

Cape May Star and Wave



160TH YEAR NO. 13 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, March 26, 2014 50¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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LCMR LACROSSE LOOKS TO BE MUCH IMPROVED

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Business owner trying to keep access to parking

Expired access agreement at heart of the issue.

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Shortly after Deanna Brown took over Antoinette's Guest Apartments and Suites she entered into a 15-year agreement with her new neighbors, Sturdy Savings Bank, to allow her to maintain access to parking in the back of her residence/business.

Now, 15 years is up, and Sturdy Savings Bank is planning to replace a fence that will eliminate Antoinette's ingress and egress for four parking spaces in the back of the property.

Sturdy Savings president Gerald Reeves said the bank has allowed Brown to use the driveway beyond the 15-year Access Agreement signed in 1994, and she has plenty of time to come up with other plans for access to her rear parking area. All but 22 inches of the driveway is owned by Sturdy Savings Bank.

Brown's attorney, Michele Donato, has filed an 11-point appeal with the Cape May Zoning Board of Adjustment on a signed certificate of appropriateness for a replacement fence that will be erected on (six inches away from) the property line between Antoinette's and Sturdy Savings.

Brown and her attorney will have to file a form requesting an appeal with the Zoning Board of Adjustment, as the board doesn't accept a letter alone.

However, Donato said in her Notice of Appeal, "Access between these two properties has existed uninterrupted... extending back to the 19th century."

Donato said access to Antoinette's off-street parking is necessary to conform to off-street parking requirements, for Brown to conduct her business, and to maintain the historic integrity of the property. She said the elimination of the access would make Antoinette's a non-conforming property, and would lead to the demolition of what Brown said is a 1909 garage,

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, a goshawk perched in a tree along one of the hiking trails at Cape May Point State park.

Birding in Cape May County is a matter of saving the local ecology

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

GOSHEN – Pete Dunne, has been a bird watcher since he was 7-years-old. He said at that age he would just run into the woods and it felt like the world became his.

"I originally started bird watching because I wanted to get away from people," he said.

At 65, Dunne has recently stepped down as the director of the Cape May Bird Observatory (CMBO), which is a place that attracts people. Somewhere along the line, Dunne decided on a purpose for bringing people into the birder tribe. "I don't know why every-

one doesn't do it. It's just a walk outdoors. There is no season ticket to buy, it's cheap, it's legal, it's not fattening, and you can do at any age. You don't have to be old to excel. I think everyone

Dunne, a naturalist since 1976, became director of the CMBO in 1978. In the late 1980s he went to the NJ Audubon in North Jersey, and Paul Kerlinger took over the CMBO. After Kerlinger

his agenda has been or is with regard to the CMBO or his position now as a kind of ambassador for the NJ Audubon.

"The end game is to make people ecological and take care of the world," he said.

Dunne said people in Cape May County should take the time to look about at the natural world around them.

"What we have in Cape May County is a great wealth of natural history. We have more natural spectacles than anything else," he said. "People who come here from Australia and Israel don't come here to lie on the beaches – they come to here to watch birds. I have some

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"I don't know why everyone doesn't do it."

– Pete Dunne, author, birding ambassador

should be a birder," he said. Dunne said if more people were birders they would have more appreciation for the local ecology.

left in 1997, Dunne became interim director from 1997 until a stroke last year forced him to step down. He makes no bones about what

Free beach tags for vets is approved in Cape May

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Cape May City Council last week approved an ordinance giving veterans and active duty military personnel free beach tags this summer.

Cape May is the latest municipality in the state to take advantage of a new state law established in January allowing beach communities to offer free or reduced cost tags to military veterans.

At the March 4 meeting, City Manager Bruce MacLeod estimated the potential loss in beach tag revenue from the program to be \$24,000 based on other municipalities, such as Ocean City, which for several years have offered free tags to active duty military.

This research was done because the Beach Utility is intended to be self-liquidating. MacLeod hopes that over time the Beach Utility

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Sports-related concussions need to be taken seriously

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – Concussions have been a notorious issue in sports over the last several years as the effects of concussion-related injuries continues to intensify among high school, college and professional athletes.

Dr. Chris Keenan, a physician at the Cape May Court House and Somers Point branches of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) Care Network, said



Cain Chamberlin
Cape May Star and Wave

Left, Dr. Chris Keenan and Dr. George Bross stand by the sign of the Cape May Court House branch of the CHOP Care Network.

the ever-growing number of concussions are not due to a lack of safety or more aggressive play among athletes, but simply more awareness.

"What's been a surprise to

many is that there's such an increase in the number of concussions that are being presented, so the feeling has been, in a negative sense, that more concussions are happening," he said. "But, in a positive sense, what's happening is people are recognizing (concussions), whereas before there was a tendency to just call it 'getting your bell rung' or 'just getting knocked around' and not really paying much attention to it."

Keenan began his medical career at the Alfred I.

DuPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Del., where he was in the rehabilitation department specializing in head and spinal chord injuries. His work in the field continues today at the CHOP Care Network, where he has been for the past 13 years.

He said all nine physicians at the Cape May County CHOP Care Network and Atlantic County CHOP Primary Care are trained in concussion management; however, he

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