

# Heron

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it. Duran's neighbor, Ashley Hanson, said the heron must have been in the tree all night. "I heard something in the tree the night before. The next morning we realized it was a big bird and just thought it was building a nest. But, it was still there in the afternoon, so we looked closer and saw it was stuck," Hanson said. Duran called the Nature Center of Cape May just down the street and informed them of the situation. When Nature Center Naturalist Sam Wilson arrived, he realized there was little he could do until the heron was brought down out of the tree. Wilson said he was unable to reach anyone at the Animal Control office, so

he called the fire department for assistance. Coast Guard fireman E4 Frank Marovich and Cape May City firefighter/EMT Bill Szemcsak Jr. arrived on scene and attempted to use the ladder truck to reach the heron. "It was a first for me - you normally don't get calls to get a bird out of a tree," Szemcsak said. "I brought the tower ladder down, which ended up being about six feet short. So, we threw a ground ladder up." Marovich volunteered to climb the ladder and approach the injured bird, which he realized was stuck to a branch. He said he used webbing to support the branch and the snared heron as he cut the branch with a handsaw and then lowered it to the ground.



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave  
Naturalist Sam Wilson prepares to release a great blue heron after its rehabilitation.

"He was flapping around when I first started climbing up, but it calmed down a little bit," he said. Wilson said he believes the heron was in shock by the

time it was lowered to the ground, which would explain how calm it was. He said the bird was not only tangled in fishing line, but also had the fishing hook caught near its eye socket. "If he had lost the eye, he would have likely been held in captivity. He needs full depth perception to hunt effectively," Wilson said. "Fortunately, his eye was treated and he's going to heal well." The heron spent most of the week rehabilitating at the New Jersey Nature Center in Delmont, led by Steve Serwatka. On Friday, Aug. 2, the heron was released along the harbor near the Nature Center. About 45 people including Nature Center personnel, summer program students, members of

the community and the firemen involved in the rescue all gathered to witness the release. The heron slowly left the animal crate and caught his bearings by walking along the sand before taking to flight. Wilson said he's confident the rescued bird will be fine. Marovich said he was amazed by the number of people concerned about the well being of the blue heron, who all came to the Nature Center to see it released back into the wild. "It was my first animal rescue. It felt pretty good, you know, getting him out of the tree and figuring out he was going to be okay - helping out the environment," Marovich said. "As you can see with the turnout here, it obviously impacts the community."

# Sandy

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Satullo said. "This choice believes that there are ways to rethink and learn how to live near the ocean." Satullo said the approach explores "to build where it makes sense" and to learn about building more storm resilient communities like the ones in South Carolina. The third choice is "Restore and Retreat," in which shore communities are restored to their natural pristine condi-

tion and abandoned to function as buffers from the ocean. "They say all of our investments, whether social and personal are at serious risks from storms like Sandy, and they say they're called barrier islands for a reason. What we need to do is we need to restore them back to their natural state as much as possible and move our investments off the barrier islands to the mainland," Sokoloff said. Sokoloff said proponents of the third option believe the

beaches can still be used for fun, but the physical investments should be relocated. Forum participants spent an hour discussing each option, finding common ground with each point. "We're asking people where they agree without giving up their individuality," Sokoloff said. The Middle Township forum was the first of a series held in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Other scheduled forums in New Jersey include Aug. 5 at Atlantic

Cape Community College in Mays Landing, Aug. 27 at St. Francis Community Center in Long Branch Township and Tuckerton Seaport Museum in Tuckerton. Sokoloff said the data will be gathered and presented to policymakers at a later date. "We'll have a set of ideas and principles," Sokoloff said. "It's where people stand once they've talked to each other... We're looking for public judgment. Consensus is hard to reach. You're not going to get consensus in an hour or two

hours." WHYY and NewsWorks will report the results of the forums. Sokoloff said the data could be used to persuade political leaders at the state or regional levels to explore those ideas. "Partly it's a matter of generating public will," Sokoloff said. The Penn Project for Civic Engagement started in 1995 and creates large-scale community conversations to generate public will to support policymakers to taking cer-

tain actions. Sokoloff said the project examined plans for developing the Philadelphia waterfront, redesigning the interior of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, worked with the Philadelphia zoning code commission to develop rules for public input into zoning decisions, and explored ways various school districts deal with budget shortfalls.

# July

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Company, said colder temperatures in May and a wet June have caused decline in carriage ride numbers this year. "We're a weather dependent entity, so our numbers

were definitely down in May and June," she said. However, Samenichik said she and other employees of the carriage company have noticed an abundance of new visitors to Cape May this summer. "A lot of people, I would say

80 percent, who have taken carriage rides are newcomers. Usually, we have a lot of summer regulars who come

back - they know us, they know the horses, but this year we've had quite a few new people," she said. Samenichik said due to the high number of newcomers, they are unfamiliar with the schedule and reservation process for the carriage company, so bookings have not been steady. She said carriages are typically doing unscheduled, half-hour rides and are busiest between 7 and 9 p.m. "It's been a different dynamic this summer. Usually everything is pre-bought and booked, but we've had more walk ups this summer," she said. Dennis Flynn, owner of Village Bike Shop, said when

the weather cooperates he can rent out as many as 40 to 50 bikes per day. He said 2012 was a good year and aside from a wet June, this summer has been decent as well. He said bicycle repairs have kept business running fairly smooth when rentals aren't strong. "We're doing fine - not as well as last summer but close. It's obviously due to the weather, but we can't do anything about that," Flynn said. "If it's not a rainy day and it's hot and sunny, we do well. If it's like what we had through most of June, it's a bust. That's just how it works." Hannah Hansen, who works

for the H&H Seafood Market and Cape May Kayak Tours on Ocean Drive, said business was certainly down from last summer in terms of kayak rentals. She said 15 to 20 kayaks are rented out on a good day while there have been anywhere from three to 10 rented for the daily tour service. She said bookings for tours have not been as strong as 2012. "There hasn't been as many crowds because of the weather but we're keeping up with everything as best we can," Hansen said.

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7	9:07	9:15	2:52 2:45
8	9:44	9:50	3:26 3:24
9	10:19	10:24	3:58 4:04
10	10:56	11:00	4:32 4:46
11	11:35	11:40	5:08 5:32
12		12:20	5:48 6:24
13	12:26	1:12	6:35 7:24
14	1:22	2:13	7:30 8:30

**Moon Phases**  
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