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FEBRUARY TIDE TABLE

(eastern daylight time)
LOW HIGH
am pm am pm

8	11:35		5:31	5:36
9	12:15	12:18	6:21	6:16
10	1:06	1:11	7:20	7:04
11	2:05	2:17	8:26	8:04
12	3:09	3:28	9:32	9:08
13	4:10	4:33	10:30	10:10
14	5:05	5:29	11:22	11:07

St. Raymond's to merge with Star of the Sea

By **CHRISTOPHER SOUTH**
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Our Lady Star of the Sea School in Cape May is slated to receive the students who attend St. Raymond's School in Villas, after the diocese decided to close four schools in the region.

St. Raymond's was one of

the four schools being closed due to small enrollments. This year, St. Raymond's has 104 students enrolled in grades K-8.

Our Lady Star of the Sea has 159 students in grades K-8 plus another 18 in preschool. Principal Joan Dollinger said they do have the space to accommodate the additional students coming over from St. Raymond's.

"We have a large eighth grade class graduating, so that will help accommodate them," she said.

Dollinger said they don't view St. Raymond's as closing, but are consolidating, and the students will continue their education in another setting. The school will assume the name Our Lady Star of the Sea Regional School and will be a three

parish school, drawing students from St. Raymond's, St. John of God, and the Our Lady Star of the Sea Parishes. The school already has students who come from Lower Township, the Wildwoods, and Middle Township.

"We look forward to welcoming students from St. Raymond's. They are all God's children," she said.

Still, Dollinger said it was a

hard thing to see any school close.

"There will be a period of adjustment, even grieving," she said.

Crystal Hardin of Cape May is one parent who is relieved she and her children won't have to face that grieving process. Hardin has five children in Our Lady Star of the

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Talent Showcase



Lower Cape May Regional's Talent Showcase had a lot to offer. From dance companies, upper left, to instrumental and vocal performances. Top center is Lower Cape May Regional teacher Jim Colubiale, at top right, Ashley Walker waves to the emcees after her piano performance. Above far left and far right, father and daughter, Chris and Bethany Titerance sing a duet. Above center, Adam Kleinschmidt, Max Moran and Ari Blou "Bust a Move" on the Lower Cape May stage. See story on Page A3.

Photos by Christopher South

Joe Jackson hired as new Lower Township manager

By **CHRISTOPHER SOUTH**
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS – Lower Township Council went into closed session, Monday evening to discuss the vacant position of township manager. When they came out they voted 4-1 to hire banker Joe Jackson to fill the position vacated by Kathy McPherson.

Jackson, who has spent 26 years in the banking industry, was named recently as a frontrunner in the search for a new township manager.

Jackson's hiring was opposed by Councilman

Wayne Mazurek, who said the township could not afford the move. Speaking from his seat on the council dais, Mazurek addressed Jackson, who was in the audience, saying, "Joe this has nothing to do with you."

"Your resume is good and I've known you. My problem is I don't think we can afford it."

Council later introduced an amended salary ordinance, which sets a salary range for the township manager at between \$72,000 and \$90,000. McPherson was the director of personnel, making \$50,000 before taking on the addition-

al duties of township manager, for which she was paid a stipend of roughly \$24,000. The new salary ordinance sets the range for the township's director of personnel between \$70,000 and \$90,000.

"We're going to spend \$75,000 to \$85,000 (manager's salary) when it was \$24,000," Mazurek said.

During public comment, resident Ed Butler said, "I don't want to spend more for this job. As a taxpayer, we should not have extra taxes on top of everything else."

The residents of Lower Township recently received notices of their revaluation,

which for some resulted in significant tax increases.

Butler asked to make comment prior to the vote, but was told he would have to address the matter during the public comment portion of the meeting. Butler complained about the process, saying by then council would have already voted to hire the new manager. Mayor Walt Craig told Butler the meeting was being conducted as it

was supposed to be.

"It only took three weeks to make an appointment. This is wrong," Butler said.

Craig said McPherson had been hired from within the office where she worked and there was no search involved. He said a search for a new manager would probably result in having to pay that person \$125,000. He said Jackson was qualified to work as township manger, and

would be paid much less.

"What this township is facing is financial issues. And we prioritized finding someone with a financial background," Craig said.

Craig said Jackson met the qualifications and has been a member of the community for 30 years. Craig said Jackson would save the township more than it would pay him in

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Parkway end: Stay alert!

By **CHRISTOPHER SOUTH**
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Lower Township Police Chief Edward Donahue said he will be meeting with Assemblyman Jeff Van Drew and representatives of the Turnpike Authority and Department of Transportation regarding safety improvements at the southern end of the Garden State Parkway.

"I got a call from Van Drew's chief of staff. They've set up a meeting on March 22 in his office," Donahue said.

He said Van Drew wanted to discuss the entire Cape May County section of the parkway, specifically the traffic lights at Crest Haven Road, Stone Harbor Boulevard, Shell Bay Avenue, and at the southern terminus of the parkway.

Donahue sent letters to Gov. Jon Corzine and Turnpike

Authority executive director Michael Lapolla expressing the need for safety improvements at the intersection of the parkway and Route 109. Donahue referred to two recent fatal accidents occurring at the same location about six weeks apart.

On Dec. 14, 2006, Wade Dickinson, 24, of Lower Township was killed when his truck left the roadway and struck a utility pole. On Jan. 27, Steven Scholz was killed after his vehicle left the roadway and struck the very same pole.

Donahue acknowledged that excessive speed played a role in each of these accidents, however the location has been the site of numerous accidents over the years.

Lower Township Councilman Bob Nolan commented about the chief's efforts at Monday's council meeting, saying he responded to numerous accidents there when he was a volunteer fire-

man. Nolan suggested the township council pass a resolution in support of Donahue's proposal.

What Donahue has proposed is improved signage such as can be seen when approaching toll plazas. In his letter to Lapolla, Donahue has suggested a "large sign that would straddle both southbound lanes of the parkway at mile marker 1 stating: 'Warning - Parkway Ends 1 Mile - Reduce Speed.'"

Donahue suggested a second large sign at the half-mile mark reading: "Traffic Signal Ahead. Stay Alert for Merging Traffic."

Donahue feels the signage would improve safety, helping to alert drivers traveling 65 or 70 miles per hour to the upcoming intersection. He feels the signs would help until a better solution could be worked out.

"A study in 1992 recom-

Please see Mile 0, Page A2



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

100 days and counting

Kindergarten students at our Lady Star of the Sea School show off projects they made to commemorate the first 100 days of school. Each project contained 100 items.