



INSIDE



SNOWSTORM PHOTOS, p.14

SPORTS

Wrestlers beat Holy Spirit 53-22, **p.13**

Chaz Lear is undefeated, **p.13**

CAPE MAY

Police, fire kept hopping during storm, **p. 3**

FEBRUARY 2010

TIDE TABLE

	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
2/11	6:13	6:35		12:24
2/12	6:52	7:14	12:18	1:02
2/13	7:29	7:50	12:58	1:36
2/14	8:04	8:24	1:36	2:08
2/15	8:38	8:57	2:12	2:39
2/16	9:11	9:29	2:48	3:09
2/17	9:43	10:01	3:24	3:38
2/18	10:15	10:36	4:02	4:10
Full Moon		2/28		

Real Estate
Resource
inside today's
edition

Governor promises storm relief to county

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – Gov. Chris Christie visited the blizzard-ravaged southern New Jersey coast Feb. 7 and promised to seek federal funding to reimburse counties for storm cleanup.

Christie arrived to the region by helicopter to Atlantic County, where he visited the Anthony Canale Training Center in Egg Harbor Township. The governor met with State Police

"I want to say to everybody who's got family or relatives in those shelters, they're being taken care of well."

–New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie

Superintendent Col. Rick Fuentes, state senators, assembly representatives and local emergency management officials.

"The visit with the governor went really well. The governor was impressed with the amount of snow

that we received and the situation we were going through," said Atlantic County Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator Ed Conover.

Christie promised additional state government and Department of

Transportation resources for areas affected by the storm.

"Fortunately, Atlantic County didn't take as hard a hit as Cape May County," Conover said. "By the time he got down here, Atlantic was still holding its own and able to get people's

lives back to the way they were."

The governor also met with Cape May County emergency management representatives and elected officials at the county's emergency manage-

Please See Gov. page A2

Major storm drops two feet of snow

Tens of thousands lost power due to storm

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COUNTY – A heavy blizzard blanketed the southern New Jersey region from Feb. 5 to 6, dumping more than 21 inches of snow in some areas and forcing the closure of bridges and major roadways.

Residents stocked up on supplies and provisions on Friday and stayed indoors as the snow began falling late Friday night and continued throughout the day on Saturday.

The storm caused severe power outages throughout the region and high winds felled many trees and tree branches.

By Sunday, residents were digging out from the blizzard President Obama jokingly called "Snowmageddon," which temporarily closed Washington, D.C. and covered the Mid-Atlantic states with snow and ice.

Cape May County declared a state of emergency on Feb. 5 that enabled authorities to protect people and property within the county. All of the county's 16 municipalities were designated as disaster areas.

The state of emergency allowed the municipalities to restrict traffic if an emergency occurred through local police chiefs.

Cape May County Communications Director Lenora Boninfante said the county started plowing and spreading salt on the 210 miles of county roads and 29 county bridges. County public works staff rotated in 12-hour shifts to plow and salt the roadways.

"The problem we had Saturday was not just the snow but the strong winds that were gusting 45 to 50 miles per hour. The snow was a heavy wet snow on the wires. The biggest problem Cape May County experienced was downed power lines and trees," Boninfante said.

According to Boninfante, electric wires literally snapped due to the cold. She said Atlantic City Electric removed snow to get to the downed wires.

Boninfante said at the height of the storm on Saturday, there were 78,000 to 80,000 Atlantic Electric customers without electricity.

Please see Storm, Page A2



Christopher South
Cape May Star and Wave

Second blizzard in a week strikes area

Two weekends in a row the Cape May area was hit with significant snowstorms – the first on Jan. 30 and 31 measuring 9.9 inches. The second brought 18 to 24 inches of snow and resulted in major power outages. A third storm brought more snow as the Star and Wave was going to press. City officials urged residents to observe the state of emergency and stay off the roads. Above, a county snow plow works on Beach Avenue. Right, a snapped utility pole at Beach and Howard.



