



House of the week

Page B1



Sperlak, Donovan at SOMA

Page A8



164th YEAR NO. 36 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2018 \$1.00



John Cooke/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

CBS visits Cape May

CBS brought its newscasts to Cape May on Aug. 31, visiting the Promenade, Congress Hall, Cape May Winery and the A.J. Meerwald at the Cape May-Lewes Ferry terminal. Above, Mayor Chuck Lear joins Ukee Washington and Jessica Dean for a segment at Congress Hall.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Oprah Winfrey speaks during the reunion Saturday in the Whitesboro section of Middle Township, where her life partner, Stedman Graham, spent his childhood.

Winfrey visits yearly reunion in Whitesboro

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WHITESBORO — When a Gulfstream G650 jet landed at the county airport Saturday, it drew the attention of some of the attendees of Naval Air Station Wildwood's Airfest, who were touring World War II aircraft.

A few with cameras with zoom lenses were able to identify the occupant of the jet as Oprah Winfrey before an SUV whisked her away to her destination, the 30th annual Whitesboro Reunion.

Winfrey sat on the dais with Stedman Graham, who was born in Whitesboro and returns to the annual celebration as a speaker along with a number of members of the community. Winfrey said she was there in support of her life partner.

"He loves this community so much and has been doing this for 30 years," she said

of Graham.

Winfrey said she had not planned to speak at the event but following a speech by Middle Township Police Chief Christopher Leusner, her "heart was on fire for everything that he said."

Leusner spoke of helping children traumatized by the actions of their parents.

"I have to change the officers' outlook from 'What is wrong with this kid?' when we come in contact with them to 'What happened to this kid?'" Leusner said.

He said he issued a standard operating procedure on trauma-informed and responsive policing. Leusner said the police department responds to calls on a regular basis in which children are exposed to traumatic events that range from domestic violence situations to acts of violence and drug

See Oprah, Page A3

Lower hires staff for full-day preschool

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

COLD SPRING — After receiving a preschool expansion grant for \$1.7 million, Lower Township Elementary School District is preparing to open full-day preschool classes beginning Sept. 10.

The district had not expected news of the grant until Aug. 31, but was told Aug. 27 that it was awarded the funding. Anticipating a positive response from the state, the school district ordered new furniture for the preschool classrooms but told teachers to leave

it in the box until receiving official notification of the grant award. During a Board of Education meeting Aug. 27, Superintendent Jeff Samaniego said the Douglass Memorial School has all its furniture set up.

The district will have 14 classes using the High Scope curriculum, he said.

"We will be learning socialization and academics as we go," Samaniego said. "It's just an amazing event that we are able to have 14 full-day classrooms, 11 at Memorial and three at (Carl T.) Mitnick."

New preschool teachers are Jane Barr, Kas-

ey Chism, Emily Hand, Tammy Hughes, Meagan Mann, Amanda McCormick and Casey Merrill. Jamie Grimes was hired for the Preschool Intervention and Referral Team and Alexandra Chey as school psychologist.

The board approved the transfer of Emily Adams to preschool teacher as well as Barbara Bur, Stacey Hotaling, Patricia O'Shea, Nicole Parkinson, Stacey Salerno, Robin Tossie and Rachelle Voumard from other positions.



SAMANIEGO

Samaniego said the new preschool teachers were exceptional throughout the interview process.

"They want to be at Lower Township, they want to teach here, they want to retire here so much that many of them left a previous job to take a risk on us getting the grant to work here full time," he said.

Samaniego thanked Sarah Bowman, supervisor of student achievement, for

See Lower, Page A4

Message in a bottle reaches Spain from Cape May Point



Provided

Isidro Garcia and Juan 'Chicho' Manuel hold up contents of a wine bottle they found washed ashore in Con Cerrado, Spain. The bottle was tossed in Delaware Bay in 2016.

By RACHEL SHUBIN
Special to the Star and Wave

It was not quite an SOS to the world, but a simple message in a bottle.

A lyric from "Message in a Bottle" by The Police came true for Isidro Garcia of Galicia, Spain, when he and a friend found a bottle washed ashore on the beach in Con Cerrado, all the way from Cape May Point.

Inside the wine bottle was a plastic bag that contained a note with the sender's contact information, a \$1 bill and a lottery ticket from David Kembel, who had thrown the bottle in Delaware Bay in July 2016.

For 20 months, the bottle

made its way across the Atlantic Ocean, finally washing ashore on the small island of Illa de Arousa in March.

Kembel and his family have been vacationing in Cape May for more than 25 years. They started throwing bottles into the ocean with messages enclosed as a fun thing for his kids to do when they were younger.

"I never expected a bottle to go as far as Europe," Kembel said. "I was really surprised to hear from someone so far away."

He said he gets replies to his bottle messages every three years or so.

"Who knows where the rest of the bottles are float-

ing since this one took almost two years to get to Spain," Kembel said. "Other bottles have ended up in Cape May, the Villas and Delaware. Some hit the beaches two miles down in just a few days. The Villas takes longer because the currents in the bay are pretty crazy."

Kembel heard from someone who found a bottle this past week in Townbank, just a few days after sending it off.

"One year a lifeguard found a bottle in the ocean while paddling on his surfboard; it only traveled about three jetties," Kembel said. "Last year a guy found one in Cape May and he was a

talk show host. He called me for his show on the radio. To hear him talk about it and be so excited was worth it."

Kembel said he enjoys hearing the excitement of those who find his bottles.

"The first reaction of my father when he and his friend found the bottle in the sand was to ignore it, they thought it came from a nearby village," Garcia's daughter Cris Garcia Santiago, said. "It was my father's friend, Juan 'Chicho' Manuel, who took the bottle and it was impossible to open, so they crashed it against a stone to see what was inside."

See Message, Page A3

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