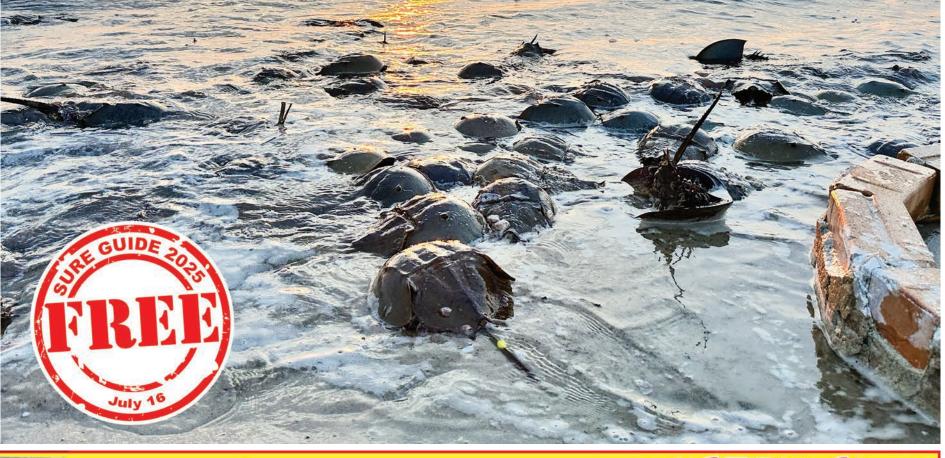
OCEAN CITY 9025 6005

Horseshoe crabs swarm the shore at Kimbles Beach in Cape May Court House in mid-June. Volunteers tagged 500 of the creates for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife service in one evening. SEE STORY INSIDE.

(David Nahan/Sure Guide)









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Tagging horseshoe crabs: Volunteers help track ancient, keystone species

By DAVID NAHAN Sure Guide

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — With the backdrop of a beautiful sunset over Delaware Bay on a quite warm mid-June evening, mosquitoes and biting flies were pestering some 75 volunteers gathered at the narrow Kimbles Beach.

Volunteers were taking in instructions about the creatures with an ancient history that were overcrowding the shoreline just feet away.

Heidi Hanlon, a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service stationed just up Kimbles Beach Road in the Cape May National Wildlife Refuge, was telling the group about the horseshoe crabs they would be tagging after sunset.

Wearing headlamps with red filters, volunteers of all ages listened as Hanlon explained how each group of four to five would pick up the horseshoe crabs, take down information on size and gender, carefully drill a hole in a corner of their shell and affix a white tag about the size and shape of a quarter. Volunteers were told to be careful not to disturb the horseshoe crabs that had literally hooked up to mate in the shallow water and just onto the sand.

It was an interesting sight after the

sun set June 10, the day before the full moon — known in June as the Strawberry Moon. After getting their marching orders on this, the second tagging of the season after one in late May, the groups of volunteers spread out over about a half-mile of shoreline, visible only by the little red lights on their heads.

A line of red dots appeared in the distance under a fairly dark night because the moon was partially obscured by clouds. Volunteers' features became discernible only upon approach as they happily and quietly used electric hand drills with tips dipped in alcohol between tagging.

One volunteer would pick up and hold the crab, one would do the quick drilling, one apply the tag and another take down the size and gender information related to the specific crab and tag, though duties could shift among them.

Horseshoe crabs

Horseshoe crabs (Limulus polyphemus) have been on Earth for 400 million years, according to New Jersey Fish and Wildlife. Beach-goers here in southern New Jersey often see a few of these "living fossils" during their summer visits.

See Tagging, Page 8



David Nahan/SURE GUID

Horseshoe crabs swarm the shore at Kimbles Beach in Cape May Court House as the sun goes down over Delaware Bay on June 10. Volunteers helped U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service biologists tag 500 of the crabs after the sun set. **More photos at starwavenewspaper.com.**



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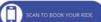








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Conservation-minded interns assist U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

By DAVID NAHAN SURE GUIDE

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Different paths led a pair of bio-interns to the Cape May National Wildlife Refuge, but both are ardent about preserving wildlife and the environment.

Kiana Itschner-Washington and Ari Huang are at the refuge as part of 21-week stints with the American Conservation Experience, a national non-profit that offers "environmental service opportunities that harness the idealism and energy of a young adult labor force to help restore America's public lands."

Both are from Illinois and both have ties to the East Coast, one by way of New Jersey.

Kiana is a self-described "massive, massive biology nerd" who is in her second stint with the Conservation Experience. She saw an opportunity to get back to the East Coast.

A graduate of Illinois State University who majored in conservation and biology, Kiana knew what she wanted to do from an early age.

"I think probably some of my earliest memories were running around with my grandpa always fishing," she said about spending a lot of time in Virginia when she was a kid.

"I was supposed to be fishing, but ... I'd with the horses just be running around catching bugs and Kimbles Beach.

snakes and staring at meadows and the water and stuff, so I don't think there was any other real path for me, honestly."

Ari grew up close to New York City in Bergen County, N.J., but moved to Chicago. She dropped out of college, but for her the spark was lit in school in an environmental science class.

"It's something that always interested me," she said. "Basically all of the subjects that we did there was something I found fascinating to learn about."

"I want to safeguard nature because a lot of species, both plant and wildlife, are at risk," she said. "Climate change is a huge problem nowadays. It became important to me to take care of the outside world because it's where we live, it's what we have.

"We need to make sure that it's there for us and for future generations, too."

She started with volunteering on ecological restoration work and over time began looking for jobs in the field and stumbled

See Interns, Page 42

David Nahan/SURE GUIDE

Kiana Itschner-Washington, left, and Ari Huang of the American Conservation Experience help the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service with the horseshoe crab tagging June 10 at Kimbles Beach.



Tagging horseshoe crabs-



David Nahan SURE GUIDE

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service wildlife biologist Heidi Hanlon talks to volunteers before they tag 500 horseshoe crabs. At left, crabs by the shore at Kimbles Beach in Cape May Court House.

More photos at ocnjsentinel.com.

Continued from page 6

(To pick one up stranded in the sand, grasp it by the shell near the head — never the tail — and place it near the water's edge.)

Horseshoe crabs have 12 legs — five pair for walking and a set of tiny pinchers — and a long, spiky tail used for navigation and to right itself if it flips over. They are brown to gray in color, are 3.5 to 33 inches long, range along the Atlantic coast and are more related to spiders than crabs.

