LCMR budget raises taxes in Lower, WCM

By Jack Fichter

Cape May Star and Wave

COLD SPRING — The Lower Cape May Regional School District Board of Education approved its 2016-17 budget April 26, which calls for a 4 cents increase for property owners, raising the local tax rate to $4.70 per $100 of assessed value.

The district will increase expenditures for personnel, supplies, utilities, insurance, and contractual programs but spend less on instructional salaries, the budget shows.

The budget contains $39,146,000 in expenditures on debt service in a bond issue.

In January, voters approved a referendum to build a new K-5 school district in the district. Since the administration office has been moved to the Maud Abrams school, funds are needed to renovate that area.

The bond allows replacement of roofs at the Milnocket and Maud Abrams schools where severe leaks were experienced. Parking lots at the Foundation Consolidated School and Maud Abrams school are in need of drainage improvements. Buildings Administration, including the school grounds, must be raised to pay for upkeep.

The owner of a $228,000 home would pay $2,180 in property tax, an increase of $90 over last year, or 4.6 percent increase over the previous year.

The owner of a home assessed at $250,000 in Cape May will see an increase of $100 to $445. The tax bill for the owner of a $250,000 home in Lower Township will see an increase of $100 to $973. The owner of a $250,000 home in West Cape May will see $100 to $455.

The budget will be presented at the May 8 school board meeting.

See LCMR Budget, Page A2

Lightning sparks townhouse fire in Cape May

By Jack Fichter

Cape May Star and Wave

Cape May — Lightning struck a townhouse in the 900 block of St. James Place about 12:55 a.m. May 3. According to Cape May Fire Chief Alex Coulter, heavy fire was through the roof when firefighters arrived. Crews backed out of the interior when the roof collapsed, and adjacent unit suffered only smoke damage.

Fire companies responded from the Wildwoods and from as far north as Marmora and Tuckahoe to the Cape May fire. An estimated three men Thursday night were rescued and taken to the hospital.

Cape May firefighters and police responded to 363 St. James Place after a 45-foot Response Boat-Medium from the U.S. Coast Guard launched to the scene. Petty Officer 2nd Class James Puppon, Station Cape May officer in charge, said the boat was requested after a vessel collision.

The boat, which entered the scene at 1:16 a.m., was en route from the Seal Cove area near the Stone Harbor Inlet to deliver personal belongings to the boaters who were involved in the collision.

The boat arrived at the scene at 1:36 a.m. and had to be removed from the water, at which time the crew was sent to the 363 St. James Place residence by a 30-foot Response Boat-Small. The boat also delivered a rescue tube to the residence.

The crew of the fishing vessel Last Stand was extremely prepared and knowledgeable about their safety equipment and procedures, said Petty Officer 2nd Class James Puppon, Station Cape May officer in charge, who allowed them to abandon ship within 15 minutes of the collision, including scrambling into their survival suits and ultras into their life raft. They stayed on their own.

The Last Stand, an inshore vessel, ran aground.

See MOTHER'S DAY • MAY 8

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Part of the mandate for open space projects is to protect and maximize the habitat of the monarch butterfly, said Kevin Maloney, president of the Cape May County Board of Education, at the 28th annual Wings of the Wild conference at Cold Spring Harbor Saturday morning in Cape May. Maloney, who chairs the Conference of New Jersey and Delaware of Environmental Protectors, was the keynote speaker at the Wings of a Monarch Conference. The event explores the monarch butterfly migration, along with the need for open space projects in Cape May County.

The population of monarchs has been decreasing over the years, and the butterflies, which travel about 3,000 miles, are a “必須” species in Cape May, Maloney said.

The节目 was presented by Larry Hume, an owner of the adjacent Sunset Beach Resort.

See Monarch, Page A7

Szczer's grand slam seals Chicago's win

By Jack Fichter

Cape May Star and Wave

Cape May — During his time at the University of Chicago, Szczer was one of the top batters in the country. In 2016, the Sonoma State graduateMatt Szczur hit his one home run for the Chicago Cubs. Szczer hit a home run in the 7th inning. He put the ball in the air and put it up the middle of the field. He was second baseman of the University of Chicago.

Szczer said he was “very excited” about his grand slam. He said the deal for the win. He ran around the bases. He showed joy in what just happened.

The Cubs edged the Cincinnati Reds 5-4 Wednesday in the 1st inning.

See Grand slam, Page A4

USCG rescues three after scullliner sinks

By Jack Fichter

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The U.S. Coast Guard rescued three men Thursday from their small watercraft about six miles south of Petty Officer 2nd Class Dan Blackerbury, Station Cape May officer in charge, said the crew launched a 33-foot Response Boat-Small to the scene. The RB-SM crew arrived on scene and found the three boaters to be about 1,000 feet southeast of the fishing vessel Last Stand.

The crew of the fishing vessel Last Stand was extremely prepared and knowledgeable about their safety equipment and procedures, said Petty Officer 2nd Class Dan Blackerbury, Station Cape May officer in charge, who allowed them to abandon ship within 15 minutes of the collision, including scrambling into their survival suits and ultras into their life raft. They stayed on their own.

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