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### DECEMBER 2010

#### TIDE TABLE

	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
12/16	3:48	4:02	9:58	9:45
12/17	4:35	4:53	10:49	10:30
12/18	5:20	5:41	11:37	11:15
12/19	6:03	6:27		12:22
12/20	6:46	7:12	12:00	1:06
12/21	7:29	7:57	12:46	1:50
12/22	8:13	8:43	1:32	2:34
12/23	8:58	9:31	2:21	3:20
New Moon	12/5			
First Quarter	12/13			
Full Moon	12/21			
Last Quarter	12/27			
Apogee	12/13			
Perigee	12/25			

## La Mer project is denied by planning board

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - In 6-3 and 6-2-1 votes, a proposal for the expansion of the La Mer Beachfront Inn on Beach Avenue was turned down by the Planning Board, Tuesday, due to concerns of board members and the surrounding community.

La Mer owner Gus Andy, wanted to utilize the concept of shared parking for the hotel and Pier House Restaurant, which he also owns. His plan was to rebuild the restaurant and add units

*'Whenever you expand, erect, or enlarge a building in Cape May, you must meet the parking requirements.'*

—Attorney Sanford Schmidt

to the hotel while at the same time adding parking spaces to the lot. The final project plans lacked 22 parking spaces required by parking code. Andy's plans contained 180 spaces when the project was

completed, where 202 were required. Andy has been constantly trying to get the board to see it his way and approve a shared parking concept, allowing both businesses to share parking.

However, two of the 22 spaces Andy proposed also needed a setback variance, allowing them to be five feet from the center of the sidewalk. After this proposal was turned down 6-3, Andy needed to be granted a variance for a 24 parking space deficit for the final project instead of 22. That request was turned down 6-2, with one abstention.

Andy's attorney, Richard Hluchan argued that the La Mer and Pier House already use the concept of shared parking and have for nearly four years, since Andy

expanded the last time, which the board approved. He said there are currently 167 parking spaces on the lot, but the parking ordinance requires them to have 189.

"We are already 22 spaces short, and we would remain 22 spaces short," he said. "Shared parking is here, it's a reality, and it works on Andy's site."

Andy had a parking study performed by Orth-Rogers and Associates on the July 4 weekend of 2009. The study concluded that during the

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## Water conservation ordinance required in Lower Township

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP - Township Council voted to introduce Ordinance 2010-11 establishing water conservation requirements in the township if necessary.

According to Matt Ecker, LTMUA Superintendent, "Any township that has water allocations from the DEP is required to have a water conservation ordinance."

"This came up as a result of the new Well No. 8 for North Cape May," Ecker said. "The DEP found we didn't have an ordinance in place."

Councilman Wayne Mazurek said the ordinance contained a lot of information and asked if something could be put out to the public to let them know about the ordinance.

"The ordinance will be published, and there will be a hearing, and we will put information into the water bills. We can also use the Reverse 911 system to get the word out," Ecker said.

Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare said Water Conservation Levels 1 and 2 were at the discretion of the LTMUA, but Level 3 did not contain the same language. Ecker said Level 3 was when the state declared a water conservation measure.

In Level 1, the MUA could order water conservation measures such as prohibiting watering or irrigation of lawns, washing vehicles, or filling swimming pools except on designated days and at certain times. Level 2 contains the same provisions plus additional restrictions, such as restaurants being directed not to serve water to customers unless they request it, or not issuing permits for new construction water meters.

A Level 3 would restrict the same activities in the previous two levels, but is declared by the state and would prohibit any outdoor irrigation and prohibit use for commercial or agricultural

Please see Water, page A3



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

## Hall'd away

Where Cape May's Convention Hall and Solarium stood there is now nothing but an ocean view. Albrecht and Heun is putting the finishing touches on the demolition of the old structure, and the next phase is pile driving, which was not expected to begin until the end of January 2011. Construction of the new Convention Hall is slated to begin May 1, 2011. The city is anticipating opening the new facility by Memorial Day Weekend.

## Prosecutor gets second term

By ERIC AVEDESIAN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE - The New Jersey Senate on Monday voted to reappoint Robert Taylor as Cape May County prosecutor with a vote of 25-12.

The Senate Judiciary Committee voted for Taylor's reappointment on Dec. 9.

Taylor, of Stone Harbor, was a holdover from former Gov. Jon Corzine's administration, who suggested him for a second five-year term.