They are scavengers that feed on sea worms, small mollusks, crustaceans and decaying matter on the sea floor. The females are generally much larger than the males.

The largest concentration of breeding horseshoe crabs is along Delaware bay; a moratorium was imposed on their harvest in New Jersey in 2008 after harvests in the 1990s created large declines in the species' population, which has since recovered, according to Fish and Wildlife.

There is an exception for biomedical companies that can catch horseshoe crabs and withdraw some of their blood, then return them to the bay. The blood is used to produce limulus amebocyte lysate, which is used to detect endotoxin contamination of injectable drugs and implanted devices.

Females can lay 60,000 to 120,000 eggs in batches of a few thousand at a time. Those eggs are a key part of the ecosystem, pro-

viding food and energy for migrating shorebirds, which is one reason the horseshoe crabs are considered a keystone species because of their part in the environment.

"The Delaware Bay is such a phenomenon. The crabs and the birds are here at the same time," Hanlon said. "The crabs spawn and lay their eggs and then the birds come in and feed on the eggs that are on the surface that wouldn't have hatched. When that's timed perfectly, the birds can fatten up and be able to continue their migration. It's such an important part of the birds' migration to stop over here."

Tagging and survey

Hanlon said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been doing the tagging since about 2000-01 and she has been part of the tagging and survey since 2002.

"We have the longest-running set of data from our beach," she said. "We're learning the age of the crabs, how old they get, how many times they spawn a season and where they're going." (They mature around 10 years old and can live for 20 years.)

When people find a tagged horseshoe crab, they send the information to Fish and Wildlife and receive a certificate in return.

She showed some certificates to the volunteers. One was for a crab tagged 10

See Tagging, Page 30







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Sticking with it: 10-year-old prepares in advance for taffy contest

Sentinel staff

OCEAN CITY — Sawyer Culp had a plan going into the Wacky Wednesday Taffy Sculpting Contest on July 9, and she was determined to, ahem, stick with it.

Shriver's Salt Water Taffy was in abundance under the loggia at the Ocean City Music Pier as a couple of hundred would-be artists went head to head for a chance at achieving sweet success — or at least a colorful ribbon.

The 10-year-old from Clover, S.C., was visiting America's Greatest Family Resort with mother Jillian Culp and brother Jameson, 6.

"She has been sketching what she wants to make," Culp said of her daughter. "She's been picking colors and what flavors she's going to make. She is very into this."

Sawyer said she had been thinking about her design for about three days and decided to go with an axolotl salamander holding a piece of taffy.

Mary Grant brought her three daughters — Lyla, 4, Addie Joe, 2, and Sloane, 5 months — from Baltimore to stay with mother



Craig D. Schenck/SURE GUIDE

Sawyer Culp, 10, of Clover, S.C., shows off the sketch she made in advance of the Wacky Wednesday Taffy Sculpting Contest on July 9 at the Ocean City Music Pier. At right, Olivia Fitzgerald, 6, of Richboro, Pa.

Betsy Sanford in the Southend. Sanford said she has been com-

ing to Ocean City for 68 years. What does she like about it?

"Everything. We love riding the bikes on the boardwalk, we

See Taffy Sculpting, page 31



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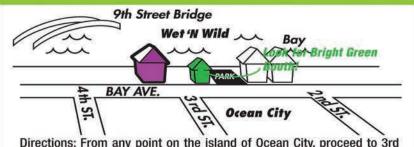
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Wacky Wednesday — French Fry Sculpting: July 16

JULY

16 — Farmers Market: 8 a.m. to noon. Crafters in the street at Sixth Street and Asbury Avenue and on the Tabernacle grounds.

16 — Wacky Wednesday – French Fry Sculpting: Use your creativity to shape and sculpt french fries into your very own unique masterpiece. Contest is free; open to the first 200 participants. Starts at 10:30 a.m. at the Music Pier.

18-19 — The Prom School Edition: Presented by OCTC and featuring members of the High School Junior Company at 7:30 p.m. at the Music Pier. Tickets available at oceancitytheatrecompany.com.

22 — Pete the Cat: Presented by OCTC at 10:30 a.m. at the

Music Pier. Tickets available at oceancitytheatrecompany.com.

23 — Farmers Market: 8 a.m. to noon. Crafters in the street at Sixth Street and Asbury Avenue and Tabernacle grounds.

23 — Wacky Wednesday – Christmas in July: Celebrate the Christmas holiday season in July with a special craft and a visit from Santa while he is in town on vacation. Visit with Santa from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and enjoy the sounds of the season with Christmas Music Bingo at 11 a.m. at the Music Pier. Participants must be present at 10:30 a.m.

24 — Ocean City Fishing Pier Open House: 6 to 8 p.m. Tour the pier and clubhouse at 14th Street and boardwalk. Visitors will also be able to make an optional monetary donation or canned goods

donation to support the Ocean City Food Cupboard.

26 — 70th annual Night in Venice Celebration: The city's annual boat parade is one of the largest in the world. Starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Ocean City-Longport Bridge to Tennessee Avenue along the bay. Fireworks display to follow parade. Registration information to follow and more details at www.ocnj. us/NIV.

28 — Let's Sing Taylor – An Unofficial Live Band Tribute: The concert begins at 7 p.m. at the Ocean City Music Pier. Tickets available at etix.com.

29 — A Year With Frog and Toad: Presented by OCTC at 10:30 a.m. at the Music Pier. Tickets available at oceancity-theatrecompany.com.



70th annual Night in Venice Celebration: July 26



30 — Farmers Market: 8 a.m. to noon. Crafters in the street at Sixth Street and Asbury Avenue and on the Tabernacle grounds.

30 — Wacky Wednesday – Soft Pretzel Sculpting: Use your creativity to shape and sculpt a soft pretzel into your very own unique masterpiece. Contest is free but limited to 150 participants. 10:30 a.m. at the Music Pier.

AUGUST

1-2 — The 24th annual Art of Surfing: A free family event featuring original art from surfing's biggest names, live music and a chance to meet artists from across the country at the Ocean City Music Pier.

Ocean City Calendar, page 15



Ocean City Calendar

Continued from page 14

1-3 — 62nd annual Boardwalk Art Show: Leading artists from throughout the East Coast exhibit and sell their work. 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

5-8, 12-14 — Footloose: Presented by the Ocean City POPs and OCTC at 7:30 p.m. plus 2 p.m. Aug. 7 and 14 at the Hughes Performing Arts Center. Tickets available at ocnj.us/boxoffice.

