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Migrating monarchs Volunteers tag, track

king of the butterflies



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Lindsey Brendel, center, a field tech with the Monarch Monitoring Project for the New Jersey Audubon Society, conducts a tagging demonstration. At top, Brendel tags a butterfly. Below left, Katherine Burns,

By JACK FICHTER Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — A stiff wind from the east last week was not favorable to migrating monarch butterflies crossing Delaware Bay on their journey to Mexico. The butterflies were lounging about Cape May Point feeding and resting, fueling up for a very long flight.

very long flight. Volunteers and employees from the Monarch Monitoring Project gather daily at Triangle Park to compare notes and tag migrating monarchs.

Lindsey Brendel, a Monarch Monitoring Project field tech for New Jersey Audubon Society, has returned for her second year of counting butterflies. On a breezy morning, she was demonstrating tagging a butterfly, placing a tiny sticker on its left hind wing. She said a unique code of three numbers and three letters identifies each tagged monarch. A visitor watching the tagging asked if the sticker on the butterfly's wings affected its ability to fly. Brendel said it did not and compared to a human wearing a wristwatch. "We do have over 60 recoveries in Mexico, so we do know that our monarchs in Cape May that we're tagging are making it the whole way to the wintering grounds," a trip of 2,000 miles, she said. Those who find a tagged butterfly report it to Monarch Watch. Brendel said a



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE Family members of the late Marvin Hume lower the flag at Sunset Beach in Cape May Point as part of the opening ceremonies of the Run for the Fallen on Sept. 23.

Lighthouse serves

left, sets up Saige Biddison, 6, as a butterfly launching pad. Below right, monarch caterpillars.



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as takeoff point of Run for the Fallen

SUNSET BEACH — The annual Run for the Fallen stepped off from Cape May Point State Park in the shadow of the Cape May Lighthouse on Sept. 24 for a four-day, 188mile memorial journey along the New Jersey coastline to honor fallen service members.

A flag-lowering ceremony was held on the eve of the event at Sunset Beach featuring the family of Marvin Hume, who originated the sunset flag ceremony in 1973.

Hume passed away in April. His image watched over the event from a sign unveiled at the flagpole to honor Hume as "The Flagman of Sunset

he Beach."

"I am missing my friend tonight," said Eileen Kreiss, vice president of NJ Run for the Fallen.

Run for the Fallen, which finished Sept. 27 at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Holmdel, honored every service member from New Jersey who laid down their lives during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Operation New Dawn and all wars and conflicts.

The run team featured a core of 22 active-duty service members from Joint Base McGuire-

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Lower Twp. to demolish, replace cracked tennis, basketball courts

By JACK FICHTER Cape May Star and Wave

BENNET'S CROSSING — Less than 10 years after their construction, the tennis and basketball courts at Freeman Douglass Park at Bennett's Crossing on Route 9 will be demolished and replaced due to extensive cracking.

Lower Township Council awarded an \$8,825 professional services contract Sept. 9 to the engineering firm of Hatch Mott Mac-Donald to evaluate the subgrade conditions at the ten-

nis and basketball courts at Freeman Douglass Park.

In a letter to Township Manager Jim Ridgway, Steve Morey, of Hatch Mott MacDonald, stated that due to substantial cracking throughout portions of the existing tennis and basketball courts, they recommend that a limited geotechnical investigation be performed to evaluate the subgrade conditions that currently exist under the courts. The firm's geotechnical scope of work would consist of performing seven 15-foot-deep soil borings

throughout the construction area.

"One boring within each tennis court footprint will be advanced in a staggered fashion between courts, and two borings (one at each end) will be advanced within the basketball court footprint," Morey stated.

The geotechnical report will include soil properties, groundwater, bearing/settlement/design parameters for structural design and construction recommendations. The letter noted as it

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Elaine's Dinner Theater gets approval for outdoor seating

By JACK FICHTER Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's Zoning Board approved outdoor seating for cocktails at Elaine's Dinner Theater at 513 Lafayette St.

During the summer, the establishment was ticketed for not having the proper permits in place and ceased serving cocktails outdoors, something that had proved popular when

combined with live music. At a Sept. 24 meeting, appli-

cant Shirley Phinney received approval to move 40 seats from her indoor restaurant to a small outdoor patio in front of the building consisting of eight to 10 tables on a seasonal basis.

Louis Dwyer, attorney for Elaine's, said the property had a long history of approvals

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