

Cape May Star and Wave

164th YEAR NO. 10

CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2018 \$1.00



House of the week
Page B1



Sherlock Holmes play on stage at East Lynne
Page A8



NOT SPRING YET

Nor'easter brings strong wind, surprise snowstorm to county

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — A nor'easter Friday brought down trees, powerlines and damaged a roof in and around Cape May.

Initial forecasts called for rain in Cape May County, but snow began falling in the early afternoon, at times causing whiteout conditions. Despite hours of snowfall, it did not accumulate. Residents found some snow on their car windows Saturday morning but little snow on grassy areas or streets.

Consistent wind speeds of 30 to 50 mph brought down power lines on a sporadic basis in Cape May and Lower Township. A gust of 71 mph was recorded in Cape May. The storm rapidly intensified after a fast drop in central pressure. Flooding was also intensified by a full moon.

Police and fire crews spent a considerable amount of time Friday blocking roads in neighborhoods due to downed powerlines. Branches fell and two large trees were felled in Cape May. About 2,000 customers



John Alvarez/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

A large tree fell at a home on Idaho Avenue, crushing the fence and partially landing on the roof. Consistent wind speeds of 30 to 50 mph and gusts as strong as 71 mph caused similar damage across the county.

of Atlantic City Electric lost power Friday.

A building a 221 Jackson St. next to OceanFirst Bank lost portions of its roof Friday. The building houses

See Storm, Page A4



Zeb Taylor/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

A Cape May-Lewes Ferry vessel makes the final crossing of the day March 2 during a strong nor'easter. Later crossings were canceled due to rough seas and strong winds.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Streets were flooded in Cape May, including Yacht Avenue, which is prone to flooding even in minor storms, during the high tide Friday night.

PARCC testing helps teachers focus on needs

City school using data to fine-tune its lessons

By JOHN ALVAREZ
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Teachers at Cape May City Elementary School said they have not altered their teaching to accommodate the yearly Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) test, but maintain their normal curriculum and include instruction where needed to keep students on track for the test.

The PARCC test will be given at the end of the April and the beginning of May. The teachers decided to take what they already teach and ensure they cover each aspect of the test within their normal curriculum. They took what the test would

cover and broke it down on a monthly basis, and then made sure they covered each skill.

"We started it because we wanted to make sure we hit all the areas for PARCC testing," third-grade teacher Dee Sloan.

She was part of a committee of teachers and basic skills instructors that compared the results of previous PARCC tests in the school to see if there were any trends that students may have been lacking in or what skills the students were learning in one grade they may have been struggling with in the previous grade.

"With this data we can go from kindergarten all

See PARCC, Page A4

Lower bonding \$3.9M. more for Roseann Ave.

By RACHEL SHUBIN
Special to the Star and Wave

ERMA — Lower Township Council is increasing the bond amount to finance additional costs of the Roseann Avenue drainage project. Originally passed in 2015, the bids came in millions of dollars higher than the expected amount.

"The bids came in higher and we are adding an additional \$3.9 million," Councilman David Perry said during a meeting March 5. "We have to continue on with this project, and by adding money it will help it to get off the ground and get started by spring."

A resident asked why

the board had not added additional funds in the original bond.

"Originally, we had capital finance plans to handle \$6 million," Township Manager Jim Ridgeway said. "With the bonds produced, we did not have enough at \$4.8 million and this brings the bond up to \$9 million. We are going out to bid and don't know what is coming in. It could be around \$8 million, or come in around \$7 million. We just don't know what it will be."

Councilman Thomas Conrad reported that specific roads in the Villas

See Lower, Page A4

West Cape May approves boutique hotel

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — The borough's Planning Board unanimously approved construction of a 23-unit hotel with a restaurant and rooftop pool as an addition to a historic home at 119 Myrtle Ave.

The meeting Feb. 27 was a continuation of a meeting Feb. 13. Owners Mark Lukas and Edward Celata received approval to turn the home into a three-story, 17,570-square-foot boutique hotel. A home at 123 Broad-

way would be demolished to allow access from Broadway to a rear parking area.

The project must receive approval from the county Planning Board due to a backout driveway onto Myrtle Avenue that would be used for deliveries and access to the owner's parking space. If the parking space must be eliminated to satisfy the county, the site plan could return to West Cape May's Planning Board, Planning Board solicitor Brock Russell said.

Deputy Mayor Peter Burke said the county did

not want the Myrtle Avenue driveway to be used for deliveries, so the hotel would lack a delivery area. Russell said the county Planning Board stated if the owners wish to maintain the space as proposed, they may request a waiver. He said if the county rules out the Myrtle Avenue driveway for deliveries, it would alter the site plan and the applicant would be required to return to the borough's Planning Board.

Vince Orlando, engineer and planner for the project, said he spoke with the

county Planning Board and the county has a strict policy of trying to eliminate back-out parking but did allow pre-existing nonconforming conditions to be examined.

Orlando said he would ask the county Planning Board for a waiver.

"I'm very confident that we'll be able to work out our approval with the county exactly the way we presented it to this board," he said.

The application required one variance for the size of parking stalls. Russell

West Cape May, Page A2



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The owners of this home on Myrtle Avenue in West Cape May were granted approval to turn it into a three-story, 17,570-square-foot boutique hotel with a restaurant.

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