



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The Lower Township Recreation Department's Travel Basketball Team went 18-3 and repeated as South Shore Basketball League A Division champions. The team also won the Tom Beheler/Greater Cape May Elks Basketball Tournament.

## Lower honors hoops team for championship season

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township Recreation Department's Travel Basketball Team was honored Monday by Lower Township Council for consistent championship wins and an exceptional record.

The team consists of boys in third and fourth grades. According to Councilman Erik Simonsen, the team was the South Shore Basketball League A Division champions in 2015.

"Their final record was 16 wins and five losses,"

he said.

The team repeated its South Shore championship win this year with 18 wins and three losses, Simonsen said. In addition this year, the team won the Tom Beheler/Greater Cape May Elks Basketball Tournament from a nine-team bracket, he said.

Simonsen said players Mackie Bonner, Tommy Waters and Noah Plenn were selected to participate in the inaugural South Shore League All Star Game. Plenn was selected as the most valuable player in the Margate Madness Tourna-

ment, Simonsen said.

Mayor Michael Beck and members of council presented certificates of achievement to the team.

Lower Township Manager Jim Ridgway said Coach Bob Bonner has given more than a decade of volunteer service to the township. Ridgway said he coached Bonner almost 40 years ago.

"And then we coached together and he coached my kids at one point," Ridgway said. "Bob was on a high school team that started a big turnaround as his team went 19 and one."

## Lower elementary budget seeks 2-cent tax rate hike

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

COLD SPRING — Lower Township Elementary School District is proposing a 2-cent increase in the tax rate for its 2016-17 budget, representing a \$30 annual increase for the owner of a \$200,000 home.

The amount to be raised by local purpose tax is \$16,643,631, up \$326,345 from last year. The budget totals \$28,728,702, up \$294,813 from last year.

Business Administrator Frank Onorato said the budget increased in part

due to interest payments on \$129,000 in debt service.

In January, voters approved a referendum bonding \$2.5 million for repairs at three elementary schools in the Lower Township Elementary School District. Since the administration office has been moved to Mitnick School, funds are needed to renovate that area.

At that time, District Superintendent Jeff Samaniego said for a number of years the district had been putting expensive "Band-Aids" on its roofs that were not cost effective,

he said. The bond allows replacement of roofs at the Mitnick and Maud Abrams schools, where severe leaks were experienced.

Parking lots at the Sandman Consolidated School and Maud Abrams School are in need of drainage improvements.

If the budget is approved, the tax rate would be 46.6 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

The Lower Township Elementary Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the budget at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 26, in the Mitnick School library.

## Grandparents group puts focus on 'Parenting Again'

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Rutgers Cooperative Extension Family and Community Health Sciences will hold part two of its "Parenting Again" program for the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 28, at Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cape May County, 355 Court House-South Dennis Road in Cape May Court House.

The program covers a variety of topics for grand-

parents, including how to adjust to your new role, taking care of you, reducing stress in your life, personal relationship changes, family relationships, challenges with your adult child, your troubled grandchild, love and limits, and forgiveness.

Childcare will be provided. A light supper for the grandparents and grandchildren begins promptly at 5:30 p.m. and the program will follow at 6 p.m. There is no charge for this program. However, advanced registra-

tion is required.

Also, grandparents are invited to continue the conversation from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Friday, April 29, during "Coffee Fridays." Grandparents are invited to learn about some of the resources and support available to them and also share their thoughts and concerns.

There is no charge for either program. Call Marian at (609) 465-5115, ext. 609, to register or for more information.

## Bullying

Continued from Page A1

student to stop their unkind behavior.

"They're starting to learn the concept of not just being a bystander," she said.

Superintendent Victoria Zelenak said the program was started at the college level. Research has shown an individual is more likely to take action in a situation if they are with other people, she said. A person alone may assume someone else will take action, such as calling the police if they witness a crime in progress, Zelenak said.