6 — Farmers Market: 8 a.m. to noon. Crafters in the street at Sixth Street and

Asbury Avenue and on the Tabernacle grounds.

6 - Wacky Wednesday - Prince and Princess Party: Use your creativity to design your own prince or princess crown with Miss Ocean City, Junior Miss Ocean City and Little Miss Ocean City. Contest is free at the Music Pier. Participants must be present at 10:30 a.m.

6 — Twins Contest: Prizes for those who look the most and least alike. Open to all ages. Free registration begins at 5:30 p.m. Contest begins at 6 p.m. in front of the Music Pier.

7 — Sand Sculpting Contest: Open to

children, teens, adults and families. Free registration begins at 9 a.m. at the Sixth Street beach. Judging by 11 a.m.

7 — Ocean City Fishing Pier Open House: 6 to 8 p.m. Tour the pier and clubhouse at 14th Street and boardwalk. Visitors will also be able to make an optional monetary donation or canned goods donation to support the Ocean City Food Cupboard. Rain date Aug. 8.

9 — Boys and Girls Fishing Tournament: Free entry for all ages 8-16. All participants receive a prize. Northend beach by the Ocean City-Longport Bridge. Registration begins at 9 a.m.; parent signature needed that day.

9 — Miss Ocean City Pageant: 7 p.m. at the Music Pier. Miss Ocean City 2025 Taylor Mulford will be on hand as contestants compete in interview, talent, swimsuit, evening gown and onstage question.

11 — Mickey Dolenz of the Monkees: The concert begins at 7 p.m. at the Ocean City Music Pier. Tickets available at etix.

12 — Pamper Scamper: Annual baby crawling race. Free registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Contest begins at 9 a.m. at the

Ocean City Calendar, page 22



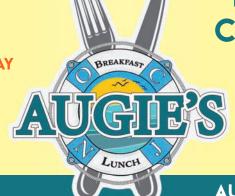












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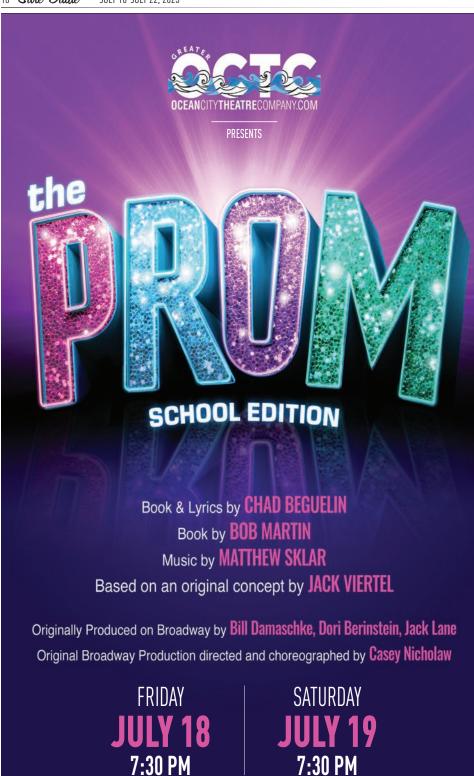
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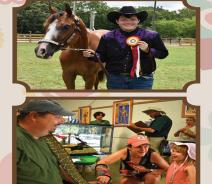
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Ocean City Calendar



Little Miss Ocean City Pageant: August 15

Continued from page 15

Sixth Street beach. For babies up to 15 months.

13 — Farmers Market: 8 a.m. to noon. Crafters in the street at Sixth Street and Asbury Avenue

and on the Tabernacle grounds.

13 — Wacky Wednesday –

Doughnut Sculpting: Use your creativity to shape and sculpt a warm and fresh boardwalk donut into your very own unique masterpiece. Contest is free. Limited to 150 participants. Takes place at the Music Pier. Participants must be present at 10:30 a.m.

14 — 115th annual Baby Parade: The boardwalk parade is one of the oldest in the country. 10:30 a.m. Registration begins in

June. Visit ocnj.us/babyparade. 15 — Little Miss Ocean City

Pageant: 7 p.m. at the Music Pier. Scholarship pageant for girls ages 8 to 11. Little Miss Ocean City 2025 Taegan Vivarelli will be on hand to crown her successor. Call (609) 525-9304.

16 — Junior Miss Ocean City Pageant: 7 p.m. at the Music Pier. Scholarship pageant for girls ages 12 to 16. Junior Miss Ocean City 2025 Sarah Smith will be on hand to crown her successor.

18 — The Orchestra: Starring former members of the Electric Light Orchestra and ELO Part II, the concert begins at 7 p.m. at the Music Pier. Tickets available at etix.com.

20 — Farmers Market: 8 a.m. to noon. Crafters in the street





Ocean City Calendar, page 23 115th annual Baby Parade: August 14



Ocean City Calendar

Continued from page 22

at Sixth Street and Asbury Avenue and on the Tabernacle grounds.

20 — Wacky Wednesday - Cookie Sculpting: Use your creativity to shape and sculpt a giant chocolate chip cookie into your very own unique masterpiece. Contest is free but open to the first 150 participants. 10:30 a.m. at the Music Pier.

20 — Miss Crustacean Hermit Crab Beauty Pageant: The original beauty contest for crustaceans. Families, children, businesses and organiza-

tions are invited to enter their crustacean in this annual contest. The winner receives the Coveted Cucumber Rind Cup and gets to walk down a flowery runway. Free registration starts at 5:30 p.m. at the Sixth Street beach. Contest begins at 6 p.m. Open to all ages.

20 — Hermit Crab Races: Watch as some of the fastest crabs in the universe compete in this world-famous race immediately following Miss Crustacean at Sixth Street beach. Free registration starts at 5:30 nm

22 — Ocean City Green Fair:

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Music Pier. The event is designed to educate and encourage people of all ages to adopt a more environmentally friendly lifestyle.

22-23 — The Spongebob Musical Youth Edition: Presented by OCTC at 7:30 p.m. at the Music Pier. Tickets available at oceancitytheatrecompany.com.

25 — Mavis Staples: The concert begins at 7 p.m. at the Ocean City Music Pier. Tickets available at etix.com.

27 — Farmers Market: 8 a.m. to noon. Crafters in the street at Sixth Street and Asbury Avenue and on the Tabernacle

grounds.

SEPTEMBER

1 — OCNJ Labor Day Race: 5 mile beach run and 1 mile fun run/walk. Visit ocnj.us/race-events.

