



House of the week
Real Estate Resource



Monarch Festival celebrates plight of the butterflies

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Run for the Fallen honors New Jersey's war casualties

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP — The 10th annual Run for the Fallen stepped off from Sunset Beach at 7:45 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 27, on a 196-mile run that honors every New Jersey service member killed in support of all wars and conflicts.

In an apolitical reflection of remembrance, a team of active-duty military personnel from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and other bases came together to embark on the four-day run, which concluded at the Gold Star Family Memorial in Holmdel.

They ran one mile with one flag for each soldier, a total of almost 400 hero markers between Cape May and Holmdel. Each mile was dedicated to a New Jersey hero and their family. The run team stopped at each hero marker, presenting a flag and personalized biography to waiting loved ones and friends, creating a 196-plus-mile memorial trail through the state.

Runners stopped on Cape Island to honor specific members of the military at the lighthouse, Cape May and West Cape May elementary schools, West



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The 10th annual Run for the Fallen Core Run Team arrives at Lower Cape May Regional High School on Sept. 27 on its 196-mile trip to honor every New Jersey service member killed in support of all wars and conflicts.

Cape May Fire Hall, Cape May's War Memorial and across the bridge at Sandman Consolidated School.

According to its website, the Core Run Team con-

sisted of dedicated military personnel who came together to run 190+ miles over four days to pay tribute to their fallen comrades and Gold Star families.

A flag ceremony and dinner for Gold Star families, those who lost sons or daughters in service of

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Oktoberfest a big success

The Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape May presented Oktoberfest on Saturday, Sept. 29, on Jackson Street and Carpenter Lane. Stilt walker Mackie holds the biggest stein of beer at the event while Willi Aust, of Buckingham, Pa., plays the accordion. The well-attended event included a beer garden, food court and artisans selling crafts, antiques and collectibles.

Lower bans release of helium balloons

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township Council passed an ordinance Monday prohibiting the release of balloons filled with helium or other gasses within the township.

Councilman Tom Conrad thanked Deputy Mayor Frank Sippel for reintroducing the ordinance that was under discussion a few years ago.

"I can't tell you how important this is, and especially for anybody who has children," resident Sharon Bloom said. "What we see down at Sunset Beach would horrify most people."

She said the new ordinance would give her the power to stop people preparing to release 40 or 50 balloons.

"They tell me I have no right and there is no law," Bloom said. "Now I can say, 'Yes there is an ordinance.'"

Bloom said in her spare time, she volunteers with the Marine Mammal Stranding Center of Brigantine. She said she has seen large turtles wash up on the beach with plastic cords from balloons wrapped around their necks.

"The big story that the balloon industry will tell you is latex is biodegradable, but it's treated with chemicals to make that balloon," Bloom said. "It's biodegradable but it takes six months to four years and when it falls into the bay and deflates, it looks like a jellyfish."

Dolphins and turtles eat
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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The run team greets James Scusa, whose brother Michael Scusa, a 2005 graduate of Lower Cape May Regional High School, was killed Oct. 3, 2009, in Kamdesh, Afghanistan.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The run team lines up at the Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum, where a flag ceremony and dinner was held for Gold Star families.

Frank Theatres files for bankruptcy reorganization

Redevelopment plan for Beach Theatre complex does not include movie theater

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Frank Theatres, owner of the former Beach Theatre complex on Beach Avenue, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. The company also owns the Rio Mall, the former Kmart shopping center in Rio Grande and the Rio Stadium 12 Theatre at that location.

The Frank organization filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection under four entities: Frank Entertainment Cos., Frank Theatres Management, Frank Investments

and the Rio Mall LLC in Rio Grande. The filings were made in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Owner Bruce Frank told the Star and Wave the bankruptcy was an "overall corporate strategy." He said the Chapter 11 filing is a reorganization of its companies and it planned to work with a group to redevelop the Beach Theatre site in Cape May. He acknowledged the city granted approval to construct condominiums on the site several years ago.

"Overall it will be good for the city and great for the property,"

Frank said.

He said it was not in their plans to work with the developers of the Harbor Square Theater, a venue that combines movies, food, wine and live entertainment in Stone Harbor, to return the building to use as a theater.

"We do have a plan, that's why they call it a plan of reorganization," Frank said.

The closing of Kmart in Rio Grande in 2017 contributed to the bankruptcy filing of Rio Mall LLC, since Kmart was a tenant of the Frank organization, he said.

"Is there probably 200 or 300

Kmart centers in reorganization around the country?" he asked. "When Kmart represents two-thirds of the income to a property and they leave and don't pay the rent or the CAM (common area maintenance), the property gets hammered."

He said he has a plan for the Rio Grande complex that was submitted to a lender and should be completed in the next 45 days. Frank said he expects to have the theaters upgraded by spring with new seating, sound systems, carpeting and expanded concessions to include some hot food such as

pizza and chicken tenders.

The Frank Theatres Rio Stadium 12 will be completely redone with four additional screens, he said.

The company owns two Cine Bowl and Grille locations in other states combing movies, bowling and a restaurant, but that is not planned for the Rio Stadium 12.

"Rio's tough spot is it doesn't have a liquor license, there's not one available," he said. "If it were available, it would be very expensive."

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