USCG Cutter Vigorous returns from Caribbean
Cutter aided Carnival cruise ship

By CAPTAIN CHABRELLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The Coast Guard Cutter Vigorous returned to Trequent Canda May on Monday after an eventful two-month tour consisting of drug intercep-
tions, search and rescue efforts, and more than 200 port calls.

The mission of the Vigorous, which was deployed in February, was to support the national strategic goals and the Coast Guard’s efforts in the Caribbean. The cutter responded to a variety of incidents during its deployment, including a drug interdiction, a search and rescue operation, and several port visits.

The Vigorous is an 87-foot coastal patrol boat and is one of eight P-8 cutter boats in the Coast Guard’s fleet. It is equipped with advanced technology and is capable of conducting a wide range of missions, including anti-smuggling operations, search and rescue, and drug interdiction.

The cutter’s return marked the end of a successful deployment for the crew, who worked tirelessly to ensure the safety and security of the region.

Township tax rate rises

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Lower Township Council approved a 1.5 percent increase in the municipal budget with a 2.9- cent tax increase.

The vote came with Commissioner James Neville absent and Commissioner Tom Conrad not willing to support the inclusion of a capital plan, which outlined $3.7 million in capital projects.

The budget also includes an increase in the capital plan for water, sewer, and road projects. The council eventually passed the $71,500 debt service, a 4.23 percent reduction over the 2012 budget.

The state now requires you to put in the capital wish list, but the money may or may not be spent, Conrad said.

The budget was adopted by council, before any money is spent on capital projects.