3 — Farmers Market: 8 a.m. to noon. Crafters in the street at Sixth Street and Asbury Avenue and on the Tabernacle grounds.

6 — Fall Cruisin' the Boards Car Show: 50th anniversary of the Classic Car and Street Rod Show will feature classic cars from 1989 and older displayed on the boardwalk from Sixth to 14th streets, noon to 5 p.m. Visit cruisintheboards.com or email blinkerfluidproductions@gmail.com.

7—Corvette Show: More than 400 cars exhibited. One of the largest shows of its kind in the East. Models from almost every year Corvettes were manufactured comprise this colorful show. Displayed on the boardwalk from Sixth to 14th streets, 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call (609)

457-0081. Register at boardwalk-corvettesac.com.

11 — 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony: A Day to Remember will include music, prayer and reflections on the memory of lives lost and on the community spirit that was renewed in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center. All are encouraged to attend at 6 p.m.

13 — Ocean City Airport Festival: Annual festival at the Municipal Airport, 26th Street and Bay Avenue. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Features include a ground display of unusual airplanes ranging from World War II aircraft to classics and warbirds. The event will feature a parachute jump from Team Fastrax.

13 — Parachute Pyrotechnic

13 — Parachute Pyrotechnic Show: Several highly trained and specially licensed Team Fastrax demonstrators exiting the aircraft 6,000 feet above the beach and boardwalk. 8 p.m. jump with a landing on the Seventh Street

Ocean City Calendar, page 41

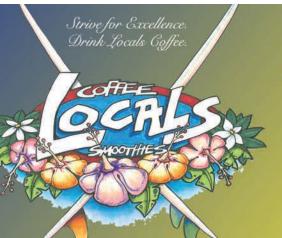


Ocean City Airport Festival: September 13

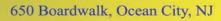


Ocean City Farmers Market: Wednesdays





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STRIPED BASS

Location: Surf, Jetties, inshore Minimum Size:

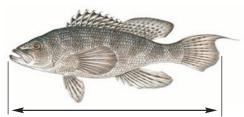
1 fish at 28 inches to less than 31 inches Season: March 1 - December 31 Atlantic (0-3 miles) No Closed Season

Greater than 3 miles from Shore: CLOSED



BLUE FISH

Location: NJ Coast, inshore, offshore, rips, jetties and from beach. Minimum Size: None Limit: 3 Fish Private Angler



BLACK SEA BASS

Season: No Close Season

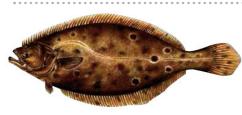
Location: NJ Coast, inshore, offshore, rips, jetties and from beach. Minimum Size: 12.5"

Limit: 10 Fish May 17 - June 19 1 Fish **July 1 - August 31** 10 Fish **Oct. 1 - Oct. 31** 15 Fish at 13" Nov. 1 - Dec. 31



TAUTOG

Minimum Size: 15" Limit: 4 Fish Jan. 1 - Feb. 28 4 Fish Apr. 1 - Apr. 30 Fish Aug. 1 - Nov. 15 5 Fish Nov. 16 - Dec. 31



SUMMER FLOUNDER

Minimum Size: 18" Limit: 3 Fish Season: May 4 - Sept. 25

DELAWARE BAY and Tributaries Minimum size: 17" Limit: 3 Fish **Island Beach State Park** Minimum size: 16" Limit: 2 Fish



BLACK DRUM

Minimum Size: 16" Limit: 3 fish

Season: No Closed Season



WEAKFISH

Location: Tiderunners, inshore,

mouth of bay.

Minimum Size: 13" Limit: 1 fish

Season: No Closed Season





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Tagging crabs a rewarding family experience in more ways than one



By DAVID NAHAN

Sure Guide

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — For family activities, horseshoe crab tagging has to rank among the more unusual. But for the environmentally conscious, there are multiple reasons to enjoy it.

For the Van Wingerden family of Ocean City — Kevin and Rhonda and daughters Lily and Hannah — it has become an annual ritual.

The tagging this year at Kimbles Beach was the third time they've taken part. They explained what brings them back each year.

"It's a good chance to be with one of my favorite animals, to help them, and to have fun," Hannah, 14, said.
"It's a chance to give our local

"It's a chance to give our local scientists a hand, in what would otherwise be a very time-consuming task, but many volunteers make it go quickly," Lily, 19, said. "It's amazing to be involved in something like that,

David Nahan/SURE GUIDE

Volunteers tag a horseshoe crab at night June 10 at Kimbles Beach in Cape May Court House, the scene illuminated by their headlamps covered in red filters.

and it's an opportunity to participate in meaningful science without needing a Ph.D."

"One thing that I love about

"One thing that I love about horseshoe crab tagging is that it's so different from anything else that the average person does on a day-to-day basis," Rhonda said. "Most volunteer activities that we're familiar with, such as donating food, participating in a beach cleanup or planting a pollinator garden, all happen during the day in relatively familiar environments. Horseshoe crab tagging takes you out of the norm and puts you into this totally different place and time.

"When else do you get to wander around the bay at night, with a bunch of strangers wearing headlamps that project only red light, looking for creatures that have been around since before the time of dinosaurs? It's like nothing else, and it's such a good reminder that there's a whole world out there that's totally different from our everyday routines," Rhonda said. "The whole experience, including looking up and down the beach and seeing specs of red light moving up and down the beach, is inspiring. You can't help but recognize that there are so many people who really care and want to help.

The Van Wingerdens were among some 75 volunteers June 10 as the sun set over Delaware Bay to support the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists from the Cape May National Wildlife Refuge.

The volunteers broke into groups of four to five people armed with a clipboard for taking information, a bag of tags, a drill to put a small hole in the crabs' shells and a small container of alcohol to clean the drill bit after each use.

"It's a great event because there's a role for everyone," Lily said. "If you're hesitant about handling horseshoe crabs, you can hold the clipboard and data sheet while recording tag numbers. But you can also wade into the shallows, where all of the crabs are scooting about, and pick them up for tagging.

"When you look at the underside of a horseshoe crab, you see all these legs waving about like crazy," she added. "Combined with their telsons (their long tails), the crabs can look scary and alien-like. Don't be alarmed!

"The crabs are much more harmless than their appearance suggests. You can just hold them by the sides

See Family, Page 42

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Tagging horseshoe crabs

Continued from page 8

years earlier that returned to the same beach.

