



Caper Tigers make all-league teams after great season

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House of the week

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168th YEAR NO. 23 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2022 \$1.00

Potential bidders get inside look at Franklin Street School

Conversion to library expected to begin after summer

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — A project to turn the Franklin Street School into a branch of the county library is expected to begin in the fall, so potential bidders on the job got a chance to walk through the school June 8 to see what they are up against.

"They have pre-approved six bidders. All six came and walked through the school, a promising sign

we will have a number of bidders on that project," Deputy City Manager Lou Belasco told City Council later that day.

The county expects to receive bids by July 17 and the Board of County Commissioners to award a contract no later than Aug. 23.

Another walkthrough for bidders is scheduled for this week, Belasco said.

"We're moving right along and soon that project will be started," he said.

The building's bricks

will be raked, repointed and thoroughly cleaned. A new copper cornice will be fabricated and the arch-top windows on the back of the building will be replicated.

The main entrance to the library will be facing south into what is now the school's gymnasium.

An elevator with five stops will be installed that will link every level of the building.

The ground level will be enlarged to accommodate several rooms. The new

library will have a children's area and a space for storytelling.

An addition is proposed for the north side of the gymnasium for quiet study, tutoring, computers and a young adult section.

The second floor will be used entirely for programs with a movable partition allowing the space to be used as one or two rooms.

New heating and air conditioning will be installed

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
A former classroom at Franklin Street School offers a hint of what contractors are facing when bidding on the project to renovate the segregated school building in Cape May.

Mullock names Prusinski city's new OEM chief

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Mayor Zack Mullock appointed Public Works Superintendent Eric Prusinski as director of Cape May's Office of Emergency Management (OEM). Prusinski replaces Robert Elwell, who retired from the position after serving 16 months.

At a June 8 meeting, Mullock said Prusinski has assembled a team that includes Police Chief Dekon Fashaw, Deputy Fire Chief Mike Eck and Colin Smith of Public Works.

"I know that team will keep us safe as always," Mullock said.

City Manager Mike Voll said Prusinski has graduated from Rutgers University and is certified as an OEM manager.

During public comment, resident Jules Rauch expressed concerns with Cape May's increasing number of visitors and the future possibility of having to evacuate the city in the case of a hurricane. He said the hurricane predictions from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for this year are quite frightening.

ing. "I think those of us who live here in the city know what we need to do, early enough, that we're going to be out of harm's way," he said. "My concern is the visitors that we have coming. How do we let them know how to get out of the city? What's the best way to vacate what I'll just call South Jersey?"

Rauch said he feared those with electric vehicles would be parked on the side of the road after sitting in traffic for four or five hours during an evacuation.

Mullock said OEM has an evacuation checklist that starts a week before a hurricane is set to arrive, acknowledging that a week is not always available.

All lanes on Lafayette Street could be reversed so all traffic flows out of town, Mullock said. The county is working to eliminate flooding that blocks exiting traffic on Washington Street in front of the Riggins service station, he said.

The city can provide information during an evacuation through the police department's new text messaging system and social media, Mullock said.

Delaware senior dies during triathlon swim

NORTH CAPE MAY — A participant in the Escape the Cape Triathlon has died after suffering health problems near the finish line of the swimming portion of the event. The man from Wilmington, Del., described in a news release from the Delaware River and Bay Authority (DRBA) as "70 plus" was participating in the Open Water Classic Competition at about 8:30 a.m. June 12 when he began having difficulties. He had nearly completed the race when lifeguards

noticed his distress and responded to assist.

The man, who was not identified, was taken from the water to the beach near David Douglass Sr. Memorial Park in Lower Township, where emergency medical service personnel administered CPR, attempting to resuscitate him. He was then transported in an on-site ambulance to Cape Regional Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead.

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Michael Collins/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Escape the Cape

Participants in the Escape the Cape Triathlon crowd the lower deck of the Cape May-Lewes Ferry ship MV Delaware on June 12, preparing to leap 12 feet into Delaware Bay below and swim three miles to shore.

Vandals damage anti-abortion banners

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Anti-abortion banners displayed on the lawn of St. Raymond's Catholic Church of the St. John Neumann Parish have been defaced or destroyed.

According to Michael Beck, chairman the church's anti-abortion committee and a former mayor of Lower Township, a banner was slashed May 27 on the church lawn. On May 29, the same banner was shredded and a new banner displayed.

On May 31, the banner was destroyed by pulling out grommets. A third banner was destroyed June 3 with black spray paint, Beck said.

He said the entire billboard was spray-painted June 9.

"You have a constitutional right to express your opinion, but nobody has a right to do what they're doing," he said.

The three banners had a value of \$90 each, according to Beck, who added that



Provided

A member of St. Raymond's Catholic Church's anti-abortion committee, Michael Beck, said three banners costing about \$90 each were cut, spray-painted and otherwise damaged in a series of incidents starting May 27.

numerous anti-choice yard signs have been stolen or destroyed.

Beck said Lower Township police were notified. He

said the church will position a camera to record any activity on the lawn.

"If people are getting aggravated over our signs,

then we're doing our job," he said.

The church will continue to display anti-choice signs, Beck said.

NAILED IT. Rusty Nail

The Rusty Nail is back! Our famed surfer bar and restaurant is back open for the 2022 season. Stop by for breakfast, lunch and dinner—as well as delicious cocktails and the coldest draft beer in Cape May (as verified by Exit Zero Magazine).

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