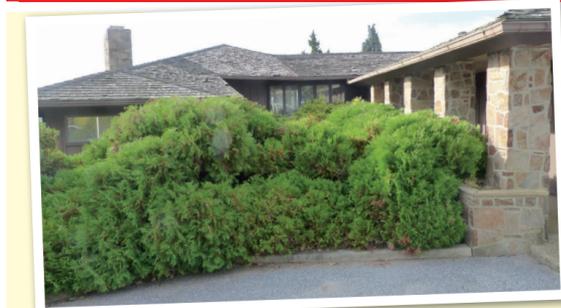


# Cape May Star and Wave

161ST YEAR NO. 44 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2015 75¢



## HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Real Estate Resource



## LCMR LACROSSE PLAYER SIGNS WITH LOURDES

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## Cape May approves study of altering beach slope

### Engineer to determine whether city can undertake project to reduce shorebreak

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved a contract with the engineering firm of Hatch Mott MacDonald on Oct. 20 to conduct a beach study to determine whether there is a project within the city's budget to reduce the breaking waves and the size, shape and location of the breaking waves in the surf zone. The city has experienced more than 200 beach injuries allegedly due to a steep beach slope and wave action since federal beach replenishment began in 2001.

City Engineer Tom Thornton, of Hatch Mott MacDonald, said there are

various types of wave forms. One in particular is a plunging wave, in which the mass of the wave curls over the top and impacts users of the beach with a horizontal velocity.

"Those are the types of waves we are attempting to see if they can be minimized," Thornton said.

He said the dynamics of how waves break on a beach is an area of active research.

The study will not evaluate whether the plunging waves result in injuries, Thornton said. He said the University of Delaware was undertaking such a study that includes medical experts. A preliminary conclusion from the university was federal beach fill projects

result in a steeper slope but that over one to two years, the beach reverts back to its original slope.

"What we want to do is to provide a range of alternatives that the city can consider that would reduce the slope of the beach and thereby change the wave form, so that it's kind of intuitively something that would be less threatening to people," Thornton said.

The study will determine if the moving of sand, whether placing it in the surf zone or manipulating sand in the surf zone to change the slope of the beach would reduce the prevalence of plunging waves.

Thornton said he walked the city's beaches.

"There seems like a steep slope in a large portion of the city, so it may not be cost effective to come up with a project to address the whole city," he said. "Since this is an area of active research, it probably wouldn't be wise to implement that program across the entire length, so what we would probably recommend is a five to 10 block area where this could be done on a pilot basis, so they can observe the results, observe how quickly things may change after you place the material in the area."

One of the objectives of the study is to secure whatever state and federal funds are needed along with cost estimates for the work, said Thornton.

Among the tasks included in the project is reviewing existing data including Stockton University Coastal Research Center data and the Army Corps of Engineering's original design for the city's beach replenishment.

Thornton said he would look at the size of the grains of sand used for beach replenishment which also contributes to the slope and breaking of waves. Existing beach conditions would be analyzed.

A wave breaking analysis would be conducted to determine the relationship between breaker height and the beach slope and wave steepness, he

See **Beach slope**, Page A2

## Halloween's roots buried in long-dead observances

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

Who started the idea of going door to door begging for treats dressed in costumes? Halloween dates back 2,000 years to the festival of Samhain, which was celebrated on the night of Oct. 31, according to History.com. The Celts, who lived in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom and northern France, believed that the dead returned to Earth that night, so they would light bonfires and offer sacrifices to the deceased. Some participants would dress in animal skins to scare off evil spirits. Food was also offered to spirits.

The Christian church celebrated All Saints Day on Nov. 1 and All Souls Day on Nov. 2.

Immigrants from England and Ireland brought the celebration of All Hallows' Eve to the United States.

Children from the British Isles would go "guising" or "mumming," begging for food or money on that night, according to Halloweenhistory.org. Homeowners who refused to offer a treat would find chalk drawings on their doors the next day or suffer other mischief.

Boys would wear masks or put soot on their faces as they went door to door. The Jack O' Lantern may have its roots in lanterns carried by children made from hollow turnips.

On All Souls Day, poor residents would go door to door to say prayers for the dead in return for food.

