

Cape May Star and Wave

153rd YEAR NO. 4 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2007 50¢

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JANUARY TIDE TABLE

(eastern daylight time)

	LOW		HIGH	
	am	pm	am	pm
25	12:24	12:43	6:33	6:46
26	1:27	1:49	7:42	7:45
27	2:35	3:01	8:54	8:48
28	3:43	4:11	10:03	9:52
29	4:46	5:15	11:06	10:52
30	5:42	6:11	11:59	11:47
31	6:32	6:59		12:49

2.9-cent tax increase déjà vu all over again

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – City manager Lou Corea has presented Cape May City Council with a \$13 million budget reflecting a 2.9-cent increase on the local tax rate.

In 2006, Corea said a 2.9-

cent increase on the tax rate was offset by a one-time payment for a lease on tower space for telecommunications equipment. City council further reduced a proposed 1.9-cent increase to a one-cent increase on the tax rate.

This year, Corea requested a \$13,174,773.93 budget, which he said is an increase

of less than two-percent over the 2006 municipal budget. Corea said increased rates only provided about a third of the additional funds required to balance the budget.

Corea said 60-percent of “controllable” line items reflect either no increase or a reduction. Operating expenses are down 14-percent in the

2007 budget.

Corea said the state did not extend legislation which exempted insurance costs from the CAP requirement. As a result, the administration had to cut \$25,000 from the budget, and no department would be allowed to increase its spending by more than \$597 on any CAP item

without other cuts being made.

Corea said the 2007 proposed budget also includes two personnel requests: the hiring of one new police officer and a part-time person to support the zoning office.

The proposed 2007 budget

Please see **Budget**, Page A3



The first snow of the season

Cape May was treated to an overnight snow Sunday. Though most of the county received little more than a dusting, the City of Cape May recorded 1.71 inches. Pictured clockwise from top left is the Concrete Ship at Sunset Beach, the Physick Estate on Washington Street, and seemingly sugar-coated berries photographed near the Kiwanis Park on Madison Avenue.

Photos by Christopher South

U.S. Attorney visits Cape May: Says polluters beware!

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – U.S. Assistant Attorney General Christopher Christie was in Cape May to explain how enforcing laws against international polluters is helping the regional environment.

Speaking at the Grand Hotel to a group of organizations participating in the Delaware Estuary Watershed Grants Program, Christie told the audience members, some of who were there to accept grants, his office has taken a tough stance with environmental polluters over the past five years – to the benefit of groups working to restore environmentally sensitive areas.

The New Jersey office of the Attorney General has received about \$4 million from fines paid by polluters over the past five years. These funds have been awarded as grants to groups such as the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

“We divert part of the

money away from treasury and allow the U.S. attorneys to select worthy groups and projects to spread that money out and allow them to use it the best way they could,” Christie said.

Over the last 18 months, Christie’s office has been able to present a total of \$1.75 million in grants to environmental groups.

On Monday, \$360,000 was being shared by nine groups in the tri-state area, with the majority of them being in New Jersey. Locally, the New Jersey Audubon Society received a \$50,000 grant for a project titled Identifying and Conserving Critical Estuary Bird Habitat Part III.

Now in its third year, the project has been aimed at restoring, monitoring and stewarding 562 acres of riparian, grassland and wetland habitat. The five habitats identified included the Cape Island habitat. The Audubon Society is expected to raise \$100,000 in matching funds for the project.

Christie said the funds his office is awarding are from

fines levied against international shipping companies who come into New Jersey waters and dump sludge, oil, or other wastes rather than paying to have them properly disposed. The most notable case the state of New Jersey shared an award from was the Evergreen case.

“Evergreen is one of the biggest international shipping companies in the world. We, with three other districts – Los Angeles, Portland and Seattle – reached a \$25 million settlement with Evergreen,” Christie said.

Christie said Evergreen was dumping sludge and oil into the ocean, and the fines resulted in New Jersey getting the original \$2 million subsequently handed out by the U.S. Attorney.

“And we have done a number of other shipping companies since then, some based in South Korea, another one based in Japan, all of who were shipping and coming in New Jersey waters and doing exactly the same thing,” Christie said.

Christie said his office has a

great partnership with the Coast Guard, who has been helping with the enforcement, resulting in \$4 million coming to New Jersey for environmental projects. About \$1 million has been awarded to a Sandy Hook restoration project, and another \$1 million has come to Cape May County, he said.

Christie said the restoration and maintenance of New Jersey’s environment is not only important to the state’s

economic health, but to its spiritual health as well.

“Beaches, like the beach we are adjacent to, are a part of who we are as New Jersey. We must stop those who would harm them, and help those who would restore those resources,” he said.

Christie said this sometimes means taking action against those he would consider friends – such as the Borough of Stone Harbor. He said Stone Harbor resisted efforts

to require the borough to maintain a breeding area for Piping Plovers.

“We tried to persuade them, but when that doesn’t work, there’s nothing like some force,” he said.

Christie said of all the work he does as a U.S. Attorney, very few issues are as rewarding as redistributing funds from environmental polluters to environmental restoration groups.

Upper Township’s contestant will compete in Miss America pageant

By MARY RUDLOFF
Cape May Star and Wave

UPPER TOWNSHIP – Since moving out of Atlantic City, the Miss America Pageant has not garnered as much local attention as it did when it was in residence in Boardwalk Hall.

There is an added reason for locals to tune in and watch the pageant, on CMT, on Monday, Jan. 29. Upper Township’s Jamie Ginn will be competing for the coveted crown and title.

Ginn, an Ocean City High School graduate, will be com-

peting as Miss Delaware. There is no doubt, however, that despite the Delaware title, she is still the hometown favorite here. She is a former Miss Ocean City, Miss Cape May County and competed several times in the Miss New Jersey Pageant, always placing in the top ten.

And, she explained last week, she is ready to make everyone proud when she steps onstage at the Planet Hollywood (formerly Aladdin) Casino in Las Vegas.

“I am ready and I’m anxious, but I feel so worry-free,” Ginn said. “We can’t

figure it out, neither my mom or me. We are always worried, and neither of us feels that right now. But maybe it is because I know I have done everything I can possibly do to be ready.”

Since winning the Miss Delaware title in June, Ginn has balanced her duties as the state representative with preparing for the big show.

Preparing doesn’t mean practicing her smile and the pageant wave. Ginn has approached her preparation from a more business-like

Please see **UT**, Page A2



David Nahan/Cape May Star and Wave

Fatal crash

A North Cape May woman was killed when her 2006 Suzuki Grand Vitara swerved off the road at Garden State Parkway milepost 21 and struck several trees on Wednesday. State Police said the woman, Mary Lyman, 21, was driving north along the parkway when her vehicle left the road at 8:28 a.m. A small fire erupted in the engine compartment and was extinguished by New Jersey State Trooper Chris Black and Courthouse Towing. “It was reported it was on fire. The fire was put out by the State Police and another passer-by when we arrived,” said Seaville Volunteer Fire Chief Rob Spiegel. Upper Township Rescue Squad, Marmora Fire Company also responded to the scene. Lyman was extricated from the vehicle and transported to Shore Memorial Hospital in Somers Point by the Upper Township Rescue Squad and was pronounced dead at the hospital at 9:18 a.m. The right lane of the Garden State Parkway was shut down for three hours for further investigation. Any witnesses to the accident should call Trooper Chris Black of the Bass River Station at 296-0503.