Gov. Chris Christie and Attorney General Paula Dow conducted an extensive review of Taylor's record.

Taylor said he wouldn't have received the re-nomination nod if Christie or Dow believed his detractors.

"I want to thank Gov. Christie for objectively reviewing my record for the last six years despite some very vocal but unfounded complaints about the job I've been doing," Taylor said.

Complaints about Taylor's handling of certain high-profile homicide cases involving women and his prosecuting a state trooper whose patrol vehicle struck and killed two Upper Township sisters.

Taylor said the criticisms were unfounded.

According to Taylor, every claim of sexual assault to the county prosecutor's office results in a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) activation. Along with SART, the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) and Coalition Against Rape and Abuse (CARA) become involved.

Taylor said there's around 65

SART-trained police officers and detectives in the county who investigate sexual assault claims. The claims are then reviewed by a Special Victims Unit Review Team, consisting of a senior assistant prosecutor, a detective, a SANE coordinator and a victim representative.

"These cases are handled by largely trained, experienced experts," Taylor said.

He said senior women in the prosecutor's office review the sexual assault cases.

"I really resent the allegation that we don't look at them seriously or properly," Taylor said.

According to Taylor, there are two unsolved homicides in Cape May County since Taylor became prosecutor in 2004.

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## Point commissioners accept scout display

### Noise issue discussed

By JANICE BROWN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT - On a chilly night in Cape May Point, 10 young men from the West Cape May Volunteer Fire Company Boy Scout Troop 73 came to the borough meeting to present the recently constructed Norman Rockwell Exhibit for display in the municipal offices.

Accompanied by Troop Leader David Von Savage, the scouts took turns explaining how the display celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America and that Rockwell's illustrations in Boy's Life magazine, and many of his paintings, reflected his deep respect for scouting and for patriotic values. It was said that Rockwell had actually vacationed in Cape May Point in the 60s, adding a note of local interest to the presentation. The Board of Commissioners were pleased to accept this honor at the Dec. 9 meeting, and will put the exhibit on display through the end of the month.

Two other issues were prominently

discussed during this month's meeting. Commissioner Anita Van Heeswyck announced the recent completion and publication of a feasibility study to consolidate Cape May, West Cape May and Cape May Point school districts. She said the next step would be for the school boards to vote on the idea.

Since Cape May Point already pays tuition to send students to these other districts, no significant change is anticipated, although there needs to be clarification on a possible cost increase. Several residents - Tom May, Emelia Oleson, Sandy Allison - asked questions about the proposal during the public portion, but there was little to report, since the topic remains under review.

Commissioner John Henderson, elected Nov. 2 to fill the seat vacated by Commissioner Joe Nietubicz, spoke about last month's request for investigation of existing borough ordinances on "unnecessary noise." He said concerns about noise during daytime hours, versus nighttime hours, were handled quite differently

Please see Point, page A2

## County: Open contracts or face layoffs

By ERIC AVEDESIAN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE - The county is asking its employees to reopen their contracts and agree to reduced pay increases or face layoffs for 2011.

Cape May County Administrator Stephen O'Connor said the county is looking to save \$1.1 million in its budget and that doing so would bring the county budget under the state-mandated spending cap.

Cape May County's sheriff's officers must decide between a pay freeze or layoffs.

The officers are entitled to a raise in 2011 and 2012. O'Connor asked them to extend their current contract by a three-year period instead of a two-year period to save \$180,000 in 2011.

"What the county has offered is if they will agree to this, that we will guarantee that there will be no layoffs of existing employees," O'Connor said. "If they agree the existing health care contribution will not exceed the 1.5 percent mandated state amount."

If the sheriff's officers reject the offer, the county would lay off four to six officer positions.

O'Connor said the same proposal was offered to county corrections officers and the prosecutor's office, who approved it.

O'Connor said the sheriff's officers provided a counter offer which he said was "impractical to the county."

That counter offer, O'Connor said, included the sheriff's officers not taking an increase in 2011, but taking all raises in 2012.

"In 2012, the cap is still going to be in effect and there's no way we could fund the salary increases in 2012," O'Connor said.

County employees with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) also face reductions to their raises or layoffs.

According to O'Connor, the county's AFSME employees have one year left on their contract, and are slated for a 5 percent wage increase in July 1, 2011. The county asked them to take half of the increase in 2011 and the other half in 2012, or 2.5 percent pay increase in two years.

O'Connor said there would be no layoffs for county workers, except unfunded grant positions.

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