The celebrations also marked the end of the harvest season,

See **Halloween**, Page A8

Trick or treat safely



Craig D. Schenck/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Debbi and Mark Dougherty of Northfield spends hours every year decorating their yard and home for Halloween. 'We love it,' Debbi said.

## Trick to decorating? Make it a treat

By CRAIG D. SCHENCK  
Cape May Star and Wave

Halloween is a haunted happening much beloved by many.

Fall brings a cooling of temperatures, adding a bit of a bite to the breeze and the smell of death and decay as the leaves give up the ghost and tumble to the turf.

### Holiday scares up party store sales

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN  
Cape May Star and Wave

Halloween is around the corner, but where does one go to purchase costumes, decorations and other ephemera used to scare and frighten?

Fortunately, local party shops and specialty stores stock the latest Halloween décor and costumes.

Michael Froumy, owner of Fro Me A Party, an Egg Harbor Township-based party store, said his store's Halloween offerings include 7,000 to 10,000 costumes, masks, paper goods, decorations and

See **Business**, Page A8

As October arrives, and people begin to imagine what character costume they will don this year, out come the pumpkins, corn stalks and mums to decorate homes and businesses. Ghostly and ghoulish images appear in windows, on doors and in yards.

And like almost anything, the holiday has its share of

zealots — those who are not happy simply with a group of gourds or a jack o' lantern on the porch or a witch in the window. No, these devilish decorators go all out with their décor.

Debbi and Mark Dougherty, of Northfield, go all out every year. They decorate for every

See **Decorating**, Page A8

## Pop culture, movies playing big part in costume choices

By KRISTEN KELLEHER  
Cape May Star and Wave

During an Oct. 24 trick-or-treating event in Northfield's Birch Grove Park, a skeleton swung from a swing, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and cowgirls collected candy and Batman played on the park's playground.

According to employees and owners of some party stores, movies and pop culture play the largest influence on what trick-or-treaters will wear this Halloween.

According to a release from the National Retail Federa-

tion, 157 million Americans plan to celebrate Halloween in 2015, and the average person is expected to spend \$74.34 for Halloween-related expenses.

Those who celebrate Halloween intend to spend an average of \$27.33 on costumes for a family, for a season total of \$2.5 billion on store-bought and homemade costumes.

Spending on adult costumes makes up \$1.2 billion of the \$2.5 billion and spending on children's costumes is expected to reach \$950 million. Money spent on pet costumes is expected to

See **Costumes**, Page A8

## Regional district gives 7th-graders personal laptops

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA — The school district has accomplished much in the realm of technology, including giving seventh-graders their own laptop computer, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Joseph Castellucci said during a Board of Education meeting Oct. 22.

"Last Tuesday, we launched our one-to-one Chromebook initiative," he said. "Every seventh-grader was handed a Chromebook that they have as their personal computer for the next hopefully six years."

The other effect of supplying seventh-graders with Chromebooks is making oth-

er computers available for the high school, he said.

Richard M. Teitelman School Principal Gregory Lasher said providing the laptops has "clearly taken learning to another level." He said students take the Chromebooks class to class, using them in all academic levels, taking photos, looking at data, watching videos in a co-curricular way, and returning them at the end of the day.

Castellucci presented an annual report of statistical findings on student performance. He said state test scores have not yet been released and were expected by mid-November.

See **Laptops**, Page A3

## Group to help Lower get beach fill on bay

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township officials contacted their counterparts in Middle Township to find out how they received beach replenishment along Delaware Bay. Deputy Mayor Norris Clark said the township approached the organizations that helped Middle Township get beach replenishment in key areas where erosion had

claimed parts of the beach.

Middle Township partnered with the American Littoral Society, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Conserve Wildlife to build suitable habitats for endangered species while protecting valuable assets and property. The environmental groups or entities have been successful in obtaining funding to build low-slope beach-

See **Beach fill**, Page A2

## Villas man dies in crash

SEAVILLE — A single-car accident at about 9:30 a.m. Oct. 24 in the 3100 block of Route 9 South near milepost 22 claimed the life of George Montis, 61, of Villas.

According to New Jersey State Police, Montis was traveling north on Route 9 in

a 2003 Dodge Durango when his vehicle left the road, hit a utility pole and overturned.

The accident is under investigation by State Police. Seaville and Ocean View volunteer fire companies, as well as Upper Township EMS, responded to the scene.

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