

Cape May Star and Wave

162nd YEAR NO. 2 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2016 75¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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NEW ARRIVALS AT CAPE MAY COUNTY ZOO

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Kristen Kelleher/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Graduate student Hayley Leiva of Metuchen shows Cape May City Elementary School students Alexandra Bruno and Naada Moustafa how to put up crime scene tape during the Murder in the Pines course at Tween Tech on Friday at Stockton University in Galloway Township.

TWEEN TECH

AAUW, Stockton open doors to science, tech, engineering, math for middle school-aged girls

By CRAIG D. SCHENCK
Cape May Star and Wave

GALLOWAY TOWNSHIP — The British pop band Spice Girls made the phrase “Girl Power” a cultural phenomenon in the 1990s, celebrating empowerment and emphasizing strong and loyal friendships among females.

On Friday, Jan. 8, a “Girl Power” of another sort was celebrated at Stockton University, where more than 200 middle school-age girls

gathered for Tween Tech, a mini-conference designed to develop girls’ interest and self-confidence in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

Stockton and the American Association of University Women (AAUW) hosted the event, billed as a “fun, interactive and inspiring day of girl power.”

Carol Cohen, state president of the AAUW,

See Tween Tech page A2



Kristen Kelleher/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Belhaven Middle School seventh-grader Samantha Richards, left, and Northfield Community School seventh-grader Lucy van den Heuvel design and build a machine during the Little Bits course at Tween Tech on Friday at Stockton University in Galloway Township.

Senate passes bill requiring hospitals compensate hosts

Local health care leaders call measure fair

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

TRENTON — Bipartisan legislation was approved by the state Senate Jan. 11. It would have nonprofit hospitals with for-profit facilities make payments to host municipalities to compensate for blanket tax exemptions on their property.

Officials at the two closest hospitals — Cape Regional Medical Center in Middle Township and Shore Medical Center in Somers Point — say the legislation is fair. They already pay taxes and make payments in lieu of taxes, the officials say, and they believe in supporting the communities that support them.

S-3299, which was sponsored by Senators Robert Singer, Stephen Sweeney, and Joe Vitale, updates tax laws that date back to 1913 and would require acute-care hospitals make payments to their

home communities to offset the cost of local services.

The Hospital Community Service Contribution bill is based on a June 2015 tax court ruling that found Morristown Medical Center operated as a for-profit hospital, making it subject to property taxes. Tax court Judge Vito Bianco ruled the hospital failed to meet the legal test operating as a nonprofit, charitable organization from 2006 to 2008, and should pay property taxes on all of its 40-acre property. As part of the agreement, Morristown Medical Center will have to pay Morristown \$155 million over the next decade.

In a Dec. 17 release, Singer (R-Monmouth, Ocean) said the Hospital Community Service Contribution legislation was developed as a “fair way to compensate host municipalities for the services hospitals use,” notably emergency services.

“These hospitals provide

critical services to our communities and are a significant economic engine in the areas they serve. We rely on their continued future success under this community payment plan.”

Sweeney (D-Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem) said the bill recognizes the significant changes occurring in the health care industry, including “the competitions among hospitals and the broad range of services they provide.”

“The business has changed, but the tax laws have stayed the same. This will have the hospitals pay their fair share while at the same time preserving their tax-exempt status,” Sweeney said.

The Senate voted 37-0 to approve the bill.

The bill’s Assembly component, A-4903, was also passed by the Assembly 61-9-2 on Jan. 11.

See Hospital bill, Page A5

Cape May to send beach-slope study to N.J. DEP, Army Corps

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

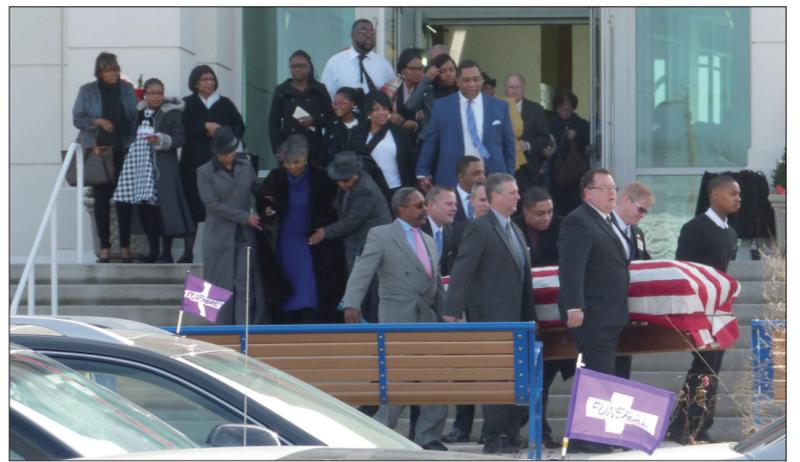
CAPE MAY — City Council is sending a report on the city’s beach slope prepared by the city’s engineering firm to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Council has not yet decided if it will pursue an option of moving sand on the beaches to reduce the slope, which would

Study’s beach injury data based on Delaware research. Page A3

conducting a feasibility to see if a solution to sharp drop-offs in shallow water, believed to be responsible for hundreds of injuries to bathers, could be fixed.

At a Dec. 15 City Council meeting, engineer Doug Gaffney offered an option of moving sand with machinery to decrease the slope, with excess sand being placed on the dune line.

See Beach slope, Page A3



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Friends, family say final goodbyes to the Rev. Davis

Pallbearers carry the body of the Rev. Robert O. Davis, former pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church in Cape May, to the hearse for transport to the cemetery following services at Convention Hall. See story, A4.

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