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FEB/MARCH 2010 TIDE TABLE					
	HIGH		LOW		
	am	pm	am	pm	
2/25	4:38	5:12	10:58	10:55	
2/26	5:37	6:09	11:51	11:54	
2/27	6:31	7:00		12:41	
2/28	7:21	7:50	12:50	1:28	
3/1	8:10	8:38	1:43	2:14	
3/2	8:58	9:26	2:35	3:00	
3/3	9:45	10:15	3:27	3:46	
3/4	10:34	11:05	4:20	4:33	
Full Moon			2/28&3/29		
Last Quarter			3/7		
New Moon			3/15		
1st Quarter			3/23		
Apogee			3/12		
Perigee			2/27&3/27		

Big money is hot topic at transportation conference

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Ocean City Sentinel

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – The Beesley’s Point Bridge will cost more money than anticipated to rehabilitate, according to county officials Tuesday.

Representatives from the county government and various agencies spoke about the bridge at the Sixth annual Cape May County Transportation Infrastructure Conference at the County Administration

Building in the Crest Haven Complex.

The 4,010-foot long Beesley’s Point Bridge, which spans the Great Egg Harbor Bay, connects Cape May County and Atlantic County.

The bridge opened in 1928 to traffic, but closed in 2004 due to structural concerns.

The state gave the bridge’s private owners, the Beesley’s Point Bridge Co., \$900,000 in 1997 to keep the bridge open for 20 years. Cape May County sued the state to find a solution to repairing and

reopening the bridge. As part of a compromise, Beesley’s Point Bridge Co. sold the bridge for \$1 to Cape May County in 2009 as part of an agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (DOT).

Gregory Johnson, a senior project manager with Greenman-Pedersen, Inc., reported his findings on the Beesley’s Point Bridge. The county hired Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. for \$295,000 in 2009 to perform a structural analysis on the bridge.

According to a DOT study, the bridge could be repaired for \$20 million, which would extend its life for 25 years.

However, Johnson said the total cost for the construction is estimated at \$32 million – \$12 million more than the state anticipated.

Johnson said the replacement of the bridge’s deck and framing would cost \$13.7 million, mechanical and electrical rehabilitation for the bridge’s movable span would cost \$4.5 million, new pier piles and pier rehabilitation

would cost \$4.3 million, and miscellaneous structural work would cost \$4 million.

County Engineer Dale Foster said the deck and the superstructure is \$5 million more and the movable span will cost an additional \$3 million than the state had estimated in the inspection report.

Foster said last November’s northeast storms eroded areas around the approach roads. He said some damage

Please see Money, page A2

Public gets to see modified design for Convention Hall

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Citizens got a look at an updated Convention Hall plan Friday, Feb. 19, seeing a redesigned Promenade for the first time since the it was announced the structure would be moved closer to Beach Avenue.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection approved a CAFRA permit to allow the city to build its new Convention Hall, but it would not allow the structure to cover more beach than it does now. The design had included a new footprint that would include the Solarium and about 20 feet of sand behind it. The city has advertised for bids to move the Solarium to Delaware Avenue between the Rutgers building and the Nature Center.

Mayor Edward J. Mahaney Jr. said the town meeting, attended by around 100 members of the public, was productive.

“It had so many presentations, starting with any concerns or questions by council, then public, and the news media,” he said. “It was a good session. We had a good representation, a good cross section of the diverse Cape May community.”

The cost of the \$10.5 million project could be increased due to the new design, but how much is unknown.

“There may be some additional cost, but we will have to wait and see how it plays

out in the bidding process,” Mahaney said.

The city is expecting to see a savings in construction costs, labor and materials, due to the down economy.

The city is also working with the Temple University School of Tourism and Hospitality Management to come up with plans for operating Convention Hall and city programs and events.

“We were able to disseminate this information to all people on what we have accomplished to date in terms of the planning and construction of new Convention Hall and how we are progressing with Temple,” Mahaney said.

He said architect Martin Kimmel of Kimmel-Bogrette explained the changes, which require moving the structure 24 feet closer to Beach Avenue, without making significant changes to the interior design.

Kimmel said moving Convention Hall closer to the street allowed him to give the Promenade a nicer look. A rendering prepared by Kimmel-Bogrette showed landscaping and seawalls where public seating would be located. Kimmel said the Promenade was now a graceful arc around Convention Hall and the additional landscaping softened the front of the building.

Kimmel was also able to add more restrooms than in the previous design and has enlarged the kitchen.

The project also includes

Please see Hall, page A2



Photos by David Nahan

Three LCM Champions

Three Caper Tiger wrestlers won first place at the District 32 Wrestling Tournament, Saturday. Above, heavy-weight Chaz Lear is contratulated by assistant coach Justin Mikulski, at left, and head coach Rocky Ciccuzzi. At left champions Chaz Lear (285), Josh Dickinson (112) and Dylan Gannon (215). All three are team captains.

See story and photos on B1.

Local chef and winery team up and flavor wins

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

RIO GRANDE – When a local chef and winery decided to join forces the winner was flavor.

