



Plane crash in ocean ruled pilot suicide

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House of the week

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John Cooke/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

He had a long run

Cole Crosby, center, arrived in front of the Cape May Lighthouse at 10:45 p.m. Jan. 10 after running 194 miles nonstop from High Point State Park in Sussex County. Crosby ran as a fundraiser for the Road Runners Club of America's 'Kids Run the Nation' program.

New council reverses additions to ROSI list

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — In a 4-1 vote, the new City Council passed a resolution undoing the work of the previous council listing street ends and paper streets in the vicinity of the Sewell Tract in the Recreation and Open Space Inventory (ROSI) list. Council rescinded the additions to ROSI list.

On Dec. 1, council in a 3-2 vote approved vacating street ends and unimproved paper streets in the area as of Dec. 29, 2020, to preserve the land as open space as part of the city's ROSI.

During a virtual council meeting Jan. 5, Mayor Zack Mullock said he believed it was important that taxpayers are justly compensated for city-owned lots placed on the ROSI list.

He said the properties should not have been placed on the ROSI list prior to the city having

a full-scale plan. Mullock said he believed all of council wanted the Sewell Tract preserved including the 10.5 acres placed on the ROSI list by the previous council.

He said the city should leave some options open on the properties such as land swaps.

"The land is essentially preserved, its standing there, no one is looking to develop it," Mullock said.

The properties should be preserved with funds from the state Green Acres program, he said.

Councilman Chris Bezaire said there may be a misconception that by council reversing the previous council's decision, there is an intention to develop the land.

"By rushing to put it on the ROSI list, by rushing to vacate the streets, it makes the land less valuable to the city should we decide to go for a Green Acres land swap or try to use that land as a bargaining chip

for somewhere else in the city," he said.

Mullock said council had action that it needed to correct on a very timely basis, terming it an emergency. He said the reversal of the ROSI had to be provided to state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) officials to inform them of a change in administration and policy.

Councilman Shaine Meier said he received a copy of the resolution at 1:30 p.m. and taxpayers should have had access to the resolution before council voted. He suggested council vote on the resolution at its next meeting.

Bezaire said he concurred with Meier and asked if there was a deadline to respond to the DEP. City solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said Planning Board Engineer Craig Hurless sent a letter to the DEP on Dec. 30 with the updated ROSI list.

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One million register for vaccine

By DAVID NAHAN
Cape May Star and Wave

One million New Jersey residents have registered to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

As of Monday morning, the state had vaccinated just shy of 200,000 people.

The state debuted new graphs Monday on the state's COVID-19 hub at covid19.nj.gov to track progress in state vaccinations.

As of Monday morning, the state had administered 214,433 doses of the vaccine — 199,293 first doses and 14,984 second doses.

The information hub

also gives a breakdown by county.

At the update Monday, 3,092 doses had been administered in Cape May County and 6,987 doses in Atlantic County. Cumberland County had administered 2,907 doses and in Salem County it was 1,047. The state's largest population centers, where the pandemic has taken the greatest toll in cases and deaths, also had the most vaccines administered, including 23,784 in Bergen County and 18,874 in Essex County.

Doses were roughly split between the Moderna vaccine (54 percent)

and the Pfizer vaccine (46 percent). By gender, 64 percent of those receiving them were female and 36 percent were male.

Vaccine: 1 million have signed up

State Health Commissioner Dr. Judith Persichilli said 1 million people have registered for the COVID-19 vaccine.

The state's goal is to vaccinate 70 percent of New Jersey's adult population — 4.7 million adults — within six months.

The state just opened its

See Vaccine, page A4

Political leaders blast Capitol insurrection

By CRAIG D. SCHENCK
and JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

Local political leaders from both major parties condemned the deadly pro-Trump insurrection Wednesday, Jan. 6, at the U.S. Capitol that left six people dead and the halls of Congress in shambles.

Leonard Guthrie of Cape May was among those arrested in the Capitol assault.

What they did not agree on, however, was who was to blame for inciting and committing the seditious acts of violence and vandalism.

