



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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TOURS OFFER AN INSIDE LOOK AT MOREYS PIERS

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Sleeping with the fishes

Erin Kirk-Cuomo/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

The U.S. Coast Guard cutter Tamaroa lists heavily to starboard after being scuttled May 10 to become part of the Del-Jersey-Land Inshore Artificial Reef. It joins the centerpiece of the reef, the USS Arthur W. Radford, and the former Army and Navy ship Shearwater to create habitat for sea life and a playground for scuba divers.

'Perfect Storm' ship Tamaroa added to artificial reef offshore of Cape May

By MARK ALLEN
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Elegant — that's the word that pops into my mind whenever I try to come up with the one word that best characterized the planned sinking of the Coast Guard cutter Tamaroa on May 10.

Elegant is a funny word; in my opinion a word that is often misused. People use it to describe food, music, even a book that they are

reading, but shouldn't "elegant" be reserved for those people and events that are uniquely dignified and gracious, almost poetic and yet truly unique.

On May 10, about 20 members of the media along with an equal number of representatives from the state Division of Fish and Wildlife and the artificial reef program were aboard the Porgy IV as she voyaged out to the Del-Jersey-Land Inshore Artificial Reef to witness

the Tamaroa's final plunge. Also aboard the Porgy IV that afternoon were about 20 former Tamaroa crewmen who were venturing offshore to say goodbye to an old friend.

No explosives were deployed in the sinking. The Department of Environmental Protection cut holes at strategic locations and she filled with water, slowly at first then more rapidly. She developed a starboard list, then went down quickly

stern fist. It was an elegant demise to a fabled ship.

Tamaroa was the 70-plus-year-old vessel that spent the last half-century of her active life in the service of the U.S. Coast Guard performing search and rescue missions, drug interdictions, fisheries enforcement and protecting our shores and harbors. The list of her achievements was as distinguished as it was long and

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City might ban pile driving in historic zones

Some concerned impact harms Victorian homes

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city is proposing issuing construction permits only for use of piles for foundations that do not require pounding into the ground within 100 feet of the property line of a historic building.

City Council introduced an ordinance May 2 to end pile driving in the historic district. Councilman Roger Furlin said pounding piles into the ground is harmful to historic buildings.

"You can see the damage that may be caused inside and outside, but the foundations are hidden from view and there is a lot of damage to those also," he said.

The ordinance would allow helical piling, which are screwed into the ground rather than pounded. The ordinance would not allow piles to be hammered into the ground unless there would be some irreparable aberration from not driving in the piles, Furlin said.

Last June, Historic Preservation Commission Chairman Warren Coup-

land told council he had information from a federally funded study of vibrations to compare one source of impact to another on a scale from zero to one. He said impact pile driving is at the top of the chart.

According to the chart, damage to modern buildings falls at about .6. He said more than 20 independent studies have been undertaken on impact to historic buildings. Damage occurs at .2 — plaster is being damaged and mirrors fall from walls — about the same amount of vibration as a street roller used in paving projects. A level of one is five times the threshold for damaging historic buildings, Coupland said.

During public comment, building contractor Chip Matthews said helical piling cost two to three times more than driven piling. He said torquing helical piling into the ground is accomplished with a power takeoff shaft from a tractor and does not make the process silent. Matthews said a straight footing could be

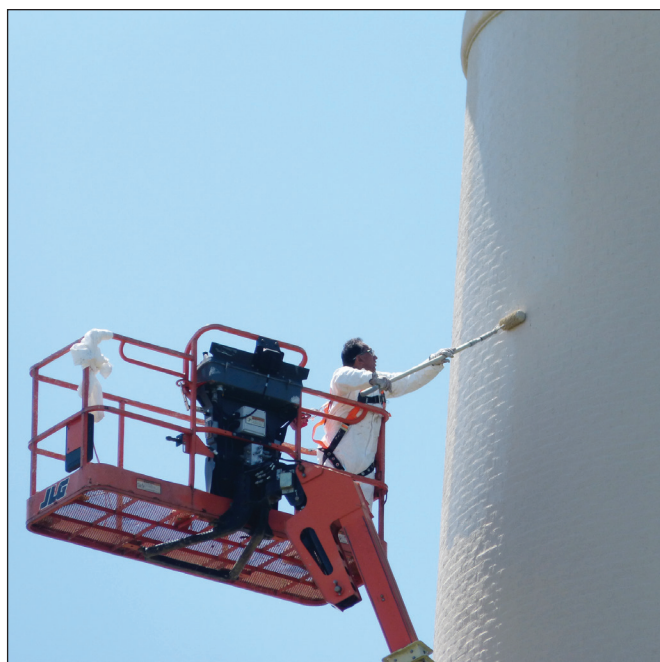
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Lighthouse getting all spruced up for summer

CAPE MAY — The exterior of the Cape May Lighthouse is being given a fresh coat of paint now that the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities has contracted with Eastern Industrial Services using grant funding and donations that approach the approximately \$130,000 needed to complete the job. Owned by the state Department of Environmental Protection Division of Parks & Forestry, the Cape May Lighthouse has been leased to MAC since 1986.

The project went out to bid in 2017 and Eastern Industrial Services, of Delaware, was the low bidder. The company began work April 12 and the project is expected to be complete by the end of May.

A National Maritime Heritage Grant from the National Park Service in the amount of \$50,000 is



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

A worker for Eastern Industrial Services uses a roller to paint the Cape May Lighthouse. The project was funded with grants and donations collected at various sites.

serving as a match grant to a \$50,000 grant awarded last year from the Cape May County Open Space Board's Historic Preservation Grant Program.

In addition to these grant funds, MAC received a \$5,000 grant from South

Jersey Industries to help complete the painting. Also, about \$20,000 was raised by MAC efforts, including donations from members of the public via a donation box at the foot of the spiral

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Alcoholic beverages available earlier on Sundays in the city

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — A mimosa or a bloody Mary at 8 a.m. on a Sunday morning here? Not a problem.

City Council approved making the time for serving alcoholic beverages on Sunday mornings two hours earlier from 10 a.m. to 8 a.m.

During a City Council meeting May 2, Mayor Chuck Lear said the city permits alcoholic beverages to be served from 7 a.m. Monday through Saturday.

City Solicitor Frank Corrado said the change affects only establishments offering on-site consumption and not sales at liquor stores.

Councilwoman Bea Pes-

sagno said she struggled with the decision. She said she visited several restaurants before the vote.

"I realized what is Sunday for me is, Saturday for other religions and is Friday for other religions, and that everyone is free to do as they please on those days," she said.

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Escape the Cape returning for fifth year

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — The Escape the Cape Triathlon, with its signature 12-foot leap from the stern of a Cape May-Lewes Ferry vessel, has been voted into the top five bucket-list triathlons in the nation. Returning to North Cape May for its fifth year June 4, the event offers sprint and Olympic-distance triathlons, aqua-bike and relays.

Steve DelMonte, founder

of the event and CEO of DelMo Sports, updated Lower Township Council on Monday about this year's event. He said his organization pays for all the township services it uses during the triathlon.

"No tax dollars were spent. If fact, you already have my check for this year," DelMonte said.

He said his organization does its best to notify the public of road closings during the event. He asked the public to check Low-

er Township's Facebook page and the Escape the Cape Facebook page to see which roads will be affected. Telephone calls and a mass mailing will notify residents about road closings, DelMonte said.

The triathlon has a new bike course this year.

"Last year, we had some pretty significant bike crashes on New England Road and it happened in front of the same house two

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WASHINGTON INN

Open Daily Starting May 19th

THE WINE BAR
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\$5

glasses of wine
appetizers specials