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February 2011 (Eastern Standard Time)

	High	Low		
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
23	11:47	5:36	5:48	
24	12:27	12:50	6:40	6:48
25	1:33	2:02	7:48	7:54
26	2:42	3:15	8:57	9:02
27	3:49	4:21	10:02	10:05
28	4:48	5:17	10:58	11:00

March, 2011

	High	Low		
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
1	5:38	6:04	11:45	11:49
2	6:21	6:45	12:27	
3	7:01	7:22	12:33	1:04

City acquires property for street widening

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The city was finally able to come to an agreement on the purchase of a portion of property from the owner of the Depot Market Café in order to widen the road.

The city sought to acquire the property in order to widen Elmira Street between Lafayette and Broad Street and open it up to two-way traffic. The street is now one-way heading toward Broad Street. The city needed to acquire the strip of land at

‘It took a year of securing properties on the north side of the street so we could do it.’
- City Manager Bruce MacLeod

409 Elmira St. in order to proceed with the project and create a third way to reach downtown Cape May.

City Manager Bruce MacLeod said the 229.96 square feet was purchased for \$2,000 by the city from the owner of the Depot Market

Café. The owner was also reimbursed \$1,800 for the necessary relocation of an awning that was in the way of construction.

MacLeod said the roadwork would begin this week, which will also involve the installation of a new sewer line. Cape

May County will be removing the traffic signal at the intersection of Elmira and Lafayette. MacLeod said there would need to be temporary road closings during the project, which he was told would take between 30 and 45 days.

The two current entrances into Cape May are Broadway in West Cape May and Schellenger’s Landing in Lower Township. Elmira currently lets residents out of Cape May as a one-way street but is not an entrance. Widening it will allow a third entrance into the city.

MacLeod said this idea has been in the works for the better part of 20 years, when it started in its planning stages in 1991. It became a part of the city’s master plan, but they could never get the amount of land needed to start construction.

“It took years of securing properties on the north side of the street so we could do it,” he said.

He said around seven years ago, the city finally came to an agreement with the bicycle shop owner on that street

Please see **Street**, page A2

Cape May mayor outlines possible budget reduction

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Mayor Edward Mahaney had multiple recommendations at the special meeting on Friday, where council discussed the proposed budget presented by city manager Bruce MacLeod last month.

According to Municipal Auditor Leon Costello, the 2-cent tax increase proposed by the budget MacLeod proposed could be reduced by 1.4 cents if Mahaney’s recommendations were followed.

Mahaney’s ideas for lowering the tax rate mostly involved reductions in the Department of Public Safety. He proposed reducing the city’s police detective division from three officers to two, eliminating a police lieutenant position and decreasing department overtime pay. Mahaney said the city should not fill the spot of a 25-year police veteran who recently retired as well. He suggested eliminating two Beach Patrol lieutenant positions and not filling two city firefighter positions with full-time personnel.

In a letter written by the mayor and sent to the city council members, manager, clerk, auditor, attorney and chief financial auditor, the mayor states his opinion on the proposed budget. The letter says, “While the city manager is to be acknowledged for his diligence in formulating a proposed 2011 budget document for City Council which is in compliance with the State of New Jersey’s new 2 percent tax levy cap, as well as the spending cap requirements, this particular document really only maintains the status quo regarding departmental functions and staffing as well as the provision of City programs and services. Additionally, the City Manager’s proposed 2011 budget provides for arbitrarily excessive increases individually and collectively for salaries, wages, and benefits for public safety departmental personnel (especially permanent police officers and

Please see **Mayor**, page A2



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

Dickinson wins District 32 title for second time

Lower Cape May Regional High School senior Josh Dickinson, shown above, won the District 32 championship in the 112-pound wrestling class, held Saturday at Absegami High School. Dickinson was one of five Caper Tiger wrestlers who made it to the final round. **For story and more photos, see page B1.**



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

What a difference a couple days make!

On Friday, people were walking around Cape May enjoying temperatures near 70. The unseasonably warm temperatures lasted through the weekend – all the way up to Tuesday, when Cape May received three to five inches of snow and temperatures dropped into the 20s and 30s. People have to enjoy the good weather while they can.

CM Elem. students promote healthy eating

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – It’s not often you hear a grade school level student say that they enjoy broccoli, but Resource Room Teacher, Dee Sloan and the rest of the Cape May Elementary school staff are changing that with the help of the UnitedHealthcare HEROES program and Youth Services of America.

According to UnitedHealthcare representative, Maria Gordon Shyldo, the organization has awarded nine grants in New Jersey and around 450 throughout the nation to schools and groups that have developed programs to fight childhood obesity in their communities. She said members of the UnitedHealth Group review the applications submitted and choose who the \$500 and \$1,000 micro-grants will be given to.

“There is a big issue of childhood obesity in this country, and an increase in childhood diabetes



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

Students at Cape May Elementary School show off poster they made to promote healthy eating including increasing the amount of fruit and vegetables in their diet.

as well,” Shyldo said. “This is a good way to help children make

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Nine firefighters recognized for service during Merion fire

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Members of the Cape May Fire Department were given citations and recognized at last week’s city council meeting for their distinguished service during the Merion Inn fire on Dec. 23.

One of those nine men was 10-year Cape May firefighter Lt. Alex Coulter, who said it was his first fire that involved human rescue. There were three individuals pulled from the fire, one of whom was unconscious in the second floor room where the fire began. Coulter and three other firemen carried the victim to the window so he could be

taken to the ground safely by the bucket truck. Two other individuals were rescued by ground ladder from the second floor roof after crawling out a third story window.



Photo by Robert Newkirk

Firefighters honored for their response to the Merion Inn fire include, left to right: Alex Toler, Tim Gay, Bill Szemcsak, Curtis Warburton, Jeff Laag, Mike Eck, Alex Coulter, Andy Boyt, Robert Elwell Jr., and Chief Jerry Inderwies Jr.

from a door at the bottom of the steps and there was visible fire at the top,” he said. “I could tell there was a lot of fire in that

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