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(eastern daylight time)				
	LOW		HIGH	
	am	pm	am	pm
1	7:17	7:43	12:36	1:33
2	7:58	8:24	1:22	2:13
3	8:36	9:02	2:05	2:51
4	9:12	9:40	2:46	3:26
5	9:47	10:16	3:25	3:59
6	10:22	10:53	4:05	4:31
7	10:57	11:32	4:46	5:03

Working on COAH despite court decision

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – Last week, an appeals court struck down rules governing affordable housing programs required of New Jersey municipalities under Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) regulations. The ruling handed down Jan. 25 said the rules “frustrate, rather than further, a

realistic opportunity for the production of affordable housing.” COAH rules allowed municipalities to collect fees from developers and pay another municipality to accept part or all of their COAH requirement. The Borough of West Cape May is currently involved in a legal dispute with Sixth Street Partners, a developer who is seeking to build 70 townhouses on a 5.8 acre parcel of land on Sixth Street. The developer sought a builder’s remedy to allow them to build the development with 20 percent set aside for affordable housing. At the last meeting of the West Cape May Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Dick Rigby suggested the borough was now in a Catch-22 situation concerning their requirement to develop a fair housing statement. Mayor Pam

Kaithern said the matter seemed to be on hold while the state worked on new rules for determining affordable housing requirements. Borough solicitor Frank Corrado said the matter of the Sixth Street Partners was still in litigation, and was now before a special master, Mary Beth Loneragan, who was appointed by the court to help resolve the matter. “The special master has essentially two tasks,”

Corrado said. “The first is to attempt to find middle ground to allow settlement; or if not, to make recommendations to the judge as to whether this property is an appropriate place to locate low to moderate income housing.” Corrado said the decision by the appellate court invalidated some of the rules COAH used to determine the number of housing units each

Please see COAH, Page A2



Pinewood Derby!

Excitement was in the air, above, when the West Cape May Cub Scout Pack #73 held its annual Pinewood Derby last Friday night at the West Cape May Fire Hall. A Boy Scouts of America tradition, more than 30 scouts participated in the race including, at right, winner Tony Genaro with buddy Alex Marino. Provided with a block of wood and four wheels, the scouts were responsible for creating their own “hot rod.” Top right, “Officer Tony” Genaro with son Troy was host of the evening, announcing the contestants and spinning some tunes.

Photos by Jennifer Kopp



Cape Meadows project restoring important wetlands

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – People driving down Sunset Boulevard over the last several months have probably noticed a dramatic change in the local scenery. Glancing out toward the ocean, passersby would probably notice the sand dunes near the water’s edge. While the dunes are not new, the view of the dunes is after the U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers mowed acres of phragmites in late November early December. Mowing the meadows is part of the 350-acre Lower Cape Meadows-Cape May Point ecosystem restoration project. What was considered an important coastal fresh water wetlands had become inundated with a non-native variety of phragmites, otherwise known as the common reed. The project, which began in 2003 is now in its final year. According to project manager

Dwight Pakin, the work being done now is the completion of a contract for initial construction awarded in September 2006. Phase I of the project, completed in 2005, was the placement of a beach berm and dune, which can now be seen from Sunset Boulevard. Phase II of the initial construction included clearing ditches of vegetation and restoring the hydrologic flow from Lake Lily through the meadows tract of the state park and the Nature Conservancy. Pakin said the

original flow path was cut off by storms in the 1990s. “We’re restoring it to the pre-1991 flow pattern,” Pakin said. There were three rounds of spraying and mowing in the project area, each in September of 2004, 2005 and 2006 – the final being a “touch up” of previous work. “From what I can tell it’s made a big difference,” Pakin said. “There will be some remnant spots and a need for spot spraying every year.” Part of the project includes

creating wetlands by forming ponds. Two such ponds were created in Phase I and a third pond is being created now. Pakin said the ACOE has been successful in providing habitats for piping plovers, and as a result had one of the best years ever for plovers. “That is significant because now they don’t have to go near beach and people,” he said. Native species of vegetation are also being planted in the project area. Pakin said the work done

under this contract would need to be followed up with maintenance, which is not in the current project or contract. This project called for initial construction to be followed by five years of adaptive management. Pakin said maintenance of all federal projects is a non-federal responsibility, and that is known going in. Pakin said he expected construction to be done in early April.



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Mowing the meadows is part of the 350-acre Lower Cape Meadows-Cape May Point ecosystem restoration project. What was considered an important coastal fresh water wetlands had become inundated with a non-native variety of phragmites, otherwise known as the common reed.