WCM fire hall becomes shelter during power outage



Left, emergency management personnel share information about shelter operations. From left to right are Carol Sabo, Cape May Fire Chief Jerry Inderwies, Dan Rutherford, Bob Elwell Sr. and Commissioner Ramsey Geyer. Right, Cape May residents Betty Nanifold, Lois Harris and Gina Yocum were happy to have a place to keep warm, have something to eat, and play bridge.

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – When the power went out around the Cape May area, many islanders found themselves without heat in the middle of the worst snowstorm since 1996.

However, emergency management coordinators from Cape May and West Cape May had already been working on a plan that included setting up cots and feeding up to 100 people who were transported to the West Cape May Fire Hall. The original plan was to shelter the residents in the West Cape May Elementary School, but when the boiler stopped working, the operation was moved to the fire hall.

By mid-morning there were about 20 people who needed

to be transported immediately," Emergency Management Coordinator Dan Rutherford said.

Rutherford said in an hour they had their action plan up and running.

Mayor Pam Kaithern said the plans were being made because there was no doubt the area was going to be hit hard.

"This one's been dead-on us the whole time," she said.

That being the case, all they could do was prepare.

"The Cape May Fire Department and the community pulled together," Rutherford said.

Of course, the host West Cape May Volunteer Fire Company and Boy Scout Troop 73 were integral parts of the operation.

"Chuck and the boys stepped up," Rutherford said,

referring to Fire Chief Chuck McPherson and the firefighters.

Emergency personnel, volunteers, and Boy Scouts helped dig paths to people's doors so they could be transported to the shelter. Scouts worked in the shelter setting up cots, serving food and doing whatever else they were asked to do.

Commissioner Ramsey Geyer said the Cape May Fire Police were also helping to transport people from their homes to the shelter.

On Saturday night, Mark Kulkowicz from the Mad Batter sent steak, crab cakes and salmon to the shelter, along with two chefs – Joe Latozo and Chris Schreiber – to cook for the sheltered residents. On Sunday, Rutherford said the Pilot House was delivering food to the shelter,

and feeding the residents was no longer the biggest concern.

"We just have to wait for power and heat," he said. "Hopefully it will be back on tonight. If not, tomorrow."

Bob Elwell from the WCM Fire Company said the shelter was opened under criteria established by the American Red Cross so guidelines were already in place. Two Red Cross staff members came to the shelter to help coordinate the operations, which included a check-in procedure. Each of the residents would supply their name, age, address, phone number, next of kin, and a list of medications. Residents leaving the shelter would also check out, so everyone was accounted for.

Elwell said the operating criteria also called for them

Shelter just fine with residents

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – Residents who were without power and heat could find warmth, something to eat, and even a cot to sleep on at the shelter set up in the West Cape May Fire Hall.

Still, it was a hard decision to leave home.

"I stayed home as long as I could," said Gina Yocum of Corgie Street in Cape May. According to Lois Harris of Kearney Street, there were about 95 people who came to the shelter because they were without heat, due to the tremendous snowstorm.

"This may have been the only day the Fudge Kitchen was closed," Harris said. But Harris was also look-

ing at the bright side of being forced to go to a shelter.

"It's an interesting way of meeting your neighbors and people of the town," she said.

Betty Nanifold of Cape May said everyone at the shelter was accommodating. "Everything's been done very well," she said.

She commended the firefighters, police, Boy Scouts, and a host of other volunteers who helped provide them with everything they needed.

"Someone even brought a big cake," Yocum added.

The only thing the three said they were in need of, Sunday morning, was a fourth for bridge.

Kaithern said by Sunday storm-related work was taking its toll on people.

"We have limited personnel and they are trying to keep up with the roads as much as

they wanted to have 100 cots the first night and got 20. They ended up using army stretchers for lack of cots. The shelter also needed about 150 blankets, and he said Curtis Bashaw had them sent from his Congress Hall.

Kaithern said by Sunday storm-related work was taking its toll on people.

"We have limited personnel and they are trying to keep up with the roads as much as

Please see Shelter, page A2