

Cape May Fall Festival for the birds (and birders)

CAPE MAY — New Jersey Audubon will host birders from far and wide for a weekend immersion into one of National Geographic Magazine's best places in the world for birding — Cape May — from Oct. 18-21.

The Nature Center and its Cape May Bird Observatory are also taking over Cape May Convention Hall, where everyone is invited to visit a variety of vendors with a natural twist, and for the first time ever, Nature Nick's Animal Adventures, the most diverse collection of traveling exotic animals in the world. He'll be bringing birds of prey, an armadillo, an alligator, snakes

and maybe even a flamingo.

For weekend festival registrants, fees of \$69 per day or \$185 for three days unlock a wide variety of events open to registrants only. Participants will get to choose from 31 birding walks to famous Cape May locations led by local experts; 11 small-group exclusive opportunities, either aboard a trolley or in a small group walk, all led by some of the most famous names in U.S. birding; 19 indoor programs by experts in the field on bird identification, eco-travel, research and monitoring, and more; nine boat trips into the marshes; and our fun and informative Hawk ID and Seabird

ID Master Classes for a more intensive learning experience. Additional fees apply for some small-group experiences.

About half of Cape May Fall Festival registrants consider themselves beginning and novice bird-watchers, and surveys say they have a great time. The weekend is a great way to give birding a try or take your skills to the next level.

After a day of birding, participants are invited to socialize and enjoy an evening program at The Grand Hotel of Cape May. Friday will feature J. Drew Lanham, a Clemson University Distinguished Professor and National Audubon So-

ciety board member, who will present "Ornithology — Confessions of a Lapsed Lister and a Life Saved by Birds." He will share his experiences as an ornithologist, birder-conservationist and poet-author. This program is open only to festival registrants.

On Saturday evening, Merlin Tuttle, founder of Merlin Tuttle's Bat Conservation, will serve as keynote speaker, discussing the "Incredible World of Bats." The author of "The Secret Lives of Bats," Tuttle has studied and photographed bats for more than 50 years, including hundreds of species, from beautiful to bizarre. His photographs

have been published and exhibited worldwide, including in five National Geographic articles, and they are littered throughout his presentation. He has been an invited speaker at America's most prestigious institutions, from Harvard and Princeton Universities to the National Geographic Society and Smithsonian. This program is open to the public for a fee of \$50 and includes a buffet dinner; advance registration is required.

The Sunday afternoon "Trip to the Rips" aboard the American Star from Utsch's Marina is a favorite of many festivalgoers. It is timed for the changing

of the tides just offshore, which stirs up the fish and attracts the birds. It's an action-packed few hours with expert leaders on board to help spot and identify birds and other marine life. The trip is open to the public for a fee of \$60; advanced registration is required.

Visit njaudubon.org/getoutside/events for detailed information and to register, select a schedule of walks, boat trips and other special events. Call or email Deb Shaw at the Cape May Bird Observatory for help with questions and registration at (609) 400-3836 or deb.shaw@njaudubon.org.

Nature Center to host 'Create Today' Oct. 7

CAPE MAY — New Jersey Audubon's Nature Center of Cape May will host "Create Today" from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7.

The event will go on simultaneously with the Monarch Festival at the Nature Center. Artists are invited to bring their supplies and create a work of art on the grounds of the Nature Center in any medium. Art lovers are invited to meet the artists as they work and attend the artists' reception.

All artwork created during the day will be for sale at the reception from 3 to 4 p.m. the same day. The reception is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. A portion of the proceeds will go to The Good Neighbor Fund, which provides Nature Center summer camp scholarships to children of U.S. Coast Guard families.

This is the sixth "Create Today" event the Nature Center has hosted. Many lo-



Provided

Local artist Sean Taylor captures Cape May Harbor during a previous 'Create Today.'

cal artists have participated in the past, such as John Safrit, Sean Taylor, Janet McShain, Linda Crane and Tina Giaimo. The grounds of the Nature Center and the views of Cape May Harbor are beautiful and very inspiring. Artists can set up to work on the grounds any time in the morning of Oct.

7. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. Artists will pay a \$5 registration fee and receive 80 percent of the sales price if their piece is sold. All artwork must be created Oct. 7 at or around the Nature Center, 1600 Delaware Ave. in Cape May. For more information, call (609) 427-3045.

Lower Elementary PARCC scores

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

COLD SPRING — PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) test data from the spring show Lower Township Elementary School District had improving scores in English language arts and math.

During a Board of Education meeting Sept. 25, Superintendent Jeff Samaniego said 2018 was the third year the district participated in PARCC testing after a pilot year in 2015.

"When comparing results with 2016 to 2018, our district has shown an increase in passing scores through grades three through six for English language arts," he said. "Grade three is up 8 percent, grade four is up 10.2 percent, grade five is up 4.6 percent and grade six is up 8.3 percent in language arts."

The district also showed increases in passing scores in grades three through six for math with grade three up .8 percent, grade four up 5.9 percent, grade five up 5.5 percent and grade six up 5 percent, Samaniego said.

Grade six scored very close to the state average in English language arts

of 56.2 percent, with 52.6 percent passing in the school district.

