

Cape May Star and Wave

158TH YEAR NO. 8 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, February 22, 2012 50¢



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LCMR boys beat Mainland 56-51, B1

Lady Tigers down Vineland 49-32, B7

Lou Rodia on Fishing: Register your catches, B6

Community Events, A4

TIDES
February 2012
Eastern Standard Time

High	Low	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
22	8:08	8:30	1:43	2:11	
23	8:46	9:07	2:25	2:48	
24	9:23	9:43	3:06	3:23	
25	10:00	10:19	3:46	3:57	
26	10:37	10:57	4:27	4:31	
27	11:17	11:39	5:09	5:07	
28		12:01	5:57	5:48	
29	12:27	12:53	6:52	6:37	

Moon Phases
Full Moon, Feb. 7
Last Quarter, Feb. 14
New Moon, Feb. 21
First Quarter, Feb. 29
Perigee, Feb. 11
Apogee, Feb. 27

Simonsen-Lare form team

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP - Erik Simonsen, who had to give up his Ward 2 council seat in December, is joining with Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare to run for council leadership positions in the November general election.

Simonsen and Lare issued a joint press release on Feb. 17, announcing Simonsen would run for mayor, while Lare would run for reelection. Simonsen said after moving out of the ward disqualified him from serving as a ward councilman, he was interested in running for another council seat.

"I definitely was. I didn't anticipate having to step down, and I guess fuel-

ing the fire was, I had to sit through the first few months of the chaos, the not getting along, nothing getting done," Simonsen said.

Simonsen was referring to questions raised over filling his vacated Ward 2 seat, an appointment to the LTMUA board, and the reappointment of Township Solicitor Mike Donohue. With only four members on council, the governmental body could not agree on the appointments or filling the vacancy on council. Since that time there was also disagreement as to whether the Republican Committee's selection to fill the vacancy, Walt Craig, should have been sworn in at the Jan. 18 council meeting. Council has asked the Cape

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Douglass files complaints

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP - Lower Township Ward 3 Councilman Glenn Douglass filed complaints with the Department of Community Affairs and District 1 Attorney Ethics Review Board alleging conflicts of interest between council members and the township solicitor.

Douglass said he raised the issue about a month or more ago at a township council meeting. He said a citizen had asked whether Councilman Tom Conrad, as a member of the Lower Township Republican Committee and a councilman, had a conflict in voting for Walt Craig to fill the vacant Ward 2 seat. Douglass said he asked Township Solicitor Mike Donohue to

speak on the matter.

"He answered that he basically didn't think it was an issue because (Conrad) abstained from voting at the actual committee meeting," Douglass said.

"Meanwhile the other issue," Douglass said, "is, being that (Conrad) is an elected county committee member, and Mike Donohue the chairperson, whether that was a conflict for (Conrad) to vote on (Donohue's) contract."

"What was thrown to DCA was, (Conrad) and Walt (Craig) are they capable of voting on the solicitor's contract? That is probably going to be the more conflicting issue," Douglass

Please see Complaints, page A2

South Jersey Gas project is cooking

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT - The trucks have been out and crews have been working non-stop since gas main installation began in October 2011.

"They should be completed putting in the mains by the end of this month," Mayor Carl Schupp said. "They are

Gas received responses from about 400 residents interested in natural gas service. Of that number, about 300 turned in applications, and 190 customers have had gas service hooked up.

"We've had a really high level of interest from folks in Cape May Point," Gordon said.

Gordon said the Cape May Point Municipal Complex



moving right along."

Todd Gordon, a sales manager with South Jersey Gas, said after about five months of construction, they have about 90 percent of the gas mains installed in Cape May Point.

