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CAPE MAY

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DECEMBER 2010

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	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
12/1	3:46	4:00	9:45	9:59
12/2	4:42	4:59	10:46	10:52
12/3	5:34	5:54	11:43	11:42
12/4	6:24	6:46		12:35
12/5	7:11	7:35	12:31	1:25
12/6	7:57	8:22	1:19	2:13
12/7	8:42	9:08	2:06	3:00
12/8	9:26	10:40	3:37	4:30

New Moon	12/6
1st Quarter	12/13
Full Moon	12/21
Last Quarter	12/27
Apogee	12/15
Perigee	12/25

Township Manager McPherson to retire in June 2011

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – The new Lower Township Council will have to add finding a new township manager to its list of tasks after Township Manager Kathy McPherson announced her retirement, Nov. 19.

McPherson, who will have 37 years in by the time she officially retires, Dec. 31, 2011, intends to leave her position on June 30, next year.

"I will use accumulated time leading into that date," McPherson said.

McPherson started as a receptionist with the township nearly 40 years ago and worked her way up to personnel director before being

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Study says using one school could save \$700K

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – A feasibility study conducted to examine sending West Cape May and Cape May Point students to Cape May City Elementary School indicated a combined savings of over \$700,000.

A special, joint school board meeting was held Monday night to examine the feasibility study done by Dr. Richard Perniciaro of Atlantic Cape Community College. The study looked at the potential benefits of merging elementary schools on Cape Island.

"Whether we are saving \$700,000 or \$10 million, it comes down to what is best for the children of each district."

-Cape May School Board Member Edward Connolly

The school boards of Cape May Point, Cape May City and West Cape May were all

in attendance not only to take a look at the study, but to receive public opinion as

well. The study showed if West Cape May were to merge with Cape May, a conservative estimate is taxpayers would save \$709,491.

The study used figures from 2009 to make these conservative estimates. That year, the sum of the operating costs for all three schools was \$4,281,535, but according to the report, if they were consolidated into one school, it would only cost \$3,572,044.

Perniciaro said this savings would occur because of a reduction in staff and eliminating the use of the West Cape May school building.

"The tax rate would fall a couple of cents for both West Cape May and Cape May as well," Perniciaro said. "It's not a lot."

The tax rate for Cape May Point however would increase by over a cent if the consolidation happens. Cape May Point, which has no school, operates what is called a non-functioning school district. The Point already sends students to Cape May on a tuition basis. This study explained what would occur if West Cape

Please see School, page A2

Demolition of old Convention Hall is now underway

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – City officials announced the demolition of Convention Hall and the Solarium would begin by the end of November and on Nov. 29, without any fanfare, a crew from Albrecht and Heun started methodically picking apart the two structures.

Earlier in November, city council awarded a \$109,000 contract to Albrecht and Heun, which has recycling centers in Cape May Court House and Erma. The contractor has about a four-week window in which to complete the demolition and remain on the proposed timeline for the project.

"Demolition did start on Monday," City Manager Bruce MacLeod said. "The expectation is about a three to four week process before it's finished."

MacLeod said he was not sure how the work would be affected by the holidays coming up, and so he was uncertain whether or not the physical work would be finished by Christmas.

Phil Heun of Albrecht and Heun said he believes the company will be on schedule. On Monday, Heun said, there was a lone heavy equipment operator running a machine with a "grapple" device on the end of a boom. The first stage of the demolition was to remove the wooden steps in front of Convention Hall and those in front of the Solarium. The crew knocked down the front of the Solarium, and by mid-morning removed the

doors on Convention Hall and punched a large opening in the front of the building. The contractor also made two holes in the sides of building near the beach end, large enough to allow equipment to enter the building.

Once inside, Chris "Boomer" Heun, operated a smaller grapple to strip the wood from the interior of the building. Phil Heun said the plan was to first remove all the wood, which was being taken to a county landfill. He said they had four trucks hauling demolition debris to the landfill, making 12 to 16 trips per day.

"We have the smaller unit inside, and we gut the inside to get all the wood out so we're only dealing with concrete. You have to source separate the two," he said.

Heun said his brother was running the main excavator for a long time and is quite skilled with it.

"But the machines today are just like an extension of your arm," he said.

Heun said his company would haul all the concrete debris to their recycling center where they would crush it and make it into road base.

Once all the wood is gone, Heun said, they would start pulling down the steel beams that constitute the frame of the building, and take down concrete as they move their way in.

"By the end of the day Friday we hope to have all the wood out so we are only dealing with concrete," he said.

Please see Demo, page A2



Christopher South
Cape May Star and Wave

Top, a demolition contractor's employee stands outside the former entrance to Cape May Convention Hall. Demolition began on the hall and the Solarium, right, on Monday morning and is expected to be completed by the end of December. Above, a couple walks past the demolition site shortly after the front doors were removed.



West Cape May Fire Co. will back up Cape May

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – The West Cape May Volunteer Fire Company will now be a second response team to Cape May City when their assistance is needed.

According to Commissioner Ramsey Geyer, whenever Cape May City has a call, they can call upon West Cape May, if needed, as a backup. Geyer said West Cape May will send a ladder truck, a fire engine and a team of four firefighters when they are called.

The decision comes after

Cape May Fire Chief penned a letter in which he said he did not want West Cape May responding to Cape May fire calls, citing safety concerns.

A final report for the VFC state evaluation has also been finished according to Geyer. The fire marshal did a final review of the buildings and aside from a minor issue with the fire sprinkler system, everything is satisfactory. According to Geyer, some of the sprinklers were missing the small metal covers that go over top of them, which is not crucial in making them function properly.

The Board of

Commissioners is also awaiting letters of recommendation for three applicants of the volunteer fire company.

According to Geyer, all three applicants are currently full-time firefighters in other towns and want to assist West Cape May whenever they can. He said each firefighter has passed their physical and background check.

Borough solicitor Frank Corrado said he wanted written recommendations from the fire company approving the firefighters. Geyer originally believed the firefighters

Please see Fire, page A2



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

'Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead' at LCMR, Dec. 2-3

Lower Cape May Regional High School is staging Tom Stoppard's "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead," described as "Hamlet" in cahoots with "Waiting for Godot." The play started Wednesday and runs tonight and tomorrow at the high school. **See more information and photos on page A10.**

Nutcracker Children's Tea

December 11th & 18th
11:30AM Tea & Show

*A Holiday Tradition with the
Jersey Cape Dance Academy
for children of all ages*

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