Woman airlifted after crash

NORTH CAPE MAY – A Cape May woman was airlifted to the Atlantic City Medical Center with an apparent head injury after a four-car accident at Ferry and Seashore Roads. Police and emergency personnel responded to the accident at around 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 27, after Kathleen Bure, 31, of Cape May allegedly entered the intersection against the red light. Bure, traveling north on Seashore Road collided with a Hyundai Elantra driven by Rita Nelson, 27, of North Wildwood, who had just entered the intersection traveling eastbound on Ferry Road. Nelson’s vehicle then struck an Acura RL driven by John Smith, 51, of Bordentown, who had been stopped in the westbound lane of Ferry Road to wait for the red light. After striking the front of the Smith vehicle, Nelson’s vehicle continued through the intersection striking a Ford F-150 pick-up truck driven by

James Reinold, 52, of North Cape May. Reinold was stopped in the westbound lane of Ferry Road waiting to

make a right hand turn. After a final accident investigation, Please see Crash, Page A2

Lower Township property owners get new tax assessments

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – By now most Lower Township property owners have received their new assessments. On Jan. 17, residents packed township hall to complain about the increase in their local taxes. According to Mayor Walt Craig, the areas of the township most affected by the revaluation were the “hot areas” in the real estate market: the bay front properties, the water view properties, and south of the Cape May Canal, where there is acreage. Craig said at this point less than 10 percent of Lower Township property owners have requested appointments to challenge their revaluation. “Quite a number of people were pleasantly surprised with

Please see Reval, Page A2

The essence of black history: A lesson to be learned

It's hard to believe the holidays are over and now thoughts turn toward spring. Of course with the flash of winter we are having, the thoughts can get a little fuzzy.

Entering the month of February which has been designated as "Black History Month" brings to mind the plight of a people, their beginnings, struggles and their successes. With all the information about the black struggle, few really know as much as they could and will find interesting facts about the history of black culture if pursued.

I grant you that most know about slavery, emancipation, and segregation, but I dare say very little is known beyond that.

In later years the media has been somewhat informative about the successes of many

blacks and problems that are still very real. Occasional documentaries and panel discussions have been presented by successful blacks, the clergy, historians, professors, etc.

After slavery was abolished, blacks began to unknowingly exercise their strengths. Over a century ago these strengths included abilities in the arts, sports, inventions, education, writing, and even in the political arena.

When I say "unknowingly," they seemed less interested in the monetary gain or public recognition because they knew that this was almost nonexistent for the black man. For him it was like taking an aspirin for a headache. He wanted to prove to himself and others that he was more than dark skin and bones. They were human beings endowed with a measure of

intelligence, desires, and the need to be all he or she could be – just like any other man.

This spirit was awakened by knowing how their ancestors reacted to cruelty and abuse and made them determined to do whatever it took to ensure a better life for the next generation.

When I was in high school – no, it wasn't a century ago – a course in black history was a subject you had to pass in order to graduate! It was called "Negro History" then. And the book was too heavy to carry!

It left no stones unturned about the Negro and their existence. I kept a copy for a long time. Reluctantly I gave it to a teacher who taught in a North Jersey high school. She was very impressed and saw the need for this book to be a part of the school's curricu-

lum. She introduced the book to her district hoping it would be considered. It never happened. Of course she was promised it would be looked into. Not so. The school board, administrative staff, two-thirds of the student body were all white.


Problem? Everyone needs to know who he's living, working, and communicating with. Where better to start than in school?

American history, P.A.D. (Problems in American Democracy) were also high on my list of learning. I've talked to a few teachers and never heard one say that black history was ever singled out as being important in the building of our nation. So sad!

However, in some later version American history books there is occasional mention of

Times to Remember

By Lois Smith



black contributions, but the real story is not told.

A paragraph may say what it has to say in order to tie up loose ends. As a result, young people today are getting cheated out of information that is so important to their everyday living. Learning about other cultures, not just blacks, helps them to prepare for the world they will be exposed to and how they can succeed in their chosen careers.

You will be surprised to know how many black pioneers were born, lived, or visited New Jersey. In the next few weeks I will be telling you some good stuff! I even knew one or two. Ha! Keep reading!

See Ya

City manager addresses school group on community

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Cape May city manager Lou Corea spoke to about 30 students at Our Lady Star of the Sea School, recently, to advise them on possible community service projects.

Corea received a letter from Katey Monzo, a student at the

school and member of the Builder's Club telling him the group was interested in getting his recommendation for a project for the winter/spring term. The Builders Club is a program developed by the Kiwanis Club, which also sponsors the Key Club at the high school level, and K-Kids in the elementary grades. The Builders

Club is a service club for students in grades six through eight.

In her letter, Monzo told Corea the club had "25 eager members" who were offering their services to the city of Cape May.

"I was happy to get the letter," Corea told the group. "I didn't know such a group existed in the city."

Corea said he was impressed by the "professionalism" of the group from what he had observed so far.

Corea said he initially thought of a beach clean-up project, but didn't think it would be very pleasant picking up other people's trash. Then he realized the city has a new dune project, which would need to be planted.

Corea told the students planting dune grasses helps keep the sand in place, which in turn helps protect property in the city. The dune grasses he said would come back every year. Corea said the dunes have cost between \$5 million and \$10 million to create. Recently, Cape May lost the entire dune at Poverty Beach during a storm. Corea said

there is now a new, 10-foot high dune that needs to be planted.

A second possible project, he said, would be to help plant gardens as part of the city's revitalization project.