"We've also had crabs that were found down in Maryland and up in Connecticut. So not only are they being found in New Jersey again, but they're going to other beaches pretty far away."

"It's really fun to see such a big group of people come out for nature," Hanlon said of the volunteers. "People love to get their hands on animals and it's just great to see the camaraderie."

In some cases it's a family affair. She met one young man who came out tagging with his parents years ago and now is coming with his children.

"It's neat to kind of see that different generations are coming out and experiencing this," Hanlon said.

She explained the tagging is done at Kimbles Beach because it's close to the Fish and Wildlife office, it's easily accessible and because Delaware Bay has the largest population of horseshoe crabs.

The dates in May and June are chosen because they correspond



David Nahan/STAR AND WAVE

Volunteers tag a horseshoe crab at night June 10 at Kimbles Beach in Cape May Court House.

with the new and full moon and high tides that are closest to 8 p.m.

Getting volunteers involved is important in two ways. The first is because of sheer numbers — the group tags 500 horseshoe crabs each of the nights, a task that couldn't be handled by the Fish & Wildlife staff and the two interns from the American Conservation Experience.

"If we did that just with staff, it

would take us hours and hours and hours and hours," Hanlon said.

The other aspect is increased awareness about the National Wildlife Refuge and the plants and wildlife in the 13,000 acres in Cape May County.

"Sometimes it's the first time ever being around a crab and because they live here, there's always great things to learn, neat things about the environment where you live," Hanlon said. "Not only is the public enjoying it and experiencing it, but it helps us to get the tags out."

She added that the more people who know about the tags, they more likely that they will look for the tags and then call in the information, helping Fish and Wildlife with the survey.

To sum up her work as a wild-life biologist, Hanlon said her job is basically to survey the land, know what wildlife is using the property and make the habitat better for them. It includes surveys for birds including the piping plover and American oyster catcher, and controlling invasive plants. She explained that invasive plants can take over, so cutting them back — "a big job" — will let native plants succeed and be better for the environment and wildlife.

Hanlon said she loves her work.
Tagging horseshoe crabs, she
added, makes for a fun night.





Monday thru Friday 9-5



Craig D. Schenck/SURE GUIDE

Finn and Tucker Barrett of Glen Ridge, N.J., share a laugh during the contest July 9.

Taffy Sculpting Contest

Continued from page 12

love how nice the beaches are, we love the different foods," she said. "We start at one end of the boardwalk and eat our way up to the other end of the boardwalk."

Cindy Fitzgerald of Richboro, Pa., was visiting with Hailey, 9, and Olivia, 6. Fitzgerald has spent summers in Upper Township since she was a child.

The girls took part in the Pretzel Sculpting Contest last summer but were newbies to taffy sculpting, although not eating it.

"I can't wait to see how sticky they get," she said.

David Barrett was visiting Ocean City for the first time with sons Finn, 12, and Tucker, 10, from Glen Ridge near Montclair, N.J.

Barrett said he grew up visiting Long Beach Island, where he would write fluff pieces for the Sandpaper, earning a nickel

See Wacky Wednesday, page 44



Craig D. Schenck/SURE GUIDE

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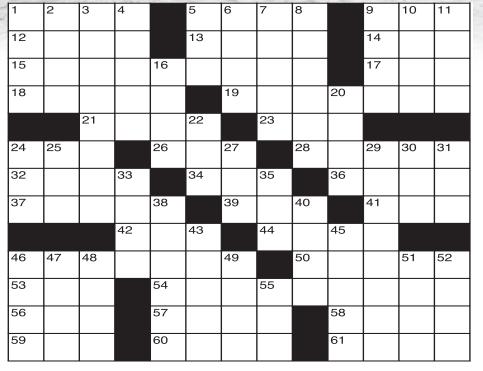
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Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Corrosive
- 5. Fat
- Say yes to
- 12. Fair
- 13. Govern
- 14. Rowing blade
- 15. Full of feeling
- 17. Mine find
- 18. More competent
- 19. Tough part of a steak
- 21. Commotions
- 23. Fellows
- 24. House site
- 26. Negative
- 28. Between fourth and sixth
- 32. Rams' mates
- 34. Long scarf
- 36. Petition
- 37. Map feature
- 39. Road bend
- 41. As well
- 42. Coal unit

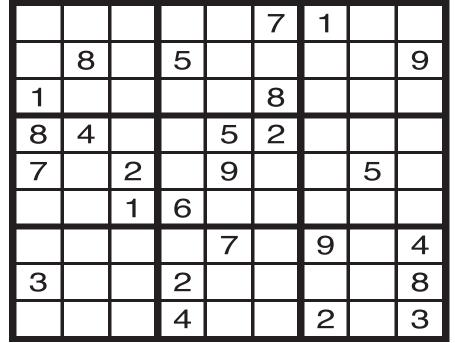
- 44. Stop
- 46. Earned before expenses
- 50. Fragments
- 53. Gear
- 54. Seafood item
- 56. Pipe type
- 57. Differently
- 58. Musical group
- 59. Tinv
- 60. Colorized
- 61. Pew

DOWN

- 1. On a cruise
- 2. Hair tamer
- Keeps apart
- Was overly fond
- To's opposite
- Air-breather's organ
- Startle 7.
- 8. Creed
- 9. Plunder
- 10. Aristocrat
- 11. Birch, e.g.

- 16. Branding tool
- 20. Small cut
- 22. Shed tears
- 24. Floral necklace
- 25. "My ____ True Love"
- 27. Kind of ballet shoe
- 29. Motoring nuisance
- 30. Commandments' number
- 31. Once held
- 33. Collections
- 35. Volcano's output
- 38. Flipped
- 40. Remarked
- 43. Recently
- 45. Hay storage places
- 46. Developed
- 47. Enrage
- 48. Eye rudely
- 49. Medicinal quantity
- 51. Cambodia's continent
- 52. Injection
- 55. Color of Rudolph's
- nose

Sudoku



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SUMMER FLOATIN'



BEACH BAG BOOK CLUB

By Rachel Shubin

This week's selections moved from page to the silver screen

When it comes to turning off our brains from reading, opting to watch a television series is a great way to reset. All three of this week's books have something in common: they are all book-to-screen adaptations.

There is something incredibly satisfying in watching your favorite characters come to life via the television screen. From seeing the scenes play out on paper (or in an e-book or audiobook) to a television series interpretation, it can almost feel surreal.

