

Algae growth suspected at Lake Lily

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Robert Newkirk/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Escape the Cape Triathlon

The eighth annual Escape the Cape Triathlon was held Aug. 29 in North Cape May and West Cape May. The event begins with a 16-foot leap from the back of a Cape May-Lewis Ferry vessel. Aaron Groff of Cherry Hill won the 'Olympic Triathlon.'

City rejects advertising for city manager job

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — In a 4-1 vote, City Council decided against advertising for the position of city manager.

Deputy Mayor Stacy Sheehan cast the only "yes" vote Aug. 17. She said she asked the resolution be placed on the agenda because Mike Voll was hired as the interim city manager in January. She said she

was told the city would advertise for a city manager with Voll submitting his resume for the position.

"At the March 30 meeting, it was said that we're just going to give him the position," Sheehan said. "It was my understanding that in the future we would be going out to advertise and interview for this position. It is nothing against Mr. Voll, I don't think we have to do a job evaluation, it has

to do with the process." She said city manager is the most important job in the city and advertising and interviewing for the position should take place.

"I want to make it clear it has nothing to do with Mr. Voll's present job that he is doing for the city," Sheehan said.

Councilman Chris Bezaire said a section of the city code states City Council shall evaluate the city

manager on not less than a semiannual basis preferably during the months of May and November in order to determine his or her job performance. He said he discussed the item in the code with Councilwoman Lorraine Baldwin and Mayor Zack Mullock.

Bezaire said Voll has not been evaluated and council should focus on the evaluation.

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City elementary set to open with safety measures

Masks, social distancing and quarantines remain in place

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's elementary school will resume classes Sept. 7 with a number of precautions in place.

During a Board of Education meeting Aug. 19, Superintendent Zack Palombo said he asked school staff voluntarily to tell him if they had received a COVID-19 vaccination. He said most of the staff has been vaccinated.

All school staff must be vaccinated by Oct. 18 by order of Gov. Phil Murphy or submit to weekly testing.

Palombo said those who choose not to get vaccinated must use up sick days if they become ill. In the past, COVID absences did not count against sick days for school staff.

By order of the governor, all students, educators, staff and visitors will be required to wear face masks indoors for the start of the school year.

Palombo said students can be 3 feet apart while wearing masks.

"This allows us a little bit more flexibility. We can start moving more kids into the classroom. We won't have to have them spaced out 6 feet apart," he said.

The school will not provide a virtual learning option this year with the exception of extreme health circumstances. Palombo said teachers have to be prepared to deliver vir-

tual instruction to students in quarantine.

No travel restrictions are in effect. Last year, the elementary school shut down after Christmas vacation and spring break since many students traveled out of state during the holidays.

Palombo said students should be able to use the cafeteria on full days with students spaced 6 feet apart. Preschool students will continue to eat in their classroom.

Close contact with a COVID-positive person is defined as being within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes in a 24-hour period within two days prior to illness onset or positive test result, regardless of whether the contact was wearing a mask.

Siblings and/or family members need to quarantine if symptoms are displayed and/or someone tests positive.

"If a student displays symptoms, I have the authority to separate them and the parents have to come get their child," Palombo said.

All students and staff must wear a mask in school and on the bus except during mask breaks outdoors, while outside, while eating or drinking or participating in intense aerobic activity or swimming. Palombo said nap time for preschool classes will take place in the classroom instead of the nap room.

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City to name beach for fallen lifeguard

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — During a special meeting last week, City Council introduced an ordinance to rename Reading Avenue beach after Norman V. Inferrera III, 16, of Phoenixville, Pa., a first-year lifeguard with the Cape May Beach Patrol who died Aug. 21 from injuries suffered when the boat he was rowing was broadsided by a wave and capsized.

Many members of the Cape May Beach Patrol attended Inferrera's funeral service Aug. 27 in Norristown, Pa. The lifeguards were replaced for the day in Cape May by members of other beach patrols.

Council approved a resolution authorizing a shared services agreement between the city and participating units for beach patrol aid and assistance. Councilman

Chris Bezaire said the beach patrol supervisor reached out to communities within the Atlantic Cape Joint Insurance Fund (JIF) to staff the beaches while lifeguards attended the funeral in Pennsylvania.

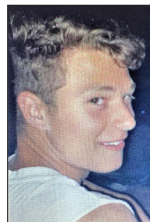
Bezaire thanked the communities for sending lifeguards to Cape May.

"The lifeguards are a unique community and they all come to each other's aid," he said.

The resolution allowed Cape May to pay lifeguards from other cities for their time spent working in the city, Bezaire said.

City solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said if an out-of-town lifeguard were injured in Cape May, they would be covered by their own city's worker's compensation. The visiting lifeguards would be covered by Cape May's li-

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INFERRERA

State cannabis panel releases initial rules

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — The state Cannabis Regulatory Commission (CRC) has issued its initial rules for the personal use of cannabis and regulations for municipalities.

During a Borough Commission meeting Aug. 25, borough solicitor Frank Corrado said the initial document totaled 171 pages with more to come. He said the borough's ordinance allowing retail sales and cultivation of marijuana appears to be consistent with the new CRC regulations. He said the borough may have to make some minor tweaks to its ordinance.

"We're still a good year away from the state issuing any cannabis licenses, at least in my opinion," he said.

Deputy Mayor Peter Burke noted West Cape May is allowed only one liquor store by the state and asked if due to the small population of the borough, it was limited to only one

cannabis retail establishment.

Corrado said he did not believe the current crop of regulations addressed that question.

"What it does do is say that the priority is going to be given to social equity businesses, that is to say businesses owned by people that live in economically disadvantaged areas of the state," he said.

According to CRC regulations, social equity businesses will be required to have 50 percent ownership by a person with previous marijuana convictions or a person who has lived in an economically disadvantaged area for the last five years.

Corrado said priority would be given to minority-owned businesses and those owned by women and disabled veterans.

The state will control the overall number of cannabis business licenses, he said.

While decriminalization of marijuana in New Jersey allows persons to possess as much as 6 ounces of canna-

bis, state regulations stipulate those 21 and older may possess only 1 ounce. Growing marijuana at home is not permitted.

CRC regulations ban the sale of cookies, brownies and any other products resembling food. Those who want to ingest cannabis will take it as a pill, liquid, chewable or gummy. The CRC did not rule out permitting edibles in the future.

The state will license only 37 new marijuana growers.

The state did not impose limits on other types of licenses such as retail, manufacturing and delivery.

A small marijuana business employing 10 persons or fewer would not count toward state limits on licenses and would pay 50 percent of license fees, if the ownership resides in New Jersey.

Cannabis businesses are required to contain odors and engage with neighbors

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COVID numbers continue to climb around the region

By DAVID NAHAN
Cape May Star and Wave

Last week Atlantic County pushed past 30,000 COVID-19 cases since the pandemic began and Cape May County's numbers continued to climb, with three new deaths attributed to the coronavirus.

As of Monday, Aug. 30,

Atlantic County reported 30,037 cases to date after 50 new cases Monday pushed it over the threshold. There were three deaths in Atlantic County from Aug. 23-30, and a total of 500 new cases spread throughout the county with the youngest reported

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