**Pokemon Go, summer camp part of zoo outreach**

BY JOHN ALVAREZ
Special to The Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — When you think of Cape May County Park and Zoo, locals and tourist alike think of the beautiful animals as well as the lovely grounds of the park, which is family oriented with its "Tree to Tree" obstacle course, and just have a game of catch. People have normal, Norman Rockwell style of summer fun in what is Cape May County.

But from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 5, a different game of "catch" will be available at the park and the zoo will be "housed" a few dollars a day. Instead of just seeing animals, patrons will be able to catch animals with names such as Balhooch, Chumder and Pikuho.

If you don't remember, you probably had a similar game in grade school. However, this get together is to just use one of the school's computers and visit more schools. We could do a middle school program and a high school program of the teachers and the students.

"They are aware what the zoo offers. As the students find out there, they may feel a little overwhelm with alpaca fur."

"They can't believe how important the zoo is to the community." Whalen said. "They set up their 'education station' and answer the questions any number of times is set up all over there.

"Every time someone comes to work at the zoo, the greater potential for park/zoo donations to increase."

"But it also increases the potential to reach more people, to send our message and show them all the education opportunities we have here."

"Well, mostly, because we can," said Jean Whalen, assistant parks director and Zoo, most locals and tourist alike think of the beautiful animals as well as the lovely grounds of the park, which is family oriented with its "Tree to Tree" obstacle course, and just have a game of catch.

"The word docent is Latin for a guide or instructor, and we were taught in the zoo on this summer, yoga classes started. We try to spread it around with different schools as well as in the works of yoga in the area. They can't believe how important the zoo is to the community." Whalen said. "We were concerned about how the instructors would be paid since they were not employed by the zoo. But Lisa Chelato, the first instructor, and the staff didn't want to be paid. We had to clear it as a fundraiser for the zoo so I cleared it with the zoo director and we did it as a fundraiser for the zoo."

"We try to spread it out with different schools of yoga in the area. There are many other events and classes scheduled around the zoo. Sometimes it may only have a little over 100 people, but you know how important it is to the zoo."

"Every time someone discovers I work at the zoo, the greater potential for park/zoo donations to increase. But it also increases the potential to reach more people, to send our message and show them all the education opportunities we have here."

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"The education staff including Sarah Cugias, Holly Yamo, Kimi Yomo and seasonal educator Nicki Lezak realized early on that the zoo could be offering to the community as well as the tourists who visit. They decided to get the word out any way they could. As opposed to just using paper format — flyer handout, posters and such — they are using more environment-

**The summer zoo camp, Crafts with Critters program, Little Lizards classes and Night Out with the Critters are all ways the Cape May County Zoo reaches out to the public to increase exposure.**

The Cape May County Park and Zoo is located at 307 West Route 9 North in Cape May Court House. For further information about upcoming events, educational or social, or if you are interested in visiting the school, call (609) 685-5721 or visit cmzc.com.

**GOING ON NOW**

**2016 Cape May County Park and Zoo Summer Camps**

**Week One August 8th-12th**

**Friday: All Aboard**

**Saturday: Night Out with the Critters**

**Sunday: Family Picnic**

**Monday: Critters in the Classroom**

**Tuesday: Afternoon Campout**

**Wednesday: Critters in the Classroom**

**Thursday: Field Trip to the National Aviary in Pittsburgh**

**Friday: Pirate's Day**

**Week Two August 15th-19th**

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