From young love at the beach to a mysterious accident and scandalous secrets, and an unlikely private school romance, this week's books are sure to entice from pages to screen.



— Young Adult Romance: "The Summer I Turned Pretty" by Jenny Han. Published by Simon & Schuster, 276 pages

This light romance follows Belly, who measures her life in summers. Every moment she is away from the beach is just

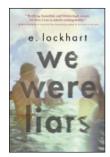
another minute to count down until her return. "The Summer I Turned Pretty" follows the intertwining of two families in the fictional beach town of Cousins.

Belly, mother Laurel and brother, Steven stay at a family friend's beach house, where sons Jeremiah and Conrad have grown up alongside Belly and Steven, but as this fateful summer unfolds, everything is changing. On the cusp of her 16th birthday, Belly realizes she has feelings for both boys and soon finds herself ensnared in a love triangle with both brothers competing for her affection.

The book is the first in a trilogy that details Belly's journey into adulthood, navigating complicated friendships, romantic feelings, miscommunications and general adolescent struggles.

— Young Adult Thriller: "We Were Liars" by E. Lockhart. Published by Delacorte Press, 242 pages

Set in Martha's Vineyard, "We Were Liars" is a sophisticated suspense novel that follows Cadence Sinclair, who suffers from amnesia and migraines after a mysterious accident when she was 15.

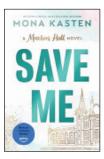


Her family is incredibly wealthy and split among four mansions on their private island. Cadence, her cousins Johnny and Miren, and friend Gat make up a group of friends affectionately known as "The Liars." Cadence's family is always trying to ensure their inheritance

from their patriarch, Harris, is secure.

The story flashes back and forth, and during summer 17, Cadence returns to the island after a year away. She is starting to piece together memory fragments of what happened before her head injury.

Much has changed, including the fact that her once-controlling grandfather has dementia, and her friends are acting strangely around her. The story keeps readers on their toes until the unbelievable plot twist is delivered. "We Were Liars" explores the privileges of the wealthy and ultimately examines their consequences.



— New Adult Romance: "Save Me: A Maxton Hall Novel" by Mona Kasten. Published by Berkley, 368 pages

"Save Me" is the first book in the Maxton Hall trilogy, initially published in German and now

available in English for the first time. The story follows Ruby Bell, a zealous private school student who aspires to attend Oxford. Ruby clashes with wealthy James Beaufort, an arrogant party boy whose family is known for its expensive department stores and waving money around to get what they want. When a tantalizing secret thrusts Ruby and James together, they begin to clash heads, which ultimately leads to a prank gone wrong at a school-sanctioned party that Ruby organized. The headmaster punishes James, and therefore Ruby, by making him join the events planning team. Ruby is angry that she must oversee him, but the forced proximity has them understanding each other better. The hidden secrets that bubble to the surface threaten both their futures.











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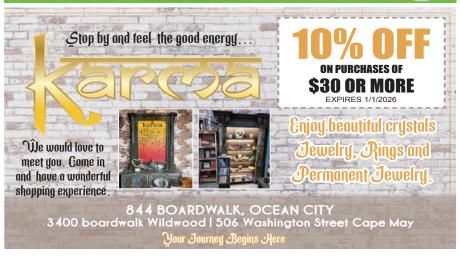
















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Ocean City Calendar

Continued from page 23

beach. Viewable along the entire boardwalk.

14 — Boardwalk Aerobatic Airshow: 1 p.m. from Sixth to 14th streets over the ocean.

20 — Ocean City, NJ Jeep Invasion: Jeeps will fill the boardwalk from Fifth to 14th street, noon to 5 p.m. Visit NJJeepInvasion.com or email blinkerfluidproductions.com.

27-28 — MS City to Shore Ride: More than 7,000 cyclists. Ride is fully supported with catered rest stops, bike support and SAG transportation. Call (800) 445-BIKE or visit mscycling.org.

OCTOBER

4-5 — Boardwalk & Downtown



Halloween Parade: October 30

Merchant Discount Days: Sixth to 14th street on the boardwalk and Asbury Avenue.

11—Fall Block Party: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Fifth to 14th streets on Asbury Avenue. More than 400 crafters, food vendors, music and more.

11-13 — Boardwalk & Downtown Merchant Discount Days: Sixth to 14th street on the boardwalk and Asbury Avenue.

18 — Porsche Boardwalk Reunion: Porsches will be displayed from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the boardwalk from Sixth x 14th streets. More than 350 Porsches of all models and years between 1954 and 2021 are expected. Free tech sessions on Porsche-related topics open to all at the Music Pier.

19 — John R. Elliott HERO Walk and 1 Mile Fun Run: Raises awareness about the importance of safe and sober designated drivers, and to honor and remember those who have lost a loved one to a drunken driver. Check-in 9 a.m. 1 Mile Fun Run: 10 a.m., awards ceremony 10:30 a.m., walk begins at 11 a.m. Register at herowalk-run.org.

25-26 — Dog Days: Leashed

dogs will be permitted on the boardwalk from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. All are welcome and encouraged to bring their favorite furry canine friend. Activities Saturday include dog-specific vendors along the boardwalk, photo-op stations and the Humane Society of Ocean City's "Pet of the Year" announcement.

25 — HSOC "Howl-O-Ween" Parade: Hosted by the Humane Society of Ocean City. Contestants are encouraged to dress themselves and their pooch in zany Halloween costumes in the spirit of the season. Registration begins at 2 p.m. at the Sports & Civic Center. The parade begins at 3 p.m. and the procession is from Sixth to 14th streets on the boardwalk.

25 — Halloween Costume Skate: The Ocean City Skate Park at Fifth Street and Asbury Avenue will celebrate Halloween from 4 p.m. to dusk. Skateboarders are invited to come dressed for the holiday. There will be prizes for best costume and best trick, and candy for the participants.

29 — OC Chamber of Com-

29 — OC Chamber of Commerce's Annual Welcome Night: 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Ocean City

Sports & Civic Center. Meet groups, businesses and organizations.

30 — Halloween Parade: 7:15 p.m. from Sixth to 11th streets on Asbury Avenue. Visit ochp. blogspot.com.

NOVEMBER

1 — Trail of Two Cities: 5K run/walk over Ninth Street bridge from Ocean City to Somers Point. Pre-registration and race day. 8 a.m. start. Visit ocnj.us/race-events, email lrumer@ocnj.us or call (609) 525-9317.

