



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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GRANNIES HELP CHRISTEN NEW COASTER

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CMBP: Replenishment alters slope, currents

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA — Cape May's beaches have changed since the beginning of sand replenishment. While it has protected Beach Avenue and homes from flooding, it has created a sloping beach that can be dangerous to bathers, according to three Cape May Beach Patrol lifeguards.

A beach safety program for environmental science and marine biology students was held May 25 at Lower Cape May Regional High School, sponsored by the environmental commissions of Cape May, West Cape May and Cape May Point.

The program's focus was how the beach changes from season to season, how humans affect the beach and what can be done to protect the beach for future generations and the environment.

"We're hoping that you can learn something today about the beaches and beach safety from our speakers and take home something valuable that will help you as the future caretakers of the beach," said Linda Steenrod, a member of Cape May's Environmental Commission. "Our beaches are a natural treasure, but humans play a significant part in what happens to the beaches."

Chad DeSatnick, a surfer

'It's a much different ocean than it was when I first came here.'

—Cape May Beach Patrol lifeguard Bob Cwik

and former lifeguard who recovered from breaking two vertebrae in his neck in a surfing accident, spoke about changes that have occurred to Cape May's beaches. He noted Cold Spring Inlet, with its jetty stretching about a half-mile into the ocean, stops much of the sand flow from the Wildwoods to Cape May. Before beach replenish-

ment began in Cape May, very little beach was available at high tide, DeSatnick said. He displayed a photo of the Poverty Beach section of Cape May from the 1980s prior to beach replenishment and a photo after beach replenishment showing a marked difference. Prior to beach replenishment, waves broke along a rock wall during high tide. Currently, a sandy beach is in place.

"When I was growing up, my dad was a lifeguard at Queen Street and Howard Street and at high tide you had to pack your bags and get off the beach," DeSatnick

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Guards share safety tips with elementary pupils

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — When in doubt, don't go out, and don't panic if you find yourself swimming in a rip current. That was advice offered as part of an educational outreach from Cape May Beach Patrol lifeguards Ralph Atwell and Bob Cwik when they visited Cape May City Elementary School as part of National Beach Safety Week.

Cwik said one of the most

important items to remember is to always face the waves when leaving the ocean.

"Some of the beaches have a steep slope, that wave picks them up, throws them down and lot of times they land of their head," Cwik said. "We call those a C-spine injury."

Atwell said as a person backs out of the ocean and sees a big wave coming, they can dive under the wave to avoid all the impact. He ad-

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Cape May's salute to service

A bugler plays Taps at the conclusion of the city's Memorial Day service Monday. He was a member of the Coast Guard Training Center Cape May honor guard. See more photos on A4.

Youth help restore Civil War cemetery

By JOHN COOKE
Special to the Star and Wave

ERMA — The remains of nine black sailors found on a Delaware Bay beach in 1850 are buried in the Union Bethel cemetery in Lower Township, a long-forgotten burial place that recently received much-needed care.

"Mr. Schulte wanted to return the eloquence these veterans deserved," said 14-year-old Nikolas Frey, an eighth-grader at the Richard M. Teitelman Middle School who spoke at the rededication ceremony May 24.

Paul Schulte teaches science and engineering at the Teitelman School, heads Project Lead the Way and

advises the Builders Club, which partners with the Kiwanis Club. Together they worked to restore the Union Bethel Civil War Veterans Cemetery.

When Schulte learned of the deplorable conditions of the cemetery, he began to act. Coordinating efforts with Lower Township Public Works and state Sen. Jeff Van Drew, Schulte led a small army of youth into battle against Mother Nature.

"When we got here, there were dozens of trees down, some as thick as 3 feet," Schulte said. "It was not out of my wheelhouse to pick up a chainsaw," continued Schulte, who has a back-

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John Cooke/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

A tombstone at Union Bethel Civil War Veterans Cemetery marks the resting spot of nine black sailors who were found washed up on a Delaware Bay beach.

Parking meter app debuts on busy weekend

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — A smartphone app that allows drivers to pay parking meters with their phone began service Memorial Day weekend.

The partnership between Parkmobile and the city of Cape May allows customers to pay for parking at about 1,200 on-street parking spaces throughout downtown and along the beach. Customers may use Parkmobile's mobile applications for iPhone, Android and Windows phones to conveniently pay to park from almost anywhere.

Mayor Chuck Lear acknowledged the practicality of the Parkmobile program for Cape May's residents and visitors.

"People can relax over dinner or while they are strolling around town, knowing they do not have to rush back to feed a parking me-

ter," he said. "It's a great convenience."

Cape May Information Technology Manager Dan Shustack, who coordinated installation of the system, said, "Parkmobile offers a state-of-the-art approach to metered parking and we hope locals and tourists will find it a useful amenity."

The city is handing out wallet-sized cards that explain how to use Parkmobile and include a QR code to take participants to the website. Shustack said the app knows where a driver is parked using the GPS in their smart phone. While meters on the mall are limited to three hours of parking time, up to 10 hours can be obtained through Parkmobile on the beachfront, he said.

Shustack said the parking meter fees link to a debit card, bank account or Pay-

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Front porch planned for Victorian Towers

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — As part of an \$8 million renovation, Victorian Towers may receive a front porch for residents to enjoy and additional handicapped-accessible parking spaces.

Attorney Nicholas Talvacchia, representing VT Urban Renewal LLC, a part of the Catholic Diocese of Camden Senior Housing, said approval was being sought to add a 300-square foot, open-air covered porch to the 205-unit senior apartment building on Washing-

ton Street. In addition, four handicapped-accessible parking spaces would be created, causing a loss of one regular parking space. The applicant also sought to replace lighting on the property and install a new sign.

Talvacchia said internal renovations would take place that are not subject to site plan review. He said 10 apartments are being made fully handicapped accessible and 47 units, as well as interior common space, are being rehabilitated.

"They're making a sig-

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