

Cape May Star and Wave



House of the week

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Dunkleflugel a tradition in Fichter family

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164th YEAR NO. 48 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2018 \$1.00



John Cooke/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Sunny and mild weather Nov. 25 brought shoppers out to the Washington Street Mall in Cape May.

Shoppers plentiful, pace calm as holiday buying season starts

By JOHN ALVAREZ
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — As the calendar move on and local residents and tourists move forward from making sure their bellies are filled with warm turkey, stuffing and pie to filling their shopping carts with presents for family and friends, the holiday shopping season has shifted into high gear.

Although southern New Jersey is more known publicly for the summer tourist season, a close second is the reputation the area has for shopping during the holiday season.

Yet, according to a few business owners, there was slight concern about the placement of the Thanksgiving weekend, since it was the earliest the holiday could be celebrated. For some merchants, there was a slight concern the first weekend

'There was a steady flow everywhere in town. I would walk into places like Love the Cook on the Washington Street Mall and there were four to five people in line at the counter. It was the same at Convention Hall where the craft show was happening. Everyone was walking around with their arms filled with shopping bags from so many different stores. It was rather neat.'

—Dawn Brautigam, local resident

of the gift-buying season would be down because people just might not be in the mood.

They really needn't have worried.

"There was a steady flow everywhere in town," said Dawn Brautigam, local resident who took advantage of the four-day weekend to pick up some gifts for her family. "I would walk into places

like Love the Cook on the Washington Street Mall and there were four to five people in line at the counter. It was the same at Convention Hall where the craft show was happening. Everyone was walking around with their arms filled with shopping bags from so many different stores. It was rather neat."

Jeffrey Hebron, local

leather smith who makes custom belts and bags to sell at trade shows, agreed not only with the crowds around the area but for the amount of dealers as well.

"Take a look around," he said, sitting in his booth at Willow Creek Winery in West Cape May. "Last weekend I was the only vendor out here. Today, there are few vendors and a lot of people. Everyone's happy. It's been so good, tonight I am going to take my leftover turkey and have a second Thanksgiving."

Donna Griebau, a wood-crafter who owns Rough Cut Customs by Donna, where she makes custom wooden signs and vinyl decals, also was surprised how many people went to Willow Creek over the weekend. Especially after she saw all the rain that

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HPC OKs retail, residential plan for Decatur St.

Owner of FiNS, Peter Shields Inn to renovate Carpenters Lane home

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) granted final approval to a major renovation of 215 Decatur St., a historic building on the corner of Carpenters Lane and Decatur Street, just off the Washington Street Mall.

The renovation will include installation of all new wood windows, wood siding and a metal standing seam roof on the porches. A retail storefront will be created on the Carpenters Lane side of the building and a side entry providing barrier-free access to the retail level and a guest house level on the second floor.

Jeff Gernitis, owner of FiNS Bar & Grille and Peter Shields Inn, appeared before the HPC on Nov. 19.

Architect Joe Ross said the HPC granted conceptual approval to the project in May. Ross said he did not seek final approval at that time because

he needed to make application to the Zoning Board for bulk and use variances due in part to the proposed retail on the ground floor, not a use permitted in the residential-seasonal zone.

Ross said he and Gernitis appeared before the Zoning Board in October, when two objectors spoke against some features of the plan.

"We asked to be tabled until the following meeting so that we could have an opportunity architecturally to deal with the objectors' concerns, if that was possible, and we made a series of changes to the plan that was approved here in May (by HPC) to accommodate their changes," Ross said.

He said at the November Zoning Board meeting, one set of objectors was represented by counsel and another objector came out in support of the project.

That generated some changes to the original approval. See HPC OKs, Page A5

Forecasters: Wet fall leads to snowy winter

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

MILLVILLE — Get out the scarves, heavy sweaters, boots and mittens. If forecasters are correct, we are in for a cold, snowy winter.

SNJ Today Television and WIBG Radio meteorologist "Nor'easter Nick" Pittman issues an annual winter prediction and this one sounds just plain cold. He said a major part of his winter forecast is looking at sea surface anomalies.

"I'm looking at ocean temperatures relative to normal at different areas across the world," Pitt-

man said. "The three most important areas are west of Australia that has to be cold."

"You need a central-based El Nino and then you have the warm water to the south of Alaska," he continued. "So, all of these work together in conjunction to pull the cold air down from Canada."

Essentially, a ridge exists over the western U.S., he said.

"What goes up, must come down. We have a trough that forms in the East, so having seen that early in the fall season play

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N.J. Senate, Assembly panels advance marijuana measures

By ERIC AVEDESIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

TRENTON — State lawmakers advanced bills Monday that would legalize possession of marijuana for recreational use in New Jersey.

The Senate and Assembly budget committees voted to advance bills that would move the issue of recreational marijuana before the full Legislature.

Gov. Phil Murphy campaigned on making recre-

ational marijuana legal. If the full Legislature approves a bill and Murphy signs it, legalized cannabis in New Jersey could be a reality in early 2019.

Ten states plus the District of Columbia have legalized recreational use of cannabis: Alaska, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont and Washington.

The New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory and Expungement Aid Modern-

ization Act (S2703) would legalize possession and personal use of 1 ounce or less of marijuana for people 21 years of age or older.

The bill includes a 12 percent tax on the commercial marijuana industry and a 2 percent local tax on towns hosting marijuana dispensaries.

In March, Ocean City Council expressed its opposition to opening a marijuana dispensary in the resort.

Councilman Michael DeVlieger, one of the harshest critics of recreational marijuana, remained adamant against allowing it in the resort.

"I'll die before I'll vote for recreational marijuana in Ocean City," DeVlieger said in March. "Medical is a different story. ... Medically they need what they need. What people do in the privacy of their home I have no issue with that. It's a very slippery slope, and I don't want it here.

That goes for dispensaries as well."

New Jersey projected revenues as high as \$500 million annually in taxes from marijuana sales.

The legislation put forward by the committee also makes it possible for expunging records for people with prior arrests and convictions of possession and distribution of up to an ounce of marijuana. The Administrative Office of the Courts must create an electronic filing system for

expedited expungements six months after the bill becomes law.

A newly created Cannabis Regulatory Commission would supervise the marijuana industry. Comprised of five members appointed by the governor and Legislature, the commission would act independently but be part of the Department of Treasury. The commission's responsibilities would include

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