



Cape May creates position of HPC compliance officer

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House of the week

B1



166th YEAR NO. 39 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 \$1.00

Google, Comcast can't handle heavy traffic

Technology companies having trouble keeping up with schools' needs

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Virtual learning has been frustrating at times for teachers and students as Google is having major infrastructure problems with its instructional platforms.

At a Sept. 17 virtual meeting, Cape May City Elementary School Superintendent Robert Garguilo said problems were also occurring with Zoom. He said the internet was not prepared for the amount of traffic taking place.

Garguilo said Google claims it is

working on the problem.

"If something happens when I'm online with my student and it crashes, that's not on me because our equipment has been tested," he said.

Principal Zack Palombo said he had problems last week.

"Everything was fine from about 8:50 until about 9 o'clock and then right after 9 o'clock from 9:15 to 9:30, it just started getting slow and we all know what happened," he said. "Lower Cape May came on, Cape May Tech came on, Middle Township came on, Dennis Township came on, Upper Township

came on — all of our school districts are coming on at the same time. Comcast does not have the ability to have the bandwidth at all these homes."

Palombo said Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) testing began last week. MAP is a computerized test that helps teachers assess students' skills in reading