Atlantic County Democratic Chairman Michael Suleiman released the following statement: "Today we witnessed an insurrection committed by domestic terrorists against the United States of America. Had this mob gotten its hands on the vice president and/or members of Congress, it could have resulted in a violent coup d'etat against our government."

Likewise Keith Davis, Atlantic County Republican Party chairman, called the insurrectionists "thugs," saying the events were no better than the violent and destructive Black Lives Matter protests over the summer following the death of George Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis police.

"It's awful. It's embarrassing and certainly doesn't speak to what we as Republicans or Americans stand for," Davis said. "We were all very clear over the summer when protests took place that led to circumstances of looting, which led to anarchists taking over the city of Portland, and we were very clear that the rule of law has to be adhered to and those who violate the

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Reaction to Van Drew opposing certification split along party lines

By CRAIG D. SCHENCK
Cape May Star and Wave

Members of both houses of Congress gathered Wednesday, Jan. 6, to count the Electoral College votes and certify President-elect Joe Biden as the 46th commander in chief of the United States.

What has almost always been a matter of course became political theater when lawmakers led by Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri — and joined by U.S. Rep. Jeff Van Drew and others — objected to the count from Arizona, forcing the bodies to separate into their individual chambers to debate the objection that the votes were gathered unconstitutionally.

Unbeknownst to them, an angry mob had gathered outside the Capitol.

As they began their debate

in the Senate and House, a group numbering in the thousands marched from the scene of a rally led by President Donald Trump at which he repeated his false claims that the election was stolen and vowed "never to concede," inciting the crowd to march to the Capitol building.

The insurrectionists eventually overwhelmed security, smashing windows and storming the Capitol Rotunda, forcing members of Congress to hide beneath desks and eventually flee for their own safety. Vice President Mike Pence, who had been the focus of increasingly heated vitriol from Trump, was evacuated for his own safety.

The shocking events came

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Major security failure cited as Trump mob stormed the Capitol

By CRAIG D. SCHENCK
Cape May Star and Wave

The head of the U.S. Capitol police and two other senior security officials are resigning following the mismanaged response to the assault on Capitol Hill by a violent mob incited by President Donald Trump on Jan. 6, according to news reports.

Steven Sund's resignation will be effective Jan. 16 and follows calls by the House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other senior figures for ac-

countability.

"There was a failure of leadership at the top," Pelosi reportedly said.

Michael Stenger, the Senate sergeant-at-arms, and Paul Irving, the House sergeant-at-arms, also resigned.

The U.S. Capitol security force was overwhelmed from the beginning as the large mob gathered and forced their way through barriers.

They took little to no ac-

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Murphy: Authorities preparing for planned statehouse protest

By DAVID NAHAN
Cape May Star and Wave

TRENTON — Gov. Phil Murphy used part of Monday's COVID-19 press conference to decry the anti-Semitism seen as part of the Trump supporters' insurrection at the U.S. Capitol and said the state is gearing up for a proposed protest at the state capital Sunday, Jan. 17.

Some news sources have reported an armed protest is being planned for the capital in Trenton. Murphy, responding to questions from reporters at the press conference Monday, said state and law enforcement

officials are aware of the reports and were putting all available resources to make sure there was no violence.

ABC News reported an internal FBI bulletin warned of armed protests at all 50 state capitals Jan. 16 to 20.

"We're not getting into much detail but we're not taking anything for granted," Murphy said. "We take this very seriously. We don't want to underprepare for this."

Neither he nor State Police Commander Pat Callahan said they could absolutely "guarantee" the protest would be fully controlled. "I hope if they do show up they do so in a peaceful manner,"

Callahan said.

New Jersey is asking anyone who hears about suspicious activity or planned violence to report it on New Jersey's anonymous tip line (866) 472-3365.

"We need the community to report to us," said Jared Maples, director of New Jersey's Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness.

When asked whether he would advise people who are considering counter-protesting to stay home, he acknowledged everyone's right to protest Jan. 17, but said even if people's hearts

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