"We exceeded the state in the percentage of students exceeding expectations. Lower Township Elementary Schools has 16.4 percent exceed expectations and the state had 14.9 percent exceed expectations," he said.

Samaniego said the district saw a difference in grade six math scores due to a "push" in basic skills instruction. Grade six topped the state average in math with 43.6 percentage passing compared with 43.5 percent passing.

"We now have a district initiative for a push in math for all grade levels for basic skills from kindergarten through the sixth grade since we did see a positive trend from our results," he said.

The Push In program is specially designed instruction that may be provided in a regular classroom setting.

Students are graded in five levels from not meeting grade level expectations to approaching grade level expectations to meeting or exceeding grade level expectations. Schools are most interested in reaching level four, meeting expectations and level 5, exceeded expect-

tations.

The state PARCC average for meeting expectations for grade three math was 37.8 percent, while the school district's was 29.6 percent. The state average for exceeding expectations in math for grade three was 15.2 percent, while Lower Elementary School District scored 2.6 percent. Fourth grade test math scores lagged behind the state average of 41.8 percent, showing 29.3 percent locally for meeting expectations.

The state fifth grade math score for meeting expectations was 38.5 percent while the school district's score was 27.3 percent. Six grade scores exceeded the state average with the state average of 35.6 percent passing and the district's score at 36.8 percent.

In other business, a tree dedication ceremony will be held to honor Denise Labov, a former principal of the Maud Abrams and Sandman Consolidated schools who passed away in 2017. The dedication is scheduled for 2:45 p.m. Oct. 5 between the two school buildings.

The board approved an emergency expense of \$214,100 for repairs of the Sandman School boiler room roof.

Memorial Paddle Out set for Oct. 8

CAPE MAY — The 8th annual Memorial Paddle Out and pasta fundraiser, in honor of Lt. Andy Boyt, is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 8.

The Paddle Out, which will begin at noon on Steger's Beach at Jackson Street and Beach Avenue, is a memorial service held on the anniversary of the pass-

ing of Boyt, an avid surfer and firefighter. Participants paddle out on their surf boards, body boards and kayaks from Steger's Beach with loose flowers, get into a circular formation, hold hands and pray and raise their hands skyward before tossing the flowers in the center of the ring.

A pasta fundraiser will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. at VFW Post 386, 419 Congress St. Donation is \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door.

Proceeds benefit the Andy Boyt Memorial Fund, a non-profit organization that supports the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and local community causes.

Run for the Fallen

Continued from Page A1

the U.S. armed forces, was held Sept. 26 inside the hangar at the Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum. Tables were set up among the aircraft.

"Thousands have sacrificed to preserve our way of life and as we give tribute to a particular hero, please remember others who have given the ultimate sacrifice throughout history, regardless of war or conflict, branch of ser-

vice or method of death," said Eileen Kreis, first vice president of Run for the Fallen. "Ultimately, we run for them all, honoring their service and sacrifice and remembering that each gave up a future so that we could have ours."

The Lower Cape May Regional High School Choir and Boy Scout Troop 87 sang the national anthem. The names were read and a bell was rung for each of 42 men who died during flight training at Naval Air

Station Wildwood in World War II.

Bruce Fournier, museum deputy director, said technology is different today in the form of smart bombs.

"Back then, if I was a 19-year-old young man, I would have come here for advanced training and I would be trained to be a dive bomber to go to the Pacific Theater," he said.

In addition, names were read and a bell was rung for each service member from New Jersey who lost their

lives fighting in the war on terror.

The run team stopped at Lower Cape May Regional on Sept. 27 to honor 2005 graduate Sgt. Michael P. Scusa, who lost his life in Kamdesh, Afghanistan.

Scusa's unit came under attack Oct. 3, 2009, and was surrounded by an estimated 400 enemy fighters. He left the barracks to resupply ammunition to a guard point.

Scusa twice ran through 100 meters of heavy enemy

fire. He was aware there was sniper and machine gun fire directly outside his door. Scusa was killed in action at the entry control point. He left behind a 1-year-old son, his mother and four siblings.

The run team saluted a line of flags and hugged Scusa's family, including his brother James. The choir sang "God Bless America."

Lower Cape May Regional High School students who lost their lives

in Vietnam were honored by Army Staff Sgt. Melanie Levanthal of the 360th Tactical Psychological Operations Company. She said Marine Lance Cpl. William Charles Lamont, a 1963 graduate, was killed in action by mortar fire in 1967 at age 20.

Army Spc. Edward Smiley, a 1968 graduate, was killed in action in a helicopter crash in 1969 at the age of 19. The ceremony concluded with echo taps played by two buglers.

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

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.

ATTENTION BOROUGH OF WEST CAPE MAY RESIDENTS

RESIDENTIAL BULK TRASH PICKUP

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

Curbside by 7:00 am

INCLUDES:
Furniture, mattresses, boards, tied tree limbs and pieces of wood, not more than 5 feet in length, not more than 50 pounds

DOES NOT INCLUDE:
Tree stumps, cast iron, metal pipes, demolition, construction material, cars or car parts, TV sets, computers, white items (refrigerators, sinks, etc).

Any questions call Borough Hall, 609-884-1005 x100

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