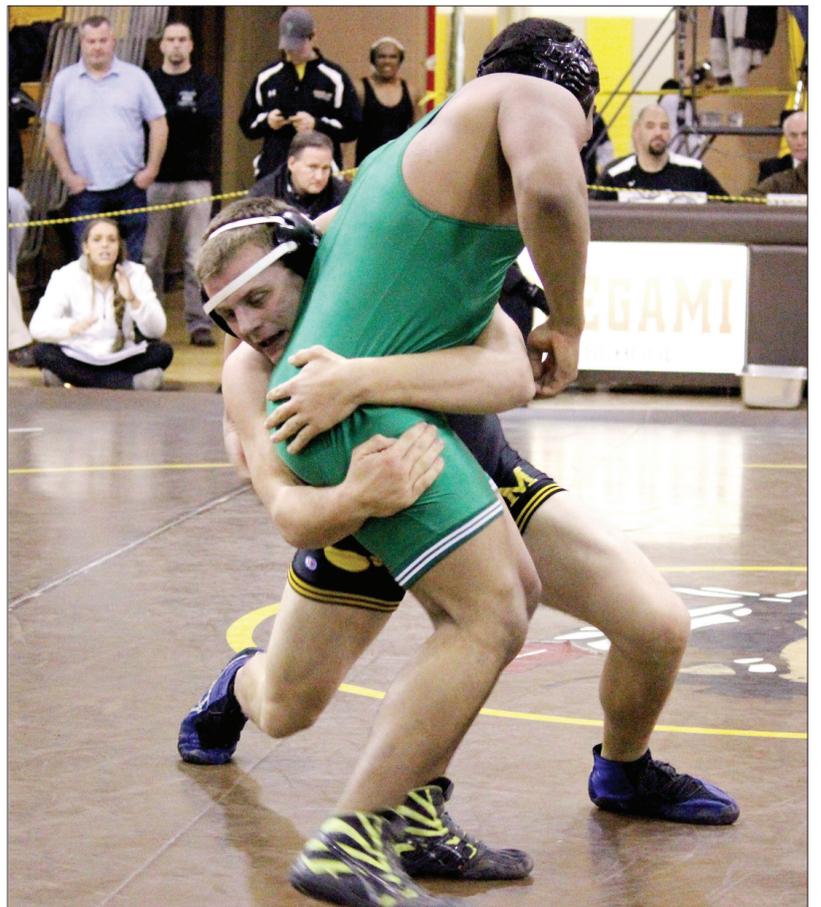
"We're projecting to be completed in March - at least the main installation," Gordon said. "We will come back behind the main installation and install service."

Gordon said South Jersey

was also included in the project, which has been about two years in the making. South Jersey Gas completed gas main installation in West Cape May prior to beginning work in the Point, which was essentially an extension of that project.

Schupp, who said he would have natural gas service by the weekend, said he believes most people have been

Please see Gas, page A2



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

Another Damiana Champion

Above, Cory Damiana (in black singlet) grapples with his opponent, Mainland Regional's Michael Anderson in the District 32 195-pound final match. Damiana, a sophomore, is following in the footsteps of older brother Billy Damiana, who won two District championships at 215 pounds. See story and photos on page, B1.

Way is paved for road completion

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP - Township Manager Mike Voll said utility work that was holding up a road extension project has been completed and the project should be completed on time.

The State of New Jersey has been working on extending Breakwater and Tabernacle Roads in order to meet Route 9. When completed, the signaled intersections will replace Bennett's Crossing and Sally Marshall Crossing. Bennett's Crossing, near Lower Cape May Regional High School does not have a traffic signal, and has been the site of several accidents, including fatal accidents. Voll said there has been recent movement on the project.

"The latest is there has been a bunch of paving," Voll said. "The hold-up was Verizon."

Voll said he spoke to the project manager and was told Verizon had to move utility



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

The extension of Tabernacle Road (above) and Breakwater Road between Seashore Road and Route 9 should be moving faster now that utility work has been completed.

poles and lines. However, that work has been done and Voll expects more rapid progress on the project, which began roughly eight months ago.

"The project has a drop dead completion date of July 1, but we're ahead of sched-

ule," Voll said. "The weather has been perfect."

Voll said he believes if there had not been a delay in getting the utilities moved the project would have been com-

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Three-phase sewer project slated for Sept.

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY - A three-phase project to improve the water and sewer infrastructure for residents in West Cape May is expected to begin in September.

In August 2011, the borough received a funding package that included a grant for \$708,000 and a low interest loan of \$2,305,000 from the Rural Development Water and Environmental Program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Borough Engineer Ray Roberts said at a Feb. 8 Board of Commissioners meeting that sewer pipes will be installed in areas where service is presently non-existent. Many of these areas consist of small lots and old septic tanks. He said the project fills in gaps between two ends flowing in opposite directions, and will bring service to properties that use septic tanks, which have started

to cause problems over the years considering their age.

"This will bring service to all the lots that have septic right now and give the opportunity to tie into the sewer system," he said.

According to Roberts, the majority of the three-phase project could be completed before Memorial Day 2013, with some work being completed thereafter. He expects all work to be completed by July 4 of next year. Roberts said bids for the project will be opening in July and awarded in August, with construction beginning around Sept. 10.

Roberts said the contractor will be given a "sequence of construction" plan in order to complete the project. Phase one includes work on Central Avenue and Park Boulevard, along with Grand Avenue and portions of Willow and Maple Avenues. He said the contractor should have the utilities in the ground and have the streets paved before Memorial Day 2013. He said

the second phase, which will involve construction on Stewart Lane and Landis Avenue, is also expected to be completed in that timetable.

The final phase of the project is spread out across sections of Third, Fourth and Fifth Avenues, as well as a portion of State Street. Roberts said the third phase may take place either before or after Memorial Day, weather permitting.

"The idea here is to get this all done without any kind of summer shutdown break, depending on how affective the contractor may be," he said.

Mayor Pam Kaithern said the entire project falls within the approved sewer service area. Roberts asked the board if they agreed with using one contractor to complete the entire project, or divide it into two separate contracts over two construction seasons. Council agreed it would most likely be less expensive to award the bid to one contractor.



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