



INSIDE



SPORTS

Lower grad makes All-American, **A16**

Lower baseball returns eight players, **A16**

Lou Rodio: Teach a kid to fish, **A15**

CAPE MAY COUNTY

Local girls in county pageant, **A11**

	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
3/18	10:16	10:31	4:03	4:03
3/19	10:51	11:07	4:42	4:38
3/20	11:29	11:50	5:25	5:18
3/21		12:15	6:15	6:05
3/22	12:41	1:13	7:14	7:04
3/23	1:44	2:25	8:21	8:13
3/24	2:57	3:44	9:31	9:28
3/25	4:11	4:55	10:35	10:39
Full Moon			3/29	
Last Quarter			3/7	
New Moon			3/15	
1st Quarter			3/23	
Apogee			3/12	
Perigee			3/27	

Cape May reaches a settlement with Corea

CAPE MAY – The City of Cape May has reached a settlement with former City Manager Lou Corea, which would result in Corea being paid \$100,000.

On Monday City Solicitor Tony Monzo said the MEL (Municipal Excess Liability) fund recommended the settlement and agreed to pay \$50,000 and other fees, leaving the city to pay the other \$50,000. Monzo said if the city pursued the matter in court it would have cost them this much or more.

“For \$50,000 the city is able to resolve this case. If not settled, we would have easily reached the \$30,000 of self-insurance amount,” he said.

Monzo said for an additional \$20,000 the matter is settled with no more liability by the city.

Council doesn’t back down on parking issues

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – East End residents wrote letters, sent emails, took out a full page ad in the Star and Wave, and some allegedly threatened to harm a councilwoman’s business if proposed parking ordinances were passed. Despite all that, Cape May City Council authorized three new parking ordinances, which includes new parking meters at the east end of Beach Avenue.

Councilwoman Terri Swain read a prepared statement in which she said she would not

*‘Even though they are old and ugly, we’ve got ‘em.’*  
– Deputy Mayor Niels Favre on old parking meters

be intimidated by those who threatened to harm her business if she voted for the ordinances.

“To threaten me to vote a certain way, or else, is unethical,” she said.

Swain said she never has nor ever would vote in a way to benefit her business.

The alleged threats perhaps underscored how passionate

the East End residents were about not having parking meters installed in front of their homes. A group called the Friends and Neighbors of East Cape May hired attorney Sanford Schmidt, who brought in experts to give testimony and suggested his clients might file a lawsuit to stop the parking meters.

Mayor Edward J. Mahaney

Jr. told Schmidt if a lawsuit was filed his clients would pay his fees, but all the taxpayers of Cape May would have to pay to defend the suit.

“We’d be better off working together,” Mahaney said.

Mahaney’s comment echoed earlier remarks suggesting the city work out a compromise with residents.

One of the East End resi-

dent complaints was the negative impact the appearance of meters would have on their homes and the neighborhood.

Joe Bogel, who already has meters around his home, suggested the city consider using the type of meters found around Washington Street Mall, where there is a central meter for numerous spaces. Deputy Mayor Niels Favre said the city planned to install the older style of meters, one per parking space, because they already own them and they are sitting in a warehouse.

Please see **Park**, page A2

Bishop agrees to foundation plan to save WWCHS

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

NORTH WILDWOOD – A spokesman for the Catholic Diocese of Camden confirmed the diocese had agreed with the recommendation of a priest team to accept a plan by the Save Wildwood Catholic Foundation to keep Wildwood Catholic High School open.

Andrew Walton said the diocese was open to considering possible solutions to the challenges facing Wildwood Catholic, and was heartened by the support the school drew from the students, parents and the community.

It was revealed that the decision on the fate of the 62-year-old high school was in the hands of the priest team at Notre Dame de la Mer – the Rev. Michael J. Field, the Rev. Joseph D. Wallace, and the Rev. Gustavo Agudelo.

“We didn’t realize it was not a diocesan school – it was a parish high school,” Megan Gillin-Schwartz said.

Gillin-Schwartz was one of the founding members of the efforts to save Wildwood Catholic, along with her brother, Christopher Gillin-Schwartz, and Zachary,

Dillon and Ellie Mullock.

Save Wildwood Catholic Foundation board member Bob Mullock said he, his children, and the Gillin-Schwartzes were in the Florida Keys Jan. 5 when they got the news about the closing.

“In my mind it was too bad, a real shame. But we all talked about it and Megan said, ‘What are we going to do?’” Mullock said.

He said after a brainstorming period, the five young people came up with a two-part plan: to bring the high school and the K-8 school under the same roof and to raise \$500,000 to cover the high school’s deficit and pay for new programs. They put their recommendations into writing and mailed the letter to Wildwood Catholic Principal Richard Turco.

While they were still in Key West they were talking to people in the area who had already set up a website and were researching Canon Law.

