

Lifeguards can close beach in unsafe conditions

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Lifeguards have the autonomy to shut down a beach if surf conditions become unsafe to bathers, according to Beach Patrol Capt. Geoff Rife. During a meeting of the Beach Safety Committee on Aug. 29, committee member Kate Wyatt inquired what was the CMBP's policy on closing the beach. Rife said he and Beach Patrol Chief Buzz Mogck would make that decision on the side of

caution. "If we think it's too dangerous, like it was a few weeks ago, we shut down everyone including the surfers. It was the right thing to do," Rife said. He said the CMBP works with beach taggers when a red flag is posted indicating no swimming, letting the public know which beaches are open for bathing. Rife said closing a beach is contingent on the swell, wind direction and tide cycle. "It's very contingent upon the way the individual

beach that we are speaking about is facing, what way the wind is blowing on that day, where we are in the tide cycle," he said. "Some beaches are more dangerous than others depending where we are on all those things." "Our senior guards have the ability to close down their beach until they believe it's a more safe condition," Rife continued. "More autonomy now is being placed on all of us from the chief down to our lowest rookie in making more of the decisions of what we believe is the best public interest for safety." In other business, the city's Beach Safety Committee and Environmental

Commission will work together on issues concerning beach replenishment and safety. Beach Safety Committee Chairman Dennis DeSatnick said the surf zone needs improvement. He said the two groups could help the city in approaching the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and state Department of Environmental Protection on the replenishment template. DeSatnick said the beach-replenishment program is beyond his scope and it will be necessary to bring in engineers to come up with a plan. Rife said while the city can remove scarps — sharp drop-offs of sand — from on

the beach, it was directed not to do beach raking or cleaning east of Pittsburg Avenue due to the environmentally sensitive nature of the area. "It almost means the scarp that was knocked down from Pittsburg Avenue to the west was not able to be done from Pittsburg Avenue to the east," he said. Rife said he was not sure if the CMBP should speak with City Manager Neil Young to explore the legalities of the city's beach maintenance permit or speak with the Environmental Commission to obtain permission to knock down scarps on three beaches on the east end of

town without going on the environmentally sensitive areas. He said due to free parking nearby and the more mellow atmosphere of Baltimore, Poverty and Brooklyn beaches, they are becoming increasingly more populated. DeSatnick said if the DEP understood the city would address only the scarp and stay out of the environmentally sensitive area, they may be able to do the work. Rife said since the city has the ability through the new beach maintenance permit to take care of scarps, from a public safety standpoint it would be great to remove scarps from the entire beachfront.

TIDES : Sept. 6-13, 2017				
DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
6	8:42	8:59	2:23	2:31
7	9:21	9:38	3:00	3:14
8	10:00	10:19	3:38	3:59
9	10:43	11:03	4:19	4:47
10	11:29	11:52	5:03	5:40
11		12:21	5:51	6:39
12	12:48	1:21	6:46	7:44
13	1:54	2:29	7:48	8:53

MOON PHASES
Full moon, Sept. 6 • last quarter, Sept. 13

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Student drop-off zone changed at Mitnick school

By JACK FICHTER
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COLD SPRING — To deal with traffic jams entering the school property in the morning, the Carl T. Mitnick School is asking parents to drop off their children behind the school. "On certain days, Mitnick parent drop-off can be backed up all the way to Seashore Road way before we even begin letting students in the building," Superintendent Jeff Samaniego said during a Board of Education meeting Aug. 29. "This has been a safety issue for our students and also the public." The back of the school

will become the drop off area at a door right before the cafeteria instead of parents driving up to the flagpole at the front of the school, he said. Samaniego said additional security cameras have been installed in the new drop off area. "We'll continue to have staff and security supervising this new procedure," he said. An asphalt-covered lane with signage has been created just for drop-offs. Daycare students will continue to be dropped off at the front of the school before 8:30 a.m. After 8:30 a.m., daycare students must be dropped off at the back of the building as buses

begin to arrive, according to Samaniego. Procedures for drop off of daycare students for the Maud Abrams and Sandman schools have been changed. He said instead of A.M. daycare Maud Abrams and Sandman school students coming to the Mitnick School, they will now go to the Maud Abrams School to be dropped off directly in front of the daycare door. Sandman students will then be escorted by security and staff across the parking lot into Sandman to begin their day, Samaniego said. He said the district was welcoming nine new teach-

ers due to transfers and retirement. "We're extremely excited and have high expectations for each and every one of these teachers for being in our district," he said. The district's vision statement with follows the abbreviation L.T.E.S. as in Lower Township Elementary School: "Every Student, Every Day: Learning, Teaching Exploring, Succeeding, has been placed on banners in each school courtesy of Life Touch, the company that takes student photos. The Douglass Memorial School kindergarten playground has been replaced, Samaniego said.

Road rage leads to Pa., man's arrest in Lower Twp.

ERMA — Police arrested a Pennsylvania driver for allegedly pointing a handgun in the direction of another driver in the area of Route 109 and the Garden State Parkway in Lower

Township. Lower Township police received a report of the road rage incident at about 10 a.m. Aug. 27 in which a male subject displayed a handgun. The male driver of a silver Hyundai sport utility vehicle with Pennsyl-

vania tags was holding a handgun and pointing it in the direction of the occupants of the other vehicle involved, police said. Prior to officers' arrival, information was received that the male subject and his female passenger fled the area traveling north on

Seashore Road. The victims were able to get the vehicle tag number of the suspects and reported that information to the police. Responding officers Ptlm. Kyle Boyle and Ptlm. Michael Szemcsak checked the area for the vehicle and began contacting local campgrounds to see if that vehicle was registered at any of those locations. Once the officers found the campground where the suspects were staying, they confirmed the car was still at the campsite. A few minutes later, the suspects left the campground and were stopped by the officers. After receiving a valid consent to search, a firearm matching the one described by the victims was recovered. The male, August Boback, 72, was arrested and transported to the Lower Township Police Department for further investigation and processing. He was charged with two counts of possession of a firearm, unlawful possession of a weapon for unlawful purpose and aggravated assault by pointing a firearm in the direction of another. At the conclusion of processing, Boback was transported to the Cape May County Jail. There were no injuries related to the investigation, which was conducted by the patrol and detective divisions within the Lower Township Police Department.

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