Chef Geoff Johnson of Copper Fish and Todd and Kenna Wuerker of Hawk Haven Winery collaborated on a three-course Barrel Room Dinner at the Wuerkers’ winery on Railroad Avenue in Rio Grande.

What has become a regular feature at the winery becomes a show when Johnson takes center stage. Johnson hosts a radio cooking show at 101.5 WCFA-FMLP every Tuesday morning from 9 a.m. till noon. He has also been making a name for himself by doing cooking demonstrations, where customers not only taste what he cooks, but see how it’s done.

At Hawk Haven, Johnson informed the audience/diners of his cardinal rule: “You have to eat everything,” he said.

Not like “Eat everything on your plate or you can’t go out and play,” but try everything



being served even if it’s something you don’t like. (Author’s note: For my part, I’m not a fan of lobster. It’s too much like me – sweet, but peculiar.)

Johnson made two exceptions: there was a vegetarian in the group and someone with a shellfish allergy.

However, the lobster in a ravioli is minced or shredded and it has a mild flavor. Johnson also garnished with some crumbled andouille sausage, which he said was a Portuguese spiced sausage, and topped with a sauce made with chopped leeks and roasted grape tomatoes (in keeping with the winery theme), and an English pea puree.

Hawk Haven provided a half glass of wine with each course, and the first was a 2008 Chardonnay. We were told it was “tweaked with residuals” and had a fruitful first and a dry finish, and is good with seafood or for cooking.

Despite not knowing about wines, I could easily discern what we were being told.

Please see Flavor, Page A10

City holding third town meeting on public space improvements

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Students from the Temple University Department of Landscape Architecture are coming back to Cape May City Elementary School March 4 to report on their public space improvement project.

Mayor Edward J. Mahaney Jr. said the city has scheduled its third of four planned meetings on public space improvements as part of a joint effort between the city and university.

Mahaney said 30 seniors from the landscape architecture program will take part in the March 4 presentation, scheduled to run from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

“This will be the final conceptual design for Rotary Park, Harbor View Park and the city pedestrian trail,” Mahaney said.

At the last meeting, Dec.

10, the Temple students presented six different conceptual approaches to Harbor View Park, four for Rotary

Temple project.

Mahaney said the city also asked Temple to provide some concepts for open

“The advantage of Temple doing the actual construction drawings...is the city engineer can begin to move immediately forward...”

–Mayor Edward J. Mahaney Jr.

Park and three for the city pedestrian trail.

“Based on public input and the best aspects, they have come up with a final conceptual presentation for each of three,” Mahaney said.

A fourth area was being considered, but according to Mahaney, the Sewell Point project has been put on hold while the settlement between the city, state and seller is progressing. Mahaney said the settlement is not going as fast as the

space on Lafayette between St. John and the elementary school. He said the city has been working with the Board of Education and JCP&L so as the project is advanced it would be well thought out. He said the area goes from Lafayette back to Cape Island Creek, and the site has potential to be used for passive and active recreation.

Mahaney said the fourth and anticipated final meeting is going to take place on

Wednesday, May 5, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the elementary school.

“At that time, Temple will present the final design and construction drawings for the three sites,” Mahaney said.

The entire design project cost is \$48,000 with Temple putting up \$30,000 of in-kind contributions, which include the construction drawings.

“The advantage of Temple doing the actual construction drawings...the city engineer can begin to move immediately forward, with the authorization of city council, to make those improvements. Without the drawings, the city engineer would have to do them, which is an added expense,” Mahaney said.

Mahaney said the Rotary Park project would likely begin in the fall this year or the spring of 2011.

Fall victim was Star of the Sea’s Pastor McIntyre

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The man reported to have been airlifted to the AtlantiCare Trauma Center in Atlantic City, during the Feb. 6 snowstorm was Monsignor Thomas MacIntyre from Our Lady Star of the Sea Church.

Fire Chief Jerry Inderwies, in describing his department’s efforts during the blizzard of Feb. 5 and 6, said

the EMS services responded to a man who had fallen on the mall. He said the man struck his head and was transported to the National Guard Armory in Cape May Court House by ambulance, where he was transferred to a medevac helicopter and flown to the trauma center.

Members of the Save Wildwood Catholic Foundation posted this message on their Facebook site: “Over this past weekend,

Msgr. McIntyre suffered a fall on the ice and was air lifted to the AC Trauma Center. As of Saturday, the Monsignor was in critical condition due to a head injury. We ask that you pray for his full and immediate recovery. Thank you. Save Wildwood Catholic, Inc.”

On Feb. 16, Mayor Edward J. Mahaney Jr. announced MacIntyre’s injury during the regular city council meeting. He said MacIntyre

fell and struck his head, and five hours later realized he might be seriously injured.

Mahaney, Firefighter/EMTs Alex Toler and Tim Gay responded and prepared MacIntyre for transport to the hospital. According to Mahaney, the surgeons said actions taken by Toler and Gay probably saved the monsignor’s life.