“It’s a testament to Wildwood Catholic High School that its influence in the community is so great that people came out of the

Please see **Save**, page A2



Christopher South  
Cape May Star and Wave

Water, water everywhere

A photo taken nearly two weeks ago shows Melissa Atkinson of Seashore Road standing in the back of her truck while friends (out of picture) help her pump water from her property to a nearby storm sewer. She still faces high water after recent rains. At right, the electric sign at Cold Spring Presbyterian has had its own reflecting pool for weeks.



Five, six, pick up sticks...

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Residents asked township council when it would resume picking up downed branches left from the winter storms that struck the lower cape.

Joe Winters of Florida Avenue suggested the township go back to every-other-week recycling until all the branches had been collected. Public Works Director Gary Douglass didn’t think that would speed up the process.

“We’ve got about 30 percent picked up and it’s now going to delay our spring leaf and branch pickup,” he said.

Township Manager Kathy McPherson said she believed people were now used to the weekly recyclables collection and she is afraid cans would be left out and spilled with

the contents blowing down the street.

“And I don’t think a couple of weeks is going to do it,” she said.



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave  
Bundles of branches collected after the February snow melted wait along streets in Lower Township for crews to pick them up. Township employees have been working weekends to pick up the branches.

Besides that, she said, the township was experiencing lower tipping fees with weekly pick up of recyclables.

Douglass recommended giving the weekend collection of tree branches another two

weeks. He said he has had two to three trucks out picking up branches. By cutting recycling, that would only add three more trucks – or a truck per street per day.

McPherson said the township also needed workers to handle chainsaws to cut branches, and needed them to be freed up from their duties during the week.

Douglass said on the weekends he can get as many as 10 to 12 trucks out in the township picking up branches, which requires paying overtime.

Resident Fred Long said the township paid \$379,000 in overtime last year and advised the township to keep an eye on that. However, Mayor Mike Beck said when a municipality reduces the workforce, it

Please see **Sticks**, page A3

Oh water, where art thou?  
Are millions of gallons just lost?

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – West Cape May officials say they don’t know why the borough might have lost as much as 121 million gallons of water over the last seven years, but they hope a consultant can help them find the answer.

At a special public presentation March 10 in Borough Hall, Mayor Pam Kaithern said the borough has contacted five firms (now seven) regarding the real or apparent loss of about 33 percent of the water it buys from Cape May.

Kaithern said a real loss would be leaks, unauthorized use or unauthorized customers. Apparent losses would be due to inaccurate meters or miscalculations. New wireless radio water meters have supposedly removed human error from the equation. However, unaccounted for water use, according to a metered water analysis prepared by Kathy Gallagher of the West Cape May Taxpayers Association,

has risen from 20.9 percent in 2003 to 38.2 percent last year.

“The industry standard is 15 percent – sometimes we make it, sometimes we don’t,” Kaithern said.

Kaithern said the borough started to track and analyze data on unaccounted for water in 2007.

“Some quarters were within the (standard) range. The third quarter was really high,” she said.

The bottom line, according to Gallagher’s analysis, is Cape May billed West Cape May for 359,561,000 gallons of water between 2003 and 2009. The borough billed residents for 237,962,383 gallons. The other 121,598,617 gallons of water were not accounted for, with a dollar loss of \$695,072.

According to Leon Costello, the borough’s auditor, the water has been paid for through a fund balance (revenue surplus), which was as much as \$573,767.54 in 2003, but in 2008 came into a deficit. In April 2009 the

Please see **Lost**, page A3

Hello Neighbor! 48 months ago, our family opened a **new type of Restaurant & Bar** in Cape May County. We are very proud that, from the start, **all of our food has Zero Trans Fat**. Our soups, sauces and desserts are all made from **scratch**. We cut our own **Nachos & Fries**. We make our **pizza dough** from a secret recipe so that when we bake it in our **Brick Oven**, the **pizza crust** stays **thin and delicious**. We make our own **guacamole** from the **ripest** avocados. We mold our own **hamburgers**, and use the  **freshest** produce for your salad. Even our scallops come from the local **Elephant Trunk** fishing grounds.

That is why **Philadelphia Inquirer's Craig LaBan** wrote, "Few restaurants wear the Shore's casual **new spirit** as well as **Lucky Bones Backwater Grille**". We opened this new kind of restaurant so our neighbors and our visitors can enjoy the foods they like to eat. But when they eat here, they are eating delicious food **made from scratch**, not out of a box.

So please take a ride over the bridge. Whether you relax for **lunch or dinner** near our **crackling wood burning fireplace**, sip wine from our **All-\$20 wine list**, or sit at our bar listening to local music, you will get the same great service and delicious food, guaranteed. Hope to see you soon, The Craig Family.

LUCKY BONES

BACKWATER GRILLE

1200 RT. 109 SOUTH CAPE MAY, NJ • 609-884-BONE (2663) • WWW.LUCKYBONESGRILLE.COM