

The Press

OF ATLANTIC CITY

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75 CENTS
Toms River and north: \$1.00

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ATLANTIC COUNTY EDITION

No tags, but also no lifeguards at some O.C. beaches

■ The city does not check for badges at the north and south ends of the island, but a councilman warns, 'You get exactly what you pay for.'

By **MICHAEL MILLER**
Staff Writer

OCEAN CITY — Jennifer Gandy and her family arrived at the beach Thursday afternoon with chairs, an umbrella, towels, a cooler of drinks, flip-flops, toys and a book. The only thing missing: beach tags.

Some visitors and residents are taking advantage of Ocean City beaches where, because of enforcement policies or property ownership, they do not have to pay.

The city is on pace this summer to break last year's record \$3.4 million in beach-tag sales. But while beach-tag

rules are strictly enforced along most of the city's 8 miles of coastline, visitors and bathers have found bargains on opposite ends of the island.

Residents on the south end for years have used Corsons Inlet State Park, which is tag-free because it is state land. There, the beaches are far less crowded, allowing families to play beach games, fly kites or build sandcastles without annoying others.

One fewer free beach?

Wildwood officials consider enacting a beach fee to generate revenue for the cash-strapped city. **A9**

Likewise, beaches on the north end near the Ocean City-Longport Bridge attract visitors who have little to fear from tag checkers interrupting their reading or nap, because the city has chosen not to

staff those beaches with lifeguards.

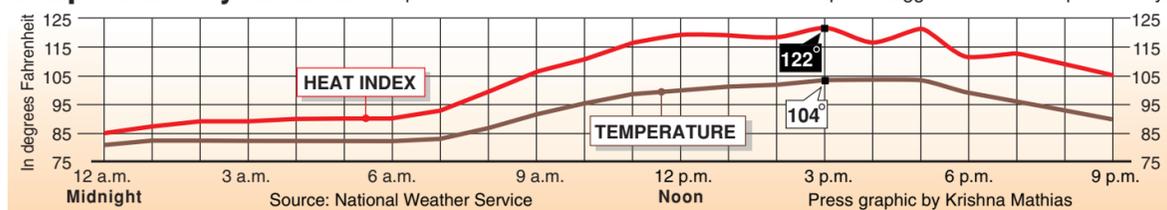
"On the downtown beaches it looks like Coney Island," Long Island, N.Y., visitor Jennifer Cusack said Thursday as she carried her beach chair down the sandy road that leads to the state park's beach on the south end of the island.

The free beaches come with severe drawbacks, including less public

□ See Free, A9

FRIDAY'S HIGH: 104 DEGREES; HEAT INDEX: 122

Temperatures by the hour Temperatures and heat index at A.C. International Airport in Egg Harbor Township on Friday.



Heat melts away records

Expect no relief today despite dip of 8 degrees

By **SARAH WATSON**
Staff Writer

It did not take long to break the daily high temperature record in Atlantic City on Friday. By noon, the temperature was 100 degrees, with a heat index of 119 degrees.

The old record of 98 degrees did not stand a chance as blistering heat coupled with swamp-like humidity gripped the region for a second day, with more to come today. Friday's heat topped out at 104 degrees, with the index reaching 122, National Weather Service data show. That made it the second hottest recorded day in Atlantic City history.

Accuweather Meteorologist Brian Edwards said that although today's temperature will be 8 degrees cooler, that will not make much of a difference to local residents.

"It's still going to feel pretty nasty outside," Edwards said, adding that the heat wave can be attributed to heat and hu-



Kevin Armstrong, left, 17, of Cape May Court House; Susanna Allay, 15, of Cape May Court House; and Kristin Hughes, 13, of Del Haven, use a spray truck to cool off Friday during the Cape May County 4-H Fair in Cape May Court House.

midity that built over the mid-western plains of the country earlier this week and moved east.

He said residents can expect relief from the heat Monday and Tuesday as high temperatures are expected to be between 85 and 88 degrees both days.

On Friday morning, Carol Bregmen took her grandson for a walk in his stroller on the Ventnor Boardwalk and, after a few blocks and a brief conversation with friends, decided to turn back. Her grandson ul-

□ See Heat, A5

Where to cool off

Some local government buildings will be open this weekend so those without air conditioning have some place to go to keep cool. See a list of cooling centers on **C3**. See how the rest of the state fared on **C5**.

Shutdown furloughs FAA tech workers

■ Congress fails to approve funding to keep the Federal Aviation Administration operating, putting 639 people out of work in Egg Harbor Township but not affecting air travel.

By **JOEL LANDAU**
Staff Writer

As many as 639 employees at the William J. Hughes Technical Center in Egg Harbor Township will be furloughed from their jobs today after federal lawmakers failed to avert a shutdown of the Federal Aviation Administration.

The shutdown occurred after legislators were unable to resolve a partisan dispute over an extension of the FAA's operating authority, which expired at midnight Friday.

As a result, nearly 4,000 FAA employees nationwide will be temporarily out of work and federal airline ticket taxes will be suspended.

The U.S. Senate failed to extend the FAA's oper-

□ See FAA, A4

Boehner quits debt discussion

President Obama calls congressional leaders back to the White House to continue talks today. **A3**

Obama ends gay service ban

By **ERICA WERNER** and **LOLITA C. BALDOR**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama fulfilled a 2008 campaign pledge Friday and formally ended the ban on gays serving openly in the military effective Sept. 20.

"As commander in chief, I have always been confident that our dedicated men and women in uniform would transition to a new policy in an orderly manner that preserves unit cohesion, recruitment, retention and military effectiveness," Obama said in a statement. "Service members will no longer be forced to hide who they are in order to serve our country."

Obama's action means that as of Sept. 20, gay

□ See Service, A7

COMING TOMORROW

The new oldies

Rock 'n' roll may never die, but its earliest hits are fading from the radio as its earliest fans grow old and radio stations that once played oldies drop the format or switch to playing "classic hits," which generally run from the 1960s to the 1980s. Sunday in Life.

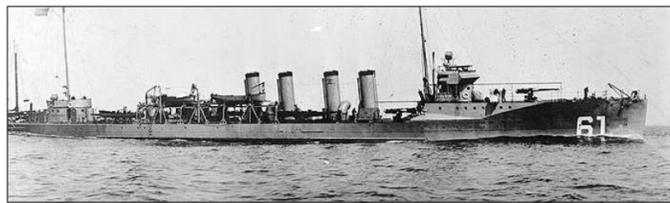
Shipwreck holds family's fascination, fate

■ The grandson of a man nearly killed in World War II on the Jacob Jones explores its wreckage off Cape May.

By **MICHAEL MILLER**
Staff Writer

CAPE MAY — Retired U.S. Navy Master Chief Joseph Tidwell will return to Cape May on Sunday for the first time since he was rescued during a submarine attack off the coast in World War II.

Tidwell, 91, worked in the engine room aboard the USS Jacob Jones, a destroyer that was hunting German submarines off Cape May County. He was one of 11 survivors in the



The USS Jacob Jones was torpedoed and sank 25 miles off Cape May on Feb. 27, 1942, killing 131 of the 142 men aboard.

Feb. 27, 1942, attack that sunk the ship and killed 131 sailors. He is returning to Cape May because his grandson, Navy Cmdr. Eric Tidwell, dived on the wreck 25 miles off Cape May.

The dive Friday marked an inter-

section of generations and career choices that have defined the two men. The events of that freezing morning off Cape May 69 years ago

□ See Dive, A5



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Hot

High: 96
Low: 78

At Atlantic City International Airport. Forecast, A2



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