



## House of the week

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## Time to take plants inside for winter

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164th YEAR NO. 38 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2018 \$1.00



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

## Stormy seas make for tasty waves

Surfers at Grant Avenue in Cape May took advantage of large swells generated by Hurricane Florence, fortunately far to the south, on Friday, Sept. 14.



## Hurricanes can send migrating birds off course

By JOHN COOKE

Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — Every fall, thousands if not millions of birds migrate southward through Cape Island.

The Cape May Bird Observatory monitors certain species daily. Most birds wait for favorable winds and weather before starting a migratory flight, so they seldom strike out over water during a hurricane, but some birds may be well offshore when a storm strikes.

Hurricane Florence made landfall Thursday near Wilmington, N.C., with wind gusts exceeding 90 mph.

“For birds that get caught up in the actual hurricane, a few things can happen. They die, rarely, but it happens,” said David La Puma, director of the Cape May Bird Observatory. “More common if they get caught in the storm and taken out to sea, some simply get displaced.”

The typical weather pattern in fall is cold fronts moving from west to east. When they clear the coast, northwest winds build in conveying birds south and east. As birds get pushed to the coast, they concentrate at places such as Cape May because for the most part they do not want to be over the Atlan-

tic Ocean, according to La Puma.

He said pelagic birds (seabirds) can get caught up in the eye of a hurricane because the weather in the eye is calm, relative to the very strong winds that make up the eye wall. So pelagic birds caught up in the eye can be deposited on land once a storm makes landfall and loses energy.

“This can result in some very weird inland records for otherwise oceanic species such as albatross, frigate birds, storm petrels, petrels and others,” La Puma said. “Sometimes we find dead seabirds after storms, which suggests that it’s not all

peachy out on the high seas in the face of a hurricane.”

“When we get these storms making landfall, it’s usually because there is no cold front to sweep it away into the North Atlantic and we lack the northwest winds,” La Puma continued. “What we often end up with are east or northeast winds, which push the southbound migrants inland.”

During Hurricane Sandy in 2012, pelagic birds were seen at Beltzville State Park in Pennsylvania, according to David Hawk of Lehigh, Pa.

“We saw jaegers and

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## Terror experts: See something, say something

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — If you see something that doesn’t look right, say something — that was the message of several speakers during a Home-town Security Initiative held Sept. 18 at Convention Hall to help local businesses and their employees support the safety and security of the communities they serve.

The seminar was held in collaboration with the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, county Prosecutor’s Office, Cape May County Chamber of Commerce, county Office of Emergency Management and Cape May police.

David Kanig, statewide counterterrorism coordinator liaison with the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (NJOHSP), said there are eight signs of terrorism, be-

ginning with surveillance of a target in a planning phase that may involve photography. Terrorists may attempt to gather elicited information about critical infrastructure by making inquiries about operations and staffing, and may place people at key locations to monitor day-to-day activities, he said.

“Suspicious activity does not have to be illegal activity,” Kanig said. “It’s not illegal to sit on the boardwalk and watch people walk around. It’s not illegal to come to Cape May’s boardwalk and take pictures of things.”

The question becomes what is the purpose of those pictures, he said.

Kanig said the NJOHSP has a database that is shared across numerous law enforcement agencies. He said a lead was written in New Jersey last year that received

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KANIG

## ACCC to offer drone industry career training

By CAROL R. EMMENS  
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Drones, for some, are toys or weapons. But for others, drones, or unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), are so much more and offer opportunities to change society in many ways.

The can enhance employment and research opportunities in the Atlantic and Cape May counties, as well as in many other parts of the country.

Atlantic Cape Community College recently received a three-year grant of \$224,761 from the National Science Foundation to develop courses to teach technical

training related to drones and offer a certificate program.

Jim Taggart, a professor of information systems and aviation studies at Atlantic Cape, said the grant will allow the college to expand its current Unmanned Aircraft Operations Specialist certificate program.

To encourage students to participate in the programs, they will be able to apply those credits toward an associate degree.

To achieve its goals, Atlantic Cape will research what is needed for a technician to maintain, upgrade and repair UASs less than 55 pounds, and it will collab-

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## Chamber to host candidates for Cape May City Council

CAPE MAY — The Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape May is holding a Meet the Candidates Night from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 19, in the Penthouse Ballroom at the Grand Hotel of Cape May, 1045 Beach Drive.

Audience members will be

able to submit written questions to the candidates. Seating is limited to 250 people. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m.

Candidates on the Nov. 6 ballot for City Council are Mark Disanto, Shaine Meier, Zack Mullock, Stacy Sheehan and John Van de Vaarst.



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