic, specializing in orthopedics, chiropractic work, acupuncture, optometry and more. Presently, 125 individuals working at the

Cape May County VIM, but as a volunteer organization, that number fluctuates according to Meiluta. She said many of the other volunteers are retired nurses giving back to the community.

"We give the same care and standards as your family doctor," Meiluta said, "some say they get even better care here than they get from a family doctor."

In order to become a VIM patient certain requirements must be met. The patient must be a Cape May County resident with no access to health insurance and meet the guidelines of the charity care program.

According to Meiluta, there are hundreds of seasonal and part-time workers in Cape May County who are unable to attain health insurance. She said most

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WASHINGTON INN

Open President's Day Weekend

FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY
DINNER SERVED BEGINNING @ 5PM

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