



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Lindsey Brendel holds a monarch butterfly, which she said, contrary to popular belief, are very hardy, and a page of tags used to monitor the insects movements and numbers. 'Monarchs are actually very sturdy butterflies,' she said.

## Monarch migration

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Brendel said. "Number-wise, it's up from last year, but last year was an awful year," she said. Brendel said that while the total monarch population is in a steep decline, the East Coast population is more stable due to a number of property owners creating backyard habitats friendly to butterflies. With the aid of a large butterfly net, Brendel captures a few monarchs and tags their wing with a tiny adhesive sticker featuring a letter and number code. "When we tag, we write

down the location, the date and the time that we tag the butterfly," she said. Brendel records the gender of monarchs by looking for scent glands, which identify males. She measures their wings with a ruler and checks them for the amount of body fat they have stored by touching their abdomens. A perfect butterfly earns a rating of W1. A northwest breeze brought a bumper crop of monarchs last Thursday, allowing her to tag 40 butterflies in one day, she said. While monarchs look extremely fragile, the opposite is true for a creature than

can migrate 2,500 miles from Canada to Mexico. "Monarchs are actually very sturdy butterflies," she said. "It's amazing when you're here because you'll see some that have severe damage to all the wings, one wing will be almost completely gone and they're still flying." Brendel said her favorite part of the job is being able to talk to the public and do informal tagging demonstrations. The Center for Biological Diversity and several other groups filed a petition with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seeking to place monarchs under the Endangered Species Act.

## The Nature Center of Cape May hosts Mommy and Me program

The Nature Center of Cape May will host the Mommy and Me children's program from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Fridays from Oct. 3 to Dec. 5. It's never too early to start training a naturalist. This is a very special program for children ages 2 to 4 designed to engage that curious naturalist-to-be who is accompanied by a parent, guardian or grandparent. Each week, we'll focus on a different aspect of nature with stories, songs, crafts, activities, outdoor experiences and lots of fun. We encourage children and accompanying adults to explore the natural world together. Adult participation is required. Preregistration is required. The cost is \$7 per



A little girl uses a magnifying glass to inspect items on the beach during a Mommy and Me class at the Nature Center of Cape May. Classes run from Oct. 3 to Dec. 5.

class for members and \$9 for nonmembers. The Nature Center is located at 1600 Delaware Ave. in Cape May. Call (609) 898-8848 for information.

## Cape May beach tag, parking, room tax revenue rises

**By JACK FICHTER**  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City revenue from the summer season from beach tags, parking meters and accommodations tax all showed gains over last year, with rooms tax leading the field with an 8 percent increase for July. At a Sept. 15 City Council

meeting, City Manager Bruce MacLeod reported beach tags sales for 2014 totaled \$2,092,292, up from \$1,980,246 in 2013, an increase of \$112,046, or 5.7 percent. Beach tags sales ended on Labor Day. He reported parking meter revenue for 2014 through the end of August was \$829,791, up from \$806,730 in 2013, an

increase of \$23,061, or 2.9 percent. Room tax on hotel/motel rooms and bed and breakfast accommodations is received from the state on a two-month delay. Figures for the end of July for 2014 are \$748,255, up from \$692,402 in 2013, an increase of \$55,853, or 8 percent, according to MacLeod.

## Neon signs

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Street Mall had blinking neon signs. HPC members said neon signs were also in use on Beach Drive and next to the Acme market on Ocean Street. Coupland said use of neon signs is not permitted under Cape May's building code.

"Evidently, an individual complaint doesn't work, so it seems to me a motion from the Historic Preservation Commission to City Council to encourage them to review and enforce this code is appropriate at this point," he said. Coupland said someone from the city's Construction Office

may cite a business for using a neon sign but use of the sign continues. "Nothing happens, so the person next door buys one," he said. Fineberg requested a list of businesses using neon signs. Coupland said the HPC's letter should note several complaints have been made about neon signs but no action taken by the city. HPC Commissioner Corbin Cogswell said the red, moving information sign on the front of Cape May Convention Hall used to list upcoming shows is a violation of city code. He said it fell into the same category as a neon sign. Coupland said the HPC discussed the inappropriateness of a moving information sign with MacLeod when Convention Hall opened two years ago. He noted the use of vinyl railings and siding on city-owned property as well. HPC Secretary Edie Kopsitz said the city's Construction Office was undergoing reorganization.

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**Dolphin Tale 2 PG 11:20, 1:55, 4:25, 6:55, 9:35**  
**No Good Deed PG13 [11:40, 2:20, [7:40] [9:40]**  
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