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APRIL TIDE TABLE

	LOW	HIGH		LOW	HIGH
	am	pm		am	pm
12	3:53	4:33	10:14	10:19	
13	4:57	5:32	11:08	11:24	
14	5:54	6:25	11:58		
15	6:47	7:15	12:22	12:46	
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17	8:28	8:51	2:11	2:19	
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Inside!

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History in making in Cape May Point

Residents to get report on historic survey Saturday

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT – A professor from the University of Delaware's School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy will be in Cape May Point Saturday morning to give an update on a historic survey commissioned by the borough.

David Ames, director of the Center for Historic Architecture and Design

at the University of Delaware, will be at the public meeting room in the Yale Avenue fire hall at 10:30 a.m., April 14, to give a progress report on the survey.

Commissioner Carl Schupp, who is the governing body's liaison to the planning board, has also served as part of a group that helped develop the Historic Preservation Element of the borough's Master Plan. The borough also hired Sarah Birdsall, a New

Jersey licensed professional planner as a planning consultant to advise the Planning Board on rewriting the Historic Preservation Element. Schupp said Birdsall wrote a series of articles for the committee and made recommendations for the Master Plan. Much of her work was used in writing a description of the community, streetscape and character of the community in the introduction portion of the Master Plan.

Schupp said the borough had a partial historic survey conducted in 1986. He said the survey Ames is conducting would incorporate that survey and include the entire borough.

Ames' presentation on Saturday will be the first update on the survey, the results of which should be finalized in June.

Schupp said interest in creating a

Please see Point, page A2

Something borrowed?

Lower puts stop to private use of township equipment after anonymous tip

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Lower Township has put the kibosh on private use of township equipment after receiving an anonymous report of a police officer allegedly using a boom truck to trim tree branches.

The minute we found out, all parties concerned were called in and we put an end to the practice.'

–Walt Craig

An anonymous source sent a letter and photograph to local media saying the same information had been sent to the Cape May County prosecutor, Lower Township Police Chief Ed Donahue and township manager Joe Jackson.

Jackson was on vacation this week and unavailable for comment, Mayor Walt Craig said the information was received about three weeks ago and the practice of loaning township equipment to township employees has been halted.

"I'm aware of everything," Craig said.

Please see Lower, page A3



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Local artist Victor Grasso in his art studio in his North Cape May garage. An art show of Grasso's work opens this Friday, April 13, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Big Yellow Church on the corner of Franklin and Lafayette.

Victor Grasso: Fresh off the chopping block

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – "Primitive" is a word normally used to describe self-taught artists, and yet it is a word that does not do justice to the work of Cape May County native Victor Grasso.

Grasso's "photo realistic montages" – as his paintings have been described – seem anything but primitive. Still, Grasso is not a classically trained painter. After

high school, Grasso honed his skills painting murals for a company in Atlantic City. While this allowed him to earn a living, Grasso continued to paint for himself doing whatever made him happy.

Grasso said he knew at an early age, perhaps around age five, he wanted to make his living as an artist. Growing up, there were those around him who periodically would tell him he couldn't make a living as an artist and ought to

think about getting a real job. "They would say artists don't make it until they're dead," he said.

At the same time, his family supported and encouraged him.

Grasso had his first art exhibition when he was 21, sharing space with one other artist.

"My stuff was very different back then. It was very pop oriented and highly influenced by comic

Please see Grasso, page A4

Police charge local man with burglary, assault

WEST CAPE MAY – Police arrested a local man and charged him with assault and theft charges after a burglary investigation.

Police were called to the 400 block of Second Avenue in West Cape May shortly after midnight, April 1, to investigate a report of a suspicious person. Patrolman Kris Mazza confronted a suspect at the scene, identifying

him as Jim J. Hercher, 23, of West Cape May. Police said Hercher resisted arrest before being taken into custody by Mazza, Patrolman Thomas Toland and Sgt. John Bobik. Mazza and Toland received minor injuries during the struggle.

Police then recovered \$800 in stolen property taken from a car parked on West Perry Street.

Hercher was charged with burglary, two counts of theft, two counts of aggravated assault, resisting arrest, obstructing the administration of law, unlawful possession of a weapon, and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia. Bail was set at \$50,000 by West Cape May Municipal Court Judge David DeWeese.

Steve Bacher, Bob Jackson enter race for freeholder

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – Two individuals familiar to most in the lower cape area have entered the race for Cape May County freeholder representing the Democratic party.

Steve Bacher, who is the executive director of the Center for Community Arts in Cape May, is joining former West Cape May Mayor Bob Jackson to oppose incumbents Ralph Bakley and Gerald Thornton. Both Bacher and Jackson are currently residents of Middle Township.

Jackson is making his second run for freeholder. In 2005 he and running mate Steve Barry lost by 2,000 votes in a county long known

as a Republican stronghold. Jackson said the 2005 results were encouraging, but he is

more excited about the prospect of doing better.

"I think we could be doing far better with a new vision ...with new blood so to speak," he said.

Bacher, who worked on the 1992 Clinton-Gore campaign, said he has always been interested in public policy and running for office. Given what he considers a lack of leadership from the existing freeholder board, he feels now is the

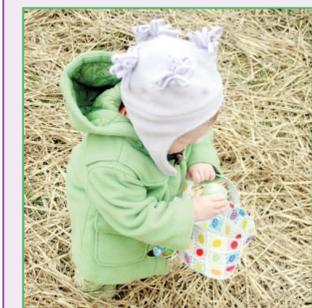
right time to seek elected office.

Bacher and Jackson are raising environmental issues as a fundamental blank in their platform.

"We need to do whatever we can to fight global warming and set an example of what can be done," Bacher said.

Jackson said some of the county's large surplus should be invested in renewable energy, which he said would pay for itself in

Please see Bacher, page A2



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Egg-cellent!

Grace Ann Barlage, 1, from Connecticut, braved the elements to participate in the annual Kiwanis Easter Egg Hunt at the Cape May Elementary School. The area saw snow flurries in the morning, but no accumulation – except for Easter eggs, which also didn't last very long.

HPC makes quick work of applications

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – With the clock reading 8:10 p.m. and no more business to conduct, HPC chairman Skip Laughlin said his wife wasn't expecting him home so early from the 7 p.m. meeting.

However, there was very little to disagree about Monday night when the Historic Preservation Commission met to consider five applications.

The HPC first listened to architect and planner Doortje Schipper make a case for conceptual approval on plans for exterior and interior renovation of the Colton Court Motel, 105 Beach Ave.

Schipper described the motel, which is in the historic district but not in the historic sur-

vey, as having "no discernable architectural style," as was typical of motels built around 1971. The building however was structurally sound, and renovation plans included maintaining the mansard roof, keeping the existing number of windows, painting the exterior, and adding more detail, such as shutters, to spruce up the appearance of the building. There would be no increase to the footprint of the 25-unit motel.

The commission voted unanimously to give conceptual approval for the upgrade so the applicant could proceed to the planning board.

The second application presented the only matter of disagreement on the night, but did not take long to settle. The application by HPC

Please see HPC, page A2