

Cape May Star and Wave



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HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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HOW TO MAKE A ROPE SWING AT CM STAGE

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Got a heroin problem? Prosecutor says heroin is a major concern in Cape May County

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COUNTY – In an interview last week, Cape May County Prosecutor Robert Taylor said there have been 57 heroin overdoses in Cape May County since the beginning of the year.

“In the last month there have been nine (overdoses),” Taylor said, “and five were fatal.”

Taylor said the county has seen the purity of heroin rise, which might account for some of the overdoses.

“Traditionally the purity of heroin is from 1 to 10 percent. The heroin recently has had purity levels of as high as 80 percent.”

The national average, Taylor said, is 25 percent.

“It’s so pure the addict can attain a high by snorting or smoking the heroin,” Taylor said.

These other methods of introducing the drug into the body make heroin more attractive to the novice, who might be put off at the idea of sticking a needle in their own veins; so-called “needle phobia.”

“Younger people are more

likely to try it,” he said.

Taylor said the price of heroin has also accounted for the rise in its use in Cape May County. He said young people often try painkillers first, trying out something they find in their family’s medicine cabinet. Later, they find a pain killer such as Oxycontin will sell for \$1 per milligram.

“So a 30 mg tablet will sell for \$30, a 60 mg tablet will sell for \$60, and so on,” Taylor said.

According to Taylor, heroin is selling on the streets for \$20 per bag, which means Cape May County is a good market for Camden County suppliers.

“If it is \$20 in Cape May County, it could cost as little as \$4 or \$5 in Camden, so they send their dealers to Cape May County,” Taylor said.

The habitual users, Taylor said, are always looking for a bigger, better high, but the consequences can be dangerous or deadly, as the overdose statistics bear out.

Taylor said in one of the fatal cases the heroin was mixed with Fentanyl, which

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Above, Family Promise recently opened a facility at 505 Town Bank Road in North Cape May in order to better serve their clients.

New facility offers greater promise

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

NORTH CAPE MAY – While trying to nurture her two young children without a job or a home, Emily’s hopes were slowly dwindling.

She found herself in a horrifying situation, which could happen to anyone in a struggling economy such as this one, and thousands have. Emily, whose last name is being withheld, was simply searching for some sign of a brighter future for her and her children, ages six and seven.

Fortunately, the compassion of the human spirit answered her prayers and restored much of the hope she had lost when she heard of Family Promise of Cape May County.

Family Promise is a nationwide non-profit organization

dedicated to keeping homeless families together during their time of crisis by providing shelter and food with the help of congregational facilities. Its mission is to provide support services needed to educate, motivate, and empower these families in their journey to re-establish individual pride and independence.

Family Promise of Cape May County Director Laurie Johnson said these individuals and their children who have fallen on hard times are given refuge through Family Promise by staying in churches or houses of worship, which volunteer to assist the organization.

“Family Promise’s partnership with these congregations is the key,” Johnson said. “There wouldn’t be a Family Promise without the volunteers of the congrega-

tions. That is where families have their meals and safe shelter.”

There are 36 houses of worship involved with the Family Promise of Cape May County. Mark Allen, president of the Family Promise of Cape May County Board of Trustees, said there are “host congregations and supporting congregations.” The host congregations provide shelter for the families while supporting congregations contribute to the cause.

Family Promise received a USDA grant, a number of contributions and assistance from volunteers in renovating its new home located at 505 Town Bank Road. The building was decrepit and abandoned before Family Promise came along, but with the expertise of custom builder Fred Xenidis of FX Construction and Design and

several subcontractors, the new facility was up and running in no time.

“It was really an eye sore. This place was dead,” Allen said. “The transformation was just amazing. I couldn’t believe how great of a job they did,” Allen said.

Johnson and Family Promise expressed much appreciation to Xenidis during the ribbon cutting ceremony on May 15, presenting FX Construction and Design with a large contribution star that will hang on the front of the building. Xenidis said his efforts were miniscule compared to that of the Family Promise staff.

“The recognition belongs with the noble people behind the everyday tasks of Family Promise’s mission of helping families find the missing

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‘Escape the Cape’ Triathlon to kick off at ferry terminal

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Jumping off of the Cape May-Lewes Ferry might seem like a crazy idea, but on the contrary, 1,000 people will be taking the leap on

coast. A Wildwood Crest resident, Del Monte has organized several triathlon events in the past such as the annual Tri-AC event in Atlantic City and the Tri/Run the Wildwoods.

“I’m just as proud to orga-



Above, the course for the triathlon can be found on the township website at www.townshipoflower.org.

June 2 during the “Escape the Cape Triathlon.”

Stephen Del Monte of DelMoSports, said this triathlon was inspired by the Escape Alcatraz Triathlon in San Francisco, Cal., which has been going on for 28 years. He said it is something every triathlete should try at least once in their lifetime, and believes Escape the Cape will be just as successful on the east

nize this event as the AC and Wildwood events,” Del Monte said.

The Escape the Cape Triathlon will consist of two separate events – the sprint distance event and the international competition. The spring distance triathlon will consist of a .35 mile swim, a 10-mile bike ride and 5K run. The interna-

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CM council okays Vance’s purchase

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – City council has approved an agreement with RFB Properties, LLC to acquire the Vance’s Bar property on Lafayette Street in the hopes of creating a new park and open space area in Cape May.

The approval of the agreement allows the city to purchase the plot of land and building, which would be demolished, for \$1.956 million. In 2004, council repealed an ordinance introduced allowing the use of



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Above, the former Vance’s Tavern on Lafayette Street.

eminent domain to obtain the property nearly two acres in size, but has now reached an agreement allowing the purchase. Mayor Ed Mahaney

has referred to the property as the last open space the city has for recreational purposes.

“It provides recreation and additional parking we sorely

need,” Mahaney said at the April 9 council meeting.

He said the property was appraised at just over \$1 million in 2004, but sold to a developer for \$2.69 million after the city’s \$1.1 million offer was turned down. Cape May is now purchasing the property for nearly \$2 million from RFB Properties, LLC, after a previous owner’s plan to build condominiums on the land had failed.

The city recently bonded \$3.4 million to buy the Vance’s Bar property and two

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