



House of the week

Real Estate Resource



Sunken ships reveal their secrets

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164th YEAR NO. 31 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2018 \$1.00

Hurricanes have East Coast in crosshairs

Meteorologists say warmer water off Carolinas favorable to formation

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

STONE HARBOR — Ocean temperatures this year are favorable for hurricane development off the Carolinas, creating a bigger threat to the East Coast.

SNJ meteorologist Nor'easter Nick Pittman hosted a hurricane conference July 25 in Stone Harbor featuring television meteorologists from Philadelphia and New York, as well as a retired National

Weather Service meteorologist and a local weatherman.

Pittman said his hurricane forecast for 2018 does not differ greatly from the National Hurricane Center's predictions. He said Hurricane Chris, a mid-July storm, was an indication of "things to come this season."

"I'm more concerned about tropical development closer to the continental United States than I was last year," Pittman said.

He said he is not guaranteeing

a tropical storm or hurricane will track right up the East Coast, but said conditions are favorable for such an event.

The Bermuda High, a broad area of high pressure, acts as a steering current, he said. The Bermuda High can drive a tropical storm up the coast and toward the mid-Atlantic region.

Pittman said high pressure had a strong influence on driving Hurricane Sandy toward New Jersey in fall 2012. He said it's not a ques-

tion of if but when a hurricane will strike this region.

"Eventually, there is going to be a major hurricane that impacts our region," Pittman said.

Warm water is needed for a system to develop, he said. This year, ocean water temperatures are cooler in the usual areas of development but warm water is located off the coast of the Carolinas, he said.

"That is where I think most of your development is going to be

and where most of the storms are going to track," he said.

Pittman said Hurricane Chris became stationary for several days and intensified. He said he is expecting a slightly above-average number of hurricanes this season.

He said forecasting will be more difficult this year because when storms develop closer to the U.S., there is a shorter period of time to

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Jeff Stewart Jr./Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Dynamic dolphin duo

A pair of bottlenose dolphins follows and frolics in the wake of the 110-foot Cape May Whale Watcher during a sunset cruise off Cape May Point. Sunset dinner cruises leave at 6:30 p.m. daily from Miss Chris Marina in Cape May.

Local schools adjust as aid redistributed

Lower district cuts \$172,000 to offset losses

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

COLD SPRING — Lower Elementary School District will lose \$3.5 million by 2025 under a bill Gov. Phil Murphy signed into law July 24 to redistribute state adjustment aid.

The bill phases out state adjustment aid to many schools in the county, creating large deficits in operating funds. It modifies the school funding law, eliminating adjustment aid for a number of districts and sending more money to districts where state aid has not kept up with increasing enrollment.

During a Board of Education meeting July 24, Business Administrator John Hansen said state adjustment aid would be reduced to the school district by 5 percent the first year, 13 percent the second year, 23 percent the third year, 37 percent the fourth year, 55 percent the fifth year, 75 percent the sixth year and completely by 2025.

"We're going to have to reduce our budget over the next several years going to 2025 by a total of \$3.5 million," he said. "This year was our first cut."

Next year's cut is expected to \$426,000, which combined with this year is a cumulative reduction of close to \$600,000, Hansen said. The following year, the cumulative effect would be \$1.2 million, he added.

"We will have to really tighten our belts moving forward," Hansen said.

He said when new positions become available in the school district, they must be looked at very carefully.

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LCMR cuts \$311,000 to offset losses

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA — The Lower Cape May Regional School Board of Education approved a \$311,000 cut in the school district's 2018-19 budget to offset that amount of revenue lost following Gov. Phil Murphy signing a bill July 24 to redistribute state adjustment aid by 2025.

The bill eliminates adjustment aid for a number of districts and sends more money to districts where state aid has not kept up with increasing enrollment, such as in Camden and Somerset counties.

Lower Cape May Regional's budget-reduction plan saves \$27,208 by not filling an open teaching position and \$54,415 by not hiring an additional behavioral specialist.

Under the maintenance category, \$65,000 will be saved by not replacing heating and air conditioning units and rooftop exhaust fans. A total of \$12,000 will be saved by not purchasing a "mule" for upkeep of the grounds. A mule is a four-wheel drive Kawasaki vehicle.

The budget cuts eliminate the purchase of a new school bus at a cost of \$103,306.

Also eliminated from the budget is the purchase of additional security cameras at a cost of \$50,000. All told, the budget reductions total \$311,929.

Business Administrator Mark Mallett said

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Villas man found dead at Lepore's Pit

By DEBORAH MCGUIRE
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — A Villas man, found unresponsive by Lower Township police July 24 at a local wildlife management area, was pronounced dead

after rescue attempts were unsuccessful.

According to a news release issued by the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office, Lower Township police responded to a call for medical assistance at the Cape Island Wildlife Management

Area. The area, commonly known as Lepore's Pit, is in the Erma section of the township.

Upon their arrival, officers were directed to the bank of a lake on the property where they saw a male lying on his back. The victim, later

identified as Victor Zenglin, 34, was unconscious. Rescue efforts were unsuccessful. According to the release, an investigation was immediately initiated by the Major Crimes Unit of the Prosecu-

Villas man, Page A2

City seeks architect for police/fire station

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council has taken the first step to building a new \$10 million public safety building to house the fire and police departments by seeking an architect to design the structure.

During a special meeting July 24, council approved

advertising a request for qualifications and proposals for architectural and engineering services for a new public safety building. Once received, proposals will be reviewed and evaluated, including each firm's qualifications, relevant experience, work plan and fee proposals, according to the request for qualifications/proposals document.

City Manager Neil Young told the Star and Wave the city Public Safety Building Advisory Committee would review proposals from architectural/engineering firms and come up with a short list. A subcommittee will interview potential candidates, he said.

"Once the interviews are completed, the committee will provide a recommen-

dation to City Council and City Council can either take that recommendation or ask for more," he said.

"The short firms will be invited to provide a presentation including concepts, budget and design and construction schedules," states the request for qualifications/proposals.

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