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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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DECEMBER TIDE TABLE						
(EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME)						
		LOW		HIGH		
		am	pm	am	pm	
21	Th.	1:31	2:23	7:58	8:25	
22	Fri.	2:16	3:06	8:40	9:11	
23	Sat.	3:00	3:48	9:26	10:01	
24	Sun.	3:47	4:32	10:17	10:56	
25	Mon.	4:37	5:20	11:12	11:52	
26	Tue.	5:36	6:13	12:08		
27	Wed.	6:46	7:12	12:49	1:05	

Fog, speed add to fatal crash at Parkway's end

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Lower Township Police Chief Edward Donahue said it appears a combination of excessive speed and poor visibility due to heavy fog were responsible for a crash that took the life of a Lower Township resident.

Wade Dickinson, 24, of Villas was killed after the Chevy S10 pickup truck he was driving left the roadway, struck a utility pole and burst into flames.

Police received a 911 call around 1:06 a.m., Dec. 14, saying the vehicle had left the road and struck a pole near Cape Liquors. When police arrived the vehicle was fully engulfed in flames. The Town

Bank Fire Department was called to the scene and extinguished the flames with dry chemical fire extinguishers and fire hoses spraying a foam mixture.

Dickinson's body was turned over to the Southern Regional Medical Examiner's office and an autopsy was performed at Shore Memorial Hospital in Somers Point, where positive identification was made. Police said a toxicology report is pending and takes several weeks, but eyewitness reports indicate the vehicles speed was a factor in the crash.

"In this case, witnesses saw him doing well over the speed limit and there was heavy fog," Donahue said. "With the combination of speed and the fog the end of the Parkway came up really fast."

The accident caused power to be turned off in the Cold Spring and Erma sections of the township while Atlantic City Electric replaced the utility pole. Additionally, Donahue said the police had the area tied up for a while due to it being a fatal accident.

"With a fatal accident we

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The very best to you and yours!

Top left, Kiley Stewart, age 4, of Cape May Court House sits on Santa's knee at the Kiwanis Club House during its "Pictures with Santa" event. Above are Steve Haas and Linda Steenrod Christmas caroling on the Washington Street Mall as part of the Greater Cape May Chamber of Commerce's Towne Crier event. At left, a close-up of the hundreds of toys at Cape May City Hall donated to the 2nd annual Sargent Alvarez toy drive.

Photos by Tracey Thornton, Jennifer Kopp and Christopher South

Closed talks on manager, Beach Theatre

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The city is planning to have talks on two topics of public interest, but the public is not invited.

Cape May City Council is holding a closed-door session today to discuss Lou Corea's future as the city manager in Cape May. Corea's contract as city manager expires Jan. 31, 2007, and there has been no clear indication city council supports the renewal of

his contract.

"I'm very concerned. Will we have a city manager on Feb. 1?" former councilman Gerry Gaffney said during the public portion of the meeting.

"I hope so," Mayor Jerry Inderwies said.

"What if city council says no?" Gaffney asked.

"There will probably be an interim," Inderwies said.

Deputy Mayor Niels Favre said the form of government is a city manager/council form, and there would be a

city manager if Corea's contract were not renewed. However, no one knows or is not telling who that would be. As a personnel issue, council is forbidden from discussing the issue in public.

City solicitor Anthony Monzo said if a new contract is not agreed upon by the expiration of the old contract, Corea could elect to work without a contract. If city council wishes to remove the city manager, it can only do so with 90 days notice.

"If council doesn't reap-

point him he can walk away and we have to pay him for 90 days?" Gaffney asked.

"No, not if he voluntarily leaves," Monzo said.

Corea came under fire for halting lifeguard services on Sept. 5 due to a budgetary shortfall. Normally, lifeguards would have been working on weekends through the end of the month. Some members of city council and the mayor complained they were only given notice

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Garage could add up to 500 parking spaces

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Members of the Parking and Traffic Subcommittee suggested the city could gain 180 to 500 more parking spaces depending on where it builds a parking garage – if that is the way the city decides to go.

The subcommittee has been tasked by the Revitalization Advisory Committee with coming up with recommendations for easing the city's summertime parking problems. Building multilevel parking garages at either the Jackson Street lot or the Washington Street Commons lot were two proposals dis-

cussed at a Tuesday afternoon meeting in the City Hall auditorium.

Committee member Bill Bezaire, who was charged with the examination of a parking garage at the city-owned Jackson Street lot said he bounced the idea off a friend, Steve Shannon, who has experience in private and municipal construction projects. Bezaire said Shannon, as a favor, came up with two concepts for the Jackson Street lot – one with parking only, and another with parking and retail. If the city builds a three-level garage with parking alone, Shannon figured the city could gain about 230 spaces.

"That's with no setbacks, no

buffers, and no handicapped spots. Those would have to be figured in," Bezaire said.

At a cost of \$17,000 to \$20,000 per space, the cost could be close to \$5 million. Bezaire said because the lot is not rectangular it would cost more to configure the parking garage.

An alternative concept with retail space on the first floor would reduce the parking gain to about 180 spaces.

Councilman David Kurkowski wondered if Shannon had considered acquiring additional land, such as from Collier's Liquor Store, in exchange for parking spaces. Bezaire said that was not considered, and Christine Miller said she had

spoken to Perry Collier who she said "had no intentions of giving it up." Collier contacted at home had no comment.

Bezaire said he also examined a parking structure at the site of the city's Bank Street parking lot. Miller said that lot is underutilized in the winter, adding the residents would "fight tooth and nail" any attempt to build a parking garage on that lot. She said the area already floods and a parking garage would just compound the problem.

"It would drown us," she said.

Jim Moffatt, reporting on the possibility of building a parking garage on the Acme

Please see Garage, Page A4



65 years of love

Jake and Clara Harris will celebrate 65 years of marriage on January 3, 2007. The couple lives in West Cape May where Clara was born and raised. Jake, a native of Wildwood, moved to West Cape May after they married in 1942. Jake is a Masonry contractor and has been in business for 55 years here in Cape May. Clara is a housewife who retired in 2003 after 25 years as an Avon Lady. Their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren wish to congratulate them on 65 years of marriage and love.