



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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FAROE ISLANDS TRIP PROVIDES WEATHER SCARE

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No-show Hermine spoils party anyway

Meteorologist calls forecasting an inexact science, says safety is top priority

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The storm warnings were issued, many visitors evacuated the shore and then the next day, the sun came out.

Tropical Storm Hermine turned out to have a bark worse than her bite. The National Weather Service warned of multiple rounds of tidal flooding with water in back bays having a difficult task of draining between tide cycles in the early morning hours of Sept. 3. Warnings of street flooding in low-lying areas

'Yes, we got this wrong, but this was based on general consensus that this is going to happen. If it did happen, it was going to be the worst storm since 1962. We would have had hundreds of thousands of people stuck on the islands.'

—Meteorologist Nor'easter Nick

were issued with winds exceeding 39 mph or higher, combined with heavy rain.

Hermine was forecast to track off the North Carolina coast, slow down as it moved off the coast and to stall east of our coastal waters through at least Tuesday.

"There is the potential for

tropical storm-force winds along with building seas to dangerous heights over the holiday weekend and into at least early next week," the National Weather Service forecast Saturday.

Visitors to island communities were encouraged to voluntarily evacuate. A tropical storm warning

was issued for Cape May County and Gov. Chris Christie declared a state of emergency to aid in expected damaged recovery efforts.

Mostly gray skies and increasing winds sent many visitors out of the county Saturday morning. Visitors who stayed in the county found sunny skies and a moderate breeze Sunday. Beaches were closed for swimming but not for surfing. In Cape May, some of the largest waves were located off Poverty Beach.

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Heavy surf and cooler temperatures greeted the sparse population of beachgoers over Labor Day weekend in Cape May.

America visits Cape May Harbor

Replica of sailing ship offers tours, daily public sails

By JOHN COOKE
Special to the Star and Wave

SHELLENGERSLANDING — How could you possibly make America great again? Build a replica and take people sailing aboard her.

Watching the ship's silhouette enter Cape May Harbor at sunrise this past Wednesday reminded us just how great the America yacht was at one time. A replica of America, the 139-foot, black-hulled racing schooner, visited Cape May for two days, Aug. 31 and Sept. 1.

The ship arrived after a brief mechanical delay in Barnegat Bay with plans to take Cape May residents and visitors sailing twice a day.

Some residents from Long Beach Island followed her to Cape May in order to not miss out sailing aboard her sleek, low-back racing design. Dennis and Leslee Ferray made the day trip to Cape May to sail this historic replica.

"I have been sailing since I was a young girl," Ferray said. "Driving down from LBI was a no-brainer; it's the chance of a lifetime."



John Cooke/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

A replica of the America, a 139-foot, black-hulled racing schooner, visited Cape May Harbor for two days last week, offering visitors a chance to see the famed ship up close.

The original America was built as an example of superiority in naval power for the Great Exhibition of 1851 held in England. That same year, America won the Royal Yacht Squadron's 100 Guinea Cup given to the winner of a race around the Isle of Wight. This later became known as America's Cup.

"The opportunity to sail on this classic America's

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Democrats face incumbents for freeholder seat

Oppose building county jail, support addiction services, want to attract business, jobs

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Two Democrats are seeking seats on the Republican-controlled county Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Dan Kurkowski and John Amenhauser are both attorneys who have provided free legal services to low-income individuals. They said they are seeking office to help as many people as possible.

Kurkowski, 37, and Amenhauser, 28, will face incumbent freeholders Gerald Thornton and E. Marie Hayes for three-year terms in the Tuesday, Nov. 8, election.

"I always represent the little guy," said Kurkowski, a Lower Township resident who practices employment, labor and civil rights law.

He said that while the county is a great place to raise a family or retire, it is not a great place to earn a

good, year-round living. The county lacks a commission for economic development and does not make a significant effort to aid businesses in moving here.

"We are No. 1 for the highest rate of unemployment," Kurkowski said.

Amenhauser, of Upper Township, said he opposes the county spending \$37 million to build a jail.

"It's going to come from our tax dollars down the line," he said.

Statewide bail reforms will take effect Jan. 1, 2017. They will offer speedier trials and release for those not considered a risk to the community.

"The whole purpose of that legislation is to reduce the amount of inmates we have in our county jail," Amenhauser said.

The reforms will give inmates a bail hearing within 48 hours so they can be

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The tracks that run between the former magnesite plant and Sunset Beach are visible at Willow Creek Winery.

Old railroad bed may provide base for bike path

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — Bicycle riders on Broadway in the borough may find the ride a bit dangerous, with bike lanes that disappear and areas with no bike lane at all. Municipal planners have also been discussing better bike lanes along Sunset Boulevard from West Cape May to Sunset Beach. The lanes narrow on the east side of the street.

A long-unused and mostly

overgrown railroad line may provide an answer to get bicyclists off busy roads and onto a dedicated bike path that traverses three farms and ends at Sunset Beach. Known as the Cape May Point Branch, the former tracks served the magnesite factory at Sunset Beach that closed in 1983. The line has not seen a train since and is no longer suitable for that use, with portions of the track buried and virtually no wooden cross-ties remaining.

The line is visible in several spots, including on Broadway at the entrance to West Cape May beside a mobile home park. The line also crosses Bayshore Road near the Beanery, a preserved portion of the Rea Farm. Tracks are clearly visible at Willow Creek Winery. The tracks run through West Cape May into Lower Township.

The tracks run through Beach Plum Farm, a number of backyards along Sunset Boulevard and end on

the magnesite plant property where one rail is visible.

Lower Township Councilman Erik Simonsen said discussion had taken place about the railroad line with the city of Cape May and West Cape May, in particular about producing a study of using it as a bike path.

"We'd be all for it," he said.

Lower Township and Middle Township are in the process of constructing

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