

Cape May Star and Wave

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164th YEAR NO. 26

CAPE MAY, N.J.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 2018 \$1.00



House of the week

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Lower to widen beach paths on Delaware Bay

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Pot 'marketed toward kids,' group alleges

NJ R.A.M.P. warns of consequences of legalizing marijuana for recreational use

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

SWAINTON — With three pending bills and a campaign promise of legalizing recreational use of marijuana by Gov. Phil Murphy, there is concern among law-enforcement and drug-prevention agencies about the effect of marijuana retail stores and THC-infused food products.

Grace Hanlon, director of NJ R.A.M.P. (Responsible Approaches to Marijuana Policy), said recreational marijuana is a \$1 billion industry "that's



HANLON

been talking in the politicians ears for years." She addressed a meeting of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce on June 21.

In a video presented by Hanlon, Dr. Kevin Sabet, a founder of NJ R.A.M.P. who served in four presidential administrations as a senior policy adviser, said marijuana and its ingredient THC are becoming an industry resembling the tobacco and alcohol industries and big pharmaceuticals. He said legalization is encouraging a new generation of drug users through legal businesses.

Sabet said "pot shops" are concentrated in poorer communities in Colorado and that Colorado has a "stoned-driving problem." He termed marijuana as a massive new industry that sees money everywhere and is trying to "hook kids to be their lifelong customers."

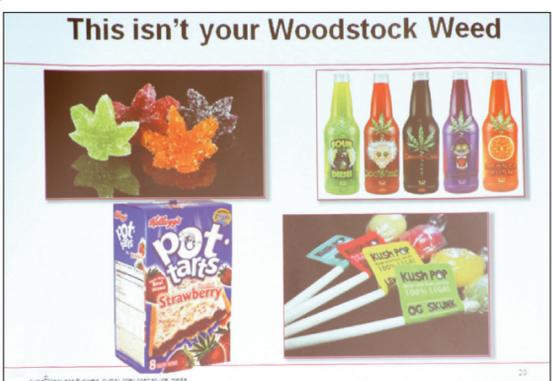
Hanlon said when Murphy won the gubernatorial election in November with a platform promising legalization of marijuana, there was panic among those in the health care industry, addiction and prevention specialists and law enforcement.

She said NJ R.A.M.P. was formed as a coalition of individuals and associations

who believe that the health, safety and economic harms of recreational marijuana legalization far outweigh the perceived social benefits such as tax revenue. Hanlon said NJ R.A.M.P. supports decriminalization of marijuana but not commercializing the drug.

Hanlon said when she first heard of legalization of marijuana in New Jersey, she thought it would be homegrown, farm-to-table marijuana with a 3 percent level of THC. She showed a slide of THC-infused products such as gummies, sodas and breakfast pastries.

"It's not marketed toward



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
Part of a video presentation by Grace Hanlon, of NJ R.A.M.P., shows edible marijuana products she said are marketed to children.

Pastor of Allen AME Church says fire 'blessing in disguise'

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The Rev. Pauline Couch said she views the fire June 9 at Allen AME Church as a "blessing in disguise."

The historic church suffered damage as the result of a moving van snagging a utility pole guy wire, resulting in a high-voltage line falling on the church's steeple tower and setting it and the church's entrance ablaze.

She said the church would repair the building, which needed other repairs. An insurance adjuster visited the church June 21.

"A lot of people are very interested in it and donating toward it," Couch said.

She said the moving company was insured.

"I don't feel it was his fault because the pole there was really weak," Couch said. "It had been hit before."

Church members are cur-



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
The Allen AME Church suffered severe damage during a fire June 9 but the pastor says it may be beneficial, since the church needed a lot of work.

rently meeting at a member's home, Couch said.

She said donations can be made payable to Allen AME Church and sent to

717 Franklin St., Cape May, NJ 08204.

"God always provides,"

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Werner Tedesco/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Summer sunrise

The sun rises over the beach in Cape May, signalling the start of a new day as summer kicks into high gear in the Nation's First Seaside Resort. The weather is expected to catch up to the calendar quickly as temperatures are forecast to reach the mid-90s this weekend.

Dozens protest Trump policy

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

MAYS LANDING — About 35 people demonstrated June 20 in front of U.S. Rep. Frank LoBiondo's Mays Landing office against President Donald Trump's policy of separating immigrant

children from their families. More than 2,300 children — including infants and toddlers — have been separated from their parents caught crossing the border and held in detention centers throughout the country in the past six weeks.

The move was part of

the Trump administration's "zero tolerance" policy for criminally prosecuting illegal immigrants crossing into the U.S.

Photos of a former Walmart in Brownsville, Texas, converted into a de-

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Pilot of stolen banner plane flees after landing on Cape May beach

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Personnel from U.S. Coast Guard Training Center Cape May, the county Sheriff's Department and Cape May Police Department continued searching Monday for the pilot of a banner-towing plane who illegally landed on a secured Coast Guard beach Sunday night and fled the scene.

According to Barbara Tomalino, president of Paramount Air Service, one of

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Petty Officer 2nd Class Richard Brahm/PROVIDED
Workers from Paramount Air Service arrive to start disassembling the banner-towing plane for transportation back to its headquarters.

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