Sheila Williams, representing the Kiwanis Club, said they would try to coordinate the project to be done during the spring break.

COAH

Continued from page A1

municipality is supposed to have by the third round of the growth share program. However, Corrado didn't expect the appeals court decision to change the West Cape May requirement very much.

"I don't know if this decision will have an appreciable impact on our case," he said.

Corrado said there would be another meeting with the special master on Thursday. He said the matter has been delayed mainly because of the holidays.

Cape May solicitor Tony Monzo said the city of Cape May also continues to work on its fair share plan. Cape

May has hired professional planner Thomas Scangarello and Associates to work with the COAH fair share plan for Cape May based on figures provided by state. Monzo said while the numbers are not considered reliable in light of the appeals court decision, the city is still pursuing the

matter. He said the city is trying to set up a special meeting with planning board to come up with recommendations for a fair share plan. These recommendations would be presented to city council before being submitted to COAH for certification.

Monzo said the work on the

fair share plan is still in the developmental stage, but not stopped. He said the city didn't actually have to accept the numbers provided by state, but could submit its own numbers if it could prove the state figures were wrong.

"Our problem was with the number of units based on cre-

ation of new jobs," Monzo said. "The (state's) projection for new jobs for next 8-10 years so far out of reality with what Cape May would experience."

Crash

Continued from page A1

tigation, police charged Bure with failure to obey a traffic control device. Nelson was also cited for an improper

lane change.

Bure was treated by the Lower Township Rescue Squad before being airlifted.

Nelson was transported to Burdette Tomlin Memorial Hospital with apparent leg injuries.

The Lower Township Police Department requested mutual aid from the Cape May Police Department and the

Delaware River and Bay Authority Police for traffic assistance during the investigation. The accident was

investigated by Cpl. David Fisher and Officer Brian McEwing.

Reval

Continued from page A1

the revaluation," Craig said.

Craig said the new tax rate would be approximately \$1.01 per \$100 of assessed value. The owner of a \$250,000 home would pay \$2,525 in local taxes.

Craig said the magic number is "3" when it comes to estimating the effect of a revaluation. He said if the assessment increases by three times what it was previously, the new tax rate should

only be a third of what it was previously. The total valuation for Lower Township was \$1.5 billion. The new figure after the revaluation is about \$4.7 billion.

(Editors's note: What do you think of your assessment? We'd like to hear from you. Email: cmstarwave@comcast.net or drop off a note to the office at 600 Park Boulevard, Unit 5, West Cape May.)

ATTACHMENT B
Freshwater Wetlands Application Checklists

Date: 1/27/07
Re: Application submitted by: Robert Doan
Regarding property at: 605 Oxford Rd.
Block: 532 Lots: 55, 56, 57 & 58
Township of Lower, Cape May County

TAKE NOTICE that the above entity is applying to the Land Use Regulation Program at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) for a permit or approval under the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act rules, N.J.A.C. 7:7A. The permit or approval will either establish the boundary of freshwater wetlands on the above property, or will authorize the applicant to conduct regulated activities on the property.

The approval(s) the applicant is requesting is (are):

☐ Letter of Interpretation (establishes the official boundary line and resource value of any regulated freshwater wetlands, open waters. or transition areas on the property.)

☐ General permit authorization (authorizes regulated activities, for example, construction or development, in wetlands and adjacent transition areas.)

☐ Individual permit (authorizes regulated activities in wetlands, for example construction or development)

☐ Open water fill permit (authorizes regulated activities, for example, construction or development).

☒ Individual transition area waiver (authorizes regulated activities, for example construction or development, in areas adjacent to wetlands).

The rules governing the above permits and approvals are found in NJDEP's Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act rules at N.J.A.C. 7:7A. You can view or download these rules on the NJDEP Land Use Regulation Program website at www.state.nj.us/dep/landuse. or you can find a copy of these rules in the county law library in your county courthouse.

The application requests approval of the following activities (applicant has checked all of those that apply.)

☐ No regulated activities, just establishing a wetlands boundary line

☐ Cutting or clearing of trees and/or other vegetation

☒ Placement of pavement

☒ Placement of one or more buildings or other structures

☐ Expansion of existing pavement, buildings, or other structures

☐ Other (describe) _____

If you would like to inspect a copy of the application, it is on file at the Municipal Clerk's Office, or call the NJDEP at (609) 777-0456 to make an appointment to see my application at the NJDEP offices in Trenton during normal business hours.

The NJDEP welcomes any comments on the application. Comments should be submitted to the NJDEP *in writing* within 15 days after publication of this notice. However, written comments will continue to be accepted until the NJDEP makes a decision on the application. Comments cannot be accepted by telephone. Please submit any comments *in writing along with a copy of this notice* to:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Land Use Regulation Program
P.O. Box 439
Trenton, New Jersey 08625
ATTN: Cape May County Section Chief

When the NJDEP has decided whether or not the application qualifies for approval under the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act rules, NJDEP will notify the municipal clerk of the final decision on my application.

Questions about the application may be addressed to:

Robert Doan
2415 Cedar Ln.
Drexel Hill, PA 19026



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