



House of the week

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Vaudeville coming to Physick Estate in Cape May

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165th YEAR NO. 32 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2019 \$1.00

Mosquito control vital to tourism economy

If people annoyed, fear disease they'll go elsewhere, entomologist says

By KRISTEN KELLEHER
Cape May Star and Wave

PETERSBURG — An empty bottle or can left lying around that collects water can hold as many as 100 mosquito larvae during a storm, according to Kyle Rossner, an entomologist with the Cape May County Department of Mosquito Control.

Rossner discussed the county's mosquitoes, the history of mosquito control in New Jersey, what mosquitoes carry which diseases locally and how to control mos-

quitoes on a property during a presentation July 22 at the Upper Cape branch of the Cape May County Library in Petersburg.

Rossner said every county in the state has a department, agency or commission devoted to mosquito control.

John Smith was the state's first entomologist, according to Rossner. He served from 1895 to 1911.

"One of his first jobs as an entomologist was to figure out what we can do about mosquitoes," he said.

At the time, New Jersey was known for its mosquito problems,

Rossner said.

"Places like Atlantic City would empty out for two, three months of the summer because of Aedes sollicitans (the Eastern saltmarsh mosquito)," he said.

Rossner said that a state commission devoted to mosquito control was created and was broken up into counties aided by the state not long afterward.

"We started it really for the world. There was never an organized effort to control mosquitoes like this and we had a lot to learn and there was a lot at stake," he

said.

There are 45 different species of mosquitoes in Cape May County.

This includes the Asian tiger mosquito, which has a flight range of about 500 feet from where they are born, and the salt marsh mosquito, which, conservatively, can fly 20 miles in a day.

"The day it becomes an adult, it can affect Atlantic City, Millville and Rio Grande," Rossner said.

The Asian tiger mosquito is one of the biggest problem mosquitoes in the county.

"In a place like Cape May Point,

the Villas, if this person is creating mosquitoes in their yard, they're potentially affecting 80 properties from a single source," he said.

Asian tiger mosquitoes can transmit West Nile Virus.

Rossner said West Nile Virus was found in 1999 in flamingoes in the Bronx Zoo.

"It has cycled up and down from year to year, but we do have a trend of an increase in it as we go on," he said.

Most people who contract West

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Edward O'Neill/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

The 87th annual Cape May Baby Parade was held Aug. 1. Above is V'Italia Valecce, who took first place in the Decorated on Wheels category. Below are Michael and Zoey, of Kendall Park, dressed as a firefighter and flame; Heartlynn Ernst, who took third place in the Pretty Baby category; and Hope Brockman as Tinkerbell with her mother as Peter Pan.

Baby Parade results

CAPE MAY — Cape May has announced the winners in the 87th annual Cape May Baby Parade.

Pretty Baby (under 2 years of age):

1. Alessia Axelsson; 2. Hope Brockman; 3. Heartlynn Ernst; 4. Danielle Thornton; 5. Aiden Thomas; 6. Parker Marchildon; 7. Mia DeSalva; 8. Natalie McKinney; 9. Peter Hand; 10. Mia Join

Children Walking in Fancy Dress:

1. Leah Fedorchak; 2. Eve Brockman; 3. Grace Brockman; 4. Belle Dougherty; 5. Rowan Anderton; 6. Livia Schwegel

Children Walking in Comic Dress:

1. Sophie Paulsen; 2. Hurd family; 3. Polka family; 4. Zoey Czahla; 5. Avery Dougherty

Decorated on Wheels:

1. V'Italia Valecce; 2. Molly Kohlmann; 3. Shepcaro and Stewart families; 4. Kaylee Stotler; 5. Charlee Olexa; 6. Kaitlynn Kreffki, Amiyah Byer and Daniel Woerner

Best Overall Carlyle Dennis Memorial Award: Medio-Rosario family

Best Float Cory Scott Wolf Memorial Award: Kevin Kohlmann



Driver arrested in hit-run crash; bicyclist critical

Cape May Star and Wave

COLD SPRING — A Florida man has been charged with assault by auto and other violations after allegedly striking a bicycle from behind — causing the rider to smash into the vehicle's windshield — then leaving the scene.

Shem C. Jenkins, 50, of Orlando, allegedly struck the bicyclist on the Route 109 bridge before fleeing the scene. Police located him in his vehicle within the hour in Villas.

Cape May County Communications received a 911 call reporting the motor vehicle crash with injuries at about 10:38 p.m. Aug. 1. According to police, as officers were responding to the scene, they were advised that the vehicle involved had fled the scene. A description and direction of travel was broadcast to the responding officers, as well as surrounding police

departments. Cape May County Sheriff's K-9 unit responded to assist with the search.

Officers arrived on scene and immediately rendered aid to the injured bicyclist, who was identified as Gratio Dinu, 21, of Wildwood, according to police. Due to the severity of Dinu's injuries, including head trauma, Lower Township Rescue Squad, AtlantiCare Paramedics and Cape May Fire and Rescue responded to the scene. Cape May Fire and Rescue transported Dinu to Cape May Court House, with the assistance of AtlantiCare Paramedics and Lower Township Rescue Squad, where an Air Medevac helicopter then flew him to the Regional Trauma Unit at AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, City Division in Atlantic City, where he was listed in critical condition. No

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Lower voters to have say on swimming pool plan

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — On Monday, Lower Township Council approved placing a non-binding referendum question on the Nov. 5 general election ballot to ascertain whether voters support the construction of a state-of-the-art aquatic center at the county airport.

Township Manager Jim Ridgway said the projected cost to build an aquatic center was \$10.5 million.

"Initially, it was close to \$15 (million)," he said. "We eliminated the slides that were there and we've modified meeting space along with locker rooms, bleachers, etc."

A therapy pool and a lazy

river remain in the plans as well as an eight-lane swimming pool that would accommodate swim meets for the high school, state meets and groups. Ridgway said the added size of the pool could generate revenue for the operation of the facility.

He said the county Open Space Board would allocate \$2.5 million for the project with a potential of \$3 million.

"This will not exceed \$8.5 million to the township nor will it result in a tax increase for the construction of the aquatic center at the airport," Ridgway said.

Resident Bill Greenfield asked how change orders

Lower voters, Page A3

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