11 — Veterans Day Program: 11 a.m. at Ocean City Tabernacle,

550 Wesley Ave.

15 — Winterfest by the Sea: The Chamber of Commerce presents its 5th annual shopping extravaganza at the Sports & Civic Center. Craft vendors, food vendors and strolling Santa. Shopping hours 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

22 — "Earlier than the Bird" Downtown Shopping Extravaganza: 8 a.m. to noon. Get out earlier than the bird and jumpstart your holiday shopping the weekend before Thanksgiving. Shop in your pajamas for early bird specials.





Massages • Facials

FROM THE OCBP CHIEF

Ocean dangerous, note conditions

By ERICH BECKER OCBP Chief of Operations

Lifeguards always pull people off the sandbar during incoming tides because the rising water can create rip currents that push swimmers out into the ocean, making it difficult to get back to shore.

Even when the waves seem small, the incoming tide can create hidden dangers. These calm-looking waters can quickly turn dangerous, especially near gullies and around jetties, so always stay alert.

Safest way to swim

One of the best ways to stay safe in the ocean is to keep your feet on the ground. If you can touch the bottom and walk in, that's the safest way to get back to the shore without using too much energy. That is especially important for younger belly boarders. They might feel the urge to paddle out, but the water can get deep quickly, leading to dangerous situations in which they could get swept away.

What's a gully?

The underwater channels are most common at the south end of the island but can be found at any of the beaches. Gullies are channels formed by water erosion, usually created by wave action or strong winds that push the water. They interact with the tides and can create rip currents, so it's important to understand how they work.

What's a rip current?

Simply put, a rip current is a strong, narrow current of water that flows away from the shore. The currents form when waves push water toward the beach and the water flows back out through gullies or deeper channels in the sand.

Here's a quick breakdown of how it happens:

- Wave action and water buildup: When waves crash, they push water toward the shore, causing a buildup in the surf zone. especially on an incoming tide.

Channels and low spots: If there are

flow through them heading back out to sea.

 Formation of a rip current: The water rushes through these channels, creating a strong current that pulls away from the

Think of a gully like a drain; it helps direct the water back offshore.

Key characteristics

 Narrow: They're typically about 25 to 50 feet wide but can extend much farther out into the ocean.

- Dangerous: Even the strongest swimmers can get pulled away from the shore.

- Not endertow: Rip currents pull bathers away from the beach, not under

How to spot

— Wave patterns: Look for areas where the waves aren't breaking as much as they do in other spots.

Choppy water: Rip currents can create areas of choppy or rough water.

- Discolored water: If the water looks murky, it could be sediment being carried by the current.

Floating debris: Seaweed, foam or other debris floating out toward the ocean can be a sign of a rip current.

Caught in a rip current?

— Don't panic: Rip currents won't pull you under but instead pull you away from

— Don't swim against it: Trying to swim directly back to shore can tire you out.

Swim parallel to shore: Swim sideways to get out of the current's pull.

- Float: If you can't swim to shore because the current is too strong, float on your back. Rip currents get weaker the farther out you go.

Call for help: Wave your arms and yell to get the attention of lifeguards or others on the beach.

Stay safe, enjoy the beautiful beach and always be aware of your surroundings. The water temperature has been very comfortable lately, so take advantage of gullies or channels, the excess water will it, but always keep safety in mind.

Interns help Fish & Wildlife —

Continued from page 8

upon the American Conservation Experience (ACE) site that listed a range of op-

"I saw things that interested me and seemed like in my wheelhouse that I could do and would be interested in doing," she

The opportunity at the wildlife refuge is from May 5 through Sept. 26. The interns get paid \$500 a week, not exactly a fortune, but they get lodging.

"It's a really, really cool, great experience being able to work outside and it is just really fun and really rewarding. It's pretty exhausting, but I think it's worth it," Ari said.

Kiana did her previous ACE stint as a crew experience based out of Hurricane City, Utah, right after she graduated from college. When she saw another ACE experience at the Cape May National Wildlife Refuge, she also saw the chance to get back to the East Coast.

She and Ari have been enjoying the work they do, which includes working with volunteers tagging horseshoe crabs at the Kimbles Road Beach.

The tagging

Tagging horseshoe crabs was a lot of fun, Kiana said.

"It was a little more chill than a lot of the things that we do. And it's nice to talk to that many people and get them interested in what's going on. It's good for outreach and having people know the refuge is here and what we do. And also to educate them about the horseshoe crabs.

"It was fun, honestly, talking to all the people (there were more than 75 volunteers), answering their questions and helping them handle the crabs," Kiana said. "I think that's probably one of the more fun things we've done. Everything's fun in its own way, but it's really fun working with that many volunteers."

"It's really fun to engage the community," Ari said. "Whenever we have kids that come out and do it, they always seem to have so much fun, which is really great. And it's a good way to get them interested in the natural world and conservation."

She said the tagging itself is pretty simple. "but it's really important to get our data on these animals.'

Other duties

The two young women have multiple responsibilities at the refuge.

Ari said they help monitor endangered and at-risk shorebirds, such as piping plover, checking their nests and eggs to make sure they are OK and watching out to make sure there isn't human interference. They watch out for coyotes and other predators, including crabs that can eat the tiny plover chicks that aren't much more substantial than cotton balls on toothpick legs.

Kiana said they do surveys for endangered plants and work to control invasive species. When interviewed, she was looking forward to banding Canada geese.

"I really like all the different stuff we get to do and I like working in a specific area to improve it and seeing the results, instead of just hopping from area to area,' Kiana said.

Both like the nature of their work.

"I definitely prefer hands-on stuff," said Kiana, not a surprise for the girl who was running around picking up snakes and bugs. "I enjoy doing research, but I feel like I have to get out there, more than doing a career in research would allow."

They would like a future possibly in a state or national wildlife refuge.

"I think biology-related jobs would be really cool,"Ari said.

Kiana also wants the public to know more about the wildlife refuge system.

Heidi Hanlon, a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stationed on Kimbles Beach Road, said she "definitely" appreciates having Ari and Kiana working with them.

"I think they're enjoying it and we're certainly enjoying having them," Hanlon said. "We are such a small staff, so the fact that we can work through ACE to hire them" is important.

"We can't do the work with the small staff that we have so we rely on having interns to help do this type of work through the summer. And it's great for the interns," she said. "Over the years we've had interns that go on to get full-time jobs with the Fish and Wildlife Service or get full-time jobs with another federal agency or another state

"It just gives them a lot of great experience to then get their foot in the door and be able to get hired for a full-time position."