She said students previously were apprehensive in reporting mistreatment

from other students because they feared retribution from the bully.

"Even parents don't want to say anything because they don't want it to get worse for their child," Zelenak said.

Hoff said an assembly explaining Green Dots was held early in the school year. She said students wear a Green Dots T-shirt to school on the first Monday of each month.

Pron said students wore Green Dots shirts when they rode on a float in the West Cape May Community Christmas Parade and that students participate in the annual Green Dots Olympics, which mixes children from different grade levels in team-building events. The games are modeled after the Olympics, with

versions of events such as a bobsledding, track and hockey. U.S. Coast Guard recruits volunteered to help with the Green Dots Olympics, Pron said.

A Green Dots activity will be held at the end of the school year to refresh students' memories of what the program is all about, Hoff said.

Two students from each classroom are chosen by their teacher to be a Green Dots Ambassador, which is a leader in and out of the classroom who will influence others to make the right choices. A Green Dots Ambassador is a classmate that others can reach out to if they don't feel comfortable talking to an adult or teacher, according to the school's website.

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\*\* The Huntsman: Winter's War PG-13  
11:30, 2:10, 4:40, 7:30, 10:00

\*\* The Jungle Book PG 11:10, 1:40, 4:00, 6:40, 9:00

\*\* The Jungle Book PG 11:40, 2:20, 7:20

\*\* The Jungle Book 3D PG 4:50, 9:40

\*\* Criminal M 11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30

\*\* Barbershop: The Next Cut PG-13  
11:25, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45

Batman V Superman PG-13  
11:50, 3:00, 6:30, 9:35

The Boss R 11:10, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 9:55

\*\* No Passes

**Cape May Star & Wave**

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## City seeking funds to help frequently flooded homes

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved an application to the Department of Homeland Security for the 2016 Flood Mitigation Assistance program.

According to Mayor Edward Mahaney, the program was developed after Superstorm Sandy struck the East Coast in October 2012.

"It is being emphasized this year by the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA," he said.

The Flood Mitigation Assistance program (FMA) allots money on both a municipal and county basis through the state for the purpose of

looking for repetitive-loss properties in a municipality with the option of buying the property or assisting the owner with elevation or for commercial properties to help with flood proofing.

"The city of Cape May is working with the county OEM (Office of Emergency Management) and also the state police OEM and also FEMA to put together a joint application with the county," Mahaney said.

He said the city has the same option to work with homeowners.

"We're not allowed to identify the repetitive loss or severe repetitive loss program participants under federal regulations," said

the mayor. "We don't have as many as other towns."

Mahaney said the city has twice contacted owners of properties with repetitive loss to see if they are interested in receiving help to prevent further flooding. He said FEMA and the National Flood Insurance Program are undertaking the FMA program as a way to cut their losses for properties that have had four or fewer flood claims.

The city sent a letter of intent to the county of its interest in participating in its program, Mahaney said, adding that it would probably give the city an opportunity to get additional hazard mitigation program money.

## Room tax collections down in January

CAPE MAY — Room tax collections from the city's hotels/motels and bed and breakfast inns in Janu-

ary totaled \$18,568, down \$1,760 from \$20,329 during the same time in 2015. Cape May receives room

tax payments from the state on a two-month delay.

"The good news for the 2016 year cumulatively, the payments start in November, December, January, the first three months, we're \$15,547 over 2015," Mayor Edward Mahaney said. "That's a good sign."

TIDES : April 2016				
DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
20	7:46	8:09	1:28	1:43
21	8:24	8:44	2:07	2:17
22	9:00	9:19	2:46	2:50
23	9:35	9:53	3:23	3:22
24	10:11	10:27	4:00	3:54
25	10:46	11:02	4:37	4:28
26	11:23	11:40	5:17	5:05
27		12:04	5:59	5:48

**MOON PHASES**  
Full moon, April 22 • Last quarter, April 30

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Best of CAPE MAY 2015

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