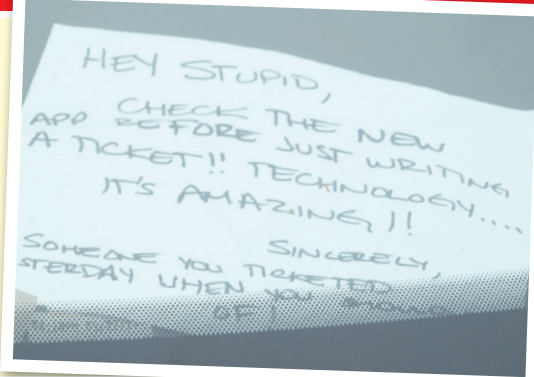




HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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METER MAIDS NOT ALWAYS APPRECIATED

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Hurricane landfall location a guess at best

People should be ready to evacuate, heed officials' orders

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — An active hurricane season is forecast for the East Coast this year, but even the best forecast cannot predict exactly where a hurricane will make landfall.

During a county Emergency Preparedness Conference on May 31, County Emergency Management Director Martin Pagliughi said the public has only a small picture of the level of devastation caused by Superstorm Sandy from north of

Brigantine to Sandy Hook in 2012. He said had a first-hand view from a Coast Guard helicopter two days after the storm hit.

Pagliughi said every storm is different and the best forecasting cannot predict exact landfall until the last few hours of approach. He urged the public to heed evacuation warnings.

"I think one of the biggest problems we have is social media today," he said. "It can be our best friend or it



PAGLIUGHI

can be our worst enemy. A lot of people will listen to what is on Facebook instead of listening to the professionals."

Pagliughi said his office has been working with American Aerospace Technologies for use of drones to provide photographic coverage of damage directly after a storm. He said such information would aid in moving first responders by knowing which roads were blocked. In addition, drones could provide cell

phone coverage if towers are not functioning as well as two-way radio coverage for first responders, Pagliughi said.

Some residents were not pleased with steel power poles being installed in barrier island communities.

"I hate to tell you, if you're going to continue to live on barrier islands, the whole face of the islands are going to change," he said. "We have houses that are 14 feet higher in the air for flood resiliency. There's a lot of

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Disaster agencies are preparing for pets, say owners should too

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Most people will not leave their pets behind when evacuating their homes in a hurricane or other disaster, and disaster-preparedness agencies are taking note.

That's why the county Department of Emergency Management accounts for pets when creating evacuation plans.

"It's actually an integral part of the sheltering plan to have people feel safe that they can evacuate their home and bring their pets," Cape May County Emergency Management Director Martin Pagliughi said at the county's annual Emergency Preparedness Conference on May 31.

Pagliughi said 64 people who would not evacuate because they could not

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Kim Royster/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Fifth annual Escape the Cape Triathlon

About 1,700 people took part in the 5th annual Escape the Cape Triathlon on June 4 at the Cape May-Lewes Ferry terminal and surrounding roads and beaches. The event included a 12-foot jump from the rear deck of ferry vessel MV Delaware. The overall Olympic distance winners were Jack Toland, 21, of Kirkland, Wash. (1:47:10.5), and Megan Martin, 34, of Williamsport, Md. (2:02:55.8). Overall sprint distance winners were Mike Caputo, 26, of Staten Island, N.Y. (1:03:54.8), and Suzanne Stettinius, 29, of Parkton, Md. (1:12:41.1).



Villas man dies after fall from kayak into Del. Bay

ERMA — A Villas man died after falling from his kayak in Delaware Bay despite extensive rescue efforts.

Lower Township police received a call reporting that a male subject had fallen from his kayak at about 1:15 p.m. May 28 and appeared to be in distress in Delaware Bay off Birch Avenue in Villas.

Police and the Lower Township Rescue Squad responded to investigate. Upon arrival, police observed a subject separated from his kayak wearing a

life vest floating in the water. The county Prosecutor's Office Marine Response Security Unit along with the State Police Marine Unit responded to assist.

Prior to the arrival of the marine units, civilian bystanders utilized a kayak and paddled out to assist the distressed kayaker. When the two bystanders reached the subject, they were able to pull him on board the kayak and begin CPR while bringing him to shore, according to police.

Lower Township Police Cpl. Robert Smith, along

with an off-duty Philadelphia firefighter, pulled the man off the kayak and resumed CPR until rescue personnel took over. The Town Bank Fire Department was called to respond with their ATV to assist if needed with transporting the patient from the beach.

The kayaker, identified as James Jones of Oakdale Avenue, was transported to Cape Regional Medical Center, where he was later pronounced dead. Civilian bystanders who assisted in the rescue chose to remain anonymous.

Report suggest more bike lanes, safer Cape May Point connector

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — "Bike Walk Cape May" is a bicycle and pedestrian plan for Cape May and Cape May Point that would improve safety and ultimately provide a less hazardous bike ride on Sunset Boulevard connecting the two towns.

Planners from WSP, of Philadelphia, presented preliminary ideas for the project June 3 in City Hall auditorium and received comments from the public. The plan can be viewed on Cape May's website at capemaycity.org.

The bicycle and pedestrian circulation plan is part of the state Department of Transportation's (NJDOT) Local Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning Assistance Program, which seeks to foster the development of nonmotorized transportation modes.

A final report will be presented to the city's Planning Board and ultimately City Council. Cape May has been active in



Provided by WSP

This image shows Broadway at Beach Avenue in Cape May. A pedestrian and bicycle study recommended more bike lanes, especially on high-traffic roads, and more-visible crosswalks.

pursuing Safe Routes to School grant funding to improve conditions for biking and walking around Cape May City Elementary School. The city has identified and sought funding for improvements to

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