Family experience

Continued from page 27

of their shell, they're not going to bite or sting or anything. One of their legs might accidentally bump into your hand, but that's about it. It's really fun to be able to hold these unique animals, which you don't get many chances to do with most wildlife," Lily said. "Both Hannah and I love

holding them!"

"One of the things that I really enjoy about horseshoe crab tagging is seeing the wide variety of people who participate," Rhonda said. "There are older people, young budding biologists and parents with toddlers in tow. Here you are with all of these different people working toward a common goal. You get to meet new people,

contribute toward science, and it's a lot of fun!"

"The largest population of horseshoe crabs is in the Delaware Bay," Lily said. "We're so lucky that we can see them come ashore to lay their eggs each year. It's amazing that this unique event takes place not only in New Jersey, but specifically in Cape May County, and that we can witness it simply by driving a half-hour from Ocean City. Tagging is a perfect opportunity to see the horseshoe crabs spawning and to help such an old, old species continue to survive."

"It's eye-opening to understand that shorebirds, like the red knots, can't complete their migration to the Arctic if they don't eat enough horseshoe crab eggs at these stop-overs," Rhonda said. "When that connection is made, it's easy to want to help keep horseshoe crab populations healthy. How lucky we are that these stopovers happen right here in Cape May County?"

"It's exciting to be part of such an incredible natural event," Hannah said, "and I'm already looking forward to next year."



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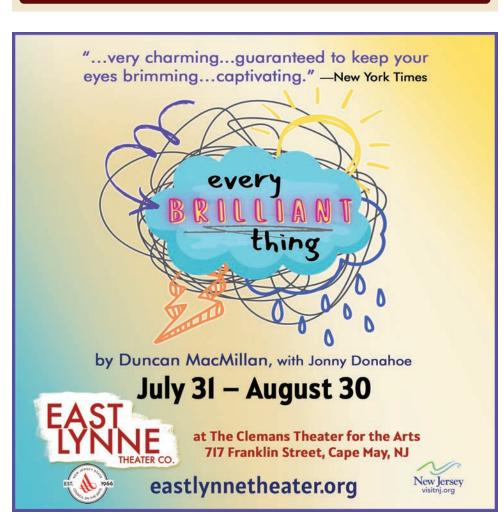




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Events 2025

Here are some of the fun events happening in the Wildwoods:

JULY 18-20

New Jersey Bronco Invasion

JULY 22-25

Harlem Globetrotters

JULY 26

North Wildwood Christmas in July, Featuring Surfing Santas

Wildwood Christmas in July, Featuring Boardwalk Golf Cart Parade

Wildwood Crest Christmas in July Festival and Boat Parade

JULY 26-27

Beach Ultimate Frisbee Tournament

Jus Nice Sneaker & Trading Card Convention

JULY 29

Baby Waddle Contest

JULY 30

Wildwoods Baby Parade

AUG. 2

Sevens Down the Shore Beach Rugby

AUG. 4

Wildwood Navy Seal Challenge

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY NIGHTS TILL AUG. 21

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FRIDAY NIGHTS JUNE 27-AUG. 29

Friday Night Fireworks

SATURDAY MORNINGS TILL AUG. 30

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Mondays at Sunset Lake 7:30 p.m. | June 30-Aug. 18

Tuesdays at Crest Arts Pavilion 7 p.m. | July 1-Aug. 19

Wednesdays at Centennial Park 7 p.m. | July 2-Aug. 20

Thursdays at Byrne Plaza 7:30 p.m. | June 19-Aug. 28

Saturdays at Centennial Park 7 p.m. | June 28-Sept. 20



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Wacky Wednesday Taffy Sculpting Contest -

Continued from page 31

per word.

He said he found the island "Lovely."

"LBI does not have this boardwalk at all. It's a lot of fun, the water is really warm. It reminds us of Coney Island, with the boardwalk and the food and everything," he said.

Traveling a bit farther was JP Newkirk from Upstate New York, who brought son Jonah, 15, and daughter Juji, 11, for "fun, family and food."

He said it was only his second time in the city.

"I like it, that's why I came back," he said, words the Chamber of Commerce will be happy to read.

Tim and Amber Kennett of Crystal Lake, Ill., were competing in the adult category, which was strictly rated G—this is a Christian resort, after all. Reaching back to childhood for motivation, Lex Williams of Golden, Colo., made Oscar the Grouch.

Wacky Wednesday events are held through Aug. 20 at the Music Pier. Participants must be present at 10:30 a.m.



Schedule

— July 16: French Fry Sculpting. Shape french fries into a unique masterpiece — open to the first 200 participants.

July 23: Christmas in July.

Celebrate with a special craft and a visit from Santa while he is in town on vacation. Visit with Santa from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and enjoy the sounds of the season with Christmas Music Bingo at 11 a.m.

- July 30: Soft Pretzel Sculpt-



Craig D. Schenck/SURE GUIDE

Lex Williams reached back to childhood for inspiration. At left, Addie Joe Grant, 2, of Baltimore, got an early start on eating the taffy.

ing. Shape a soft pretzel into a unique masterpiece — open to first 150 participants.

— Aug. 6: Prince and Princess Party. Design a crown with Miss Ocean, Junior Miss Ocean City and Little Miss Ocean City. — Aug. 13: Doughnut Sculpting. Shape a warm boardwalk doughnut into a masterpiece — open to first 150 participants.

Aug. 20: Cookie Sculpting.
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July 24th - Jamison Celtic Rock

July 31st - Animal House

August 7th - Legacy Band

August 14th - Winslow: An evening of the Eagles

August 21st - 99 Reasons

August 28th - The Chatterband

MOVIES IN THE PLAZA Free Tuesday Movies @ Sunset

July 22nd - The Grinch (Christmas In July)

July 29th - Moana 2

August 5th - NO MOVIE Due to National Night Out

August 12th - The Garfield Movie

August 19th - If

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Cape May's Poet Laureate Sylvia Baer hosts four 2-hour writing workshops in person this July in Cape May Convention Hall's air-conditioned Community Room, 714 Beach Ave. Each workshop will be devoted to exploring a writing style: poetry, fiction, memoir and children's literature. These four workshops are for anyone interested in writing at any level of knowledge and experience. Participants will learn about the essentials of each style, with time for creative writing during each workshop. Sharing work is a personal choice and will not be required. After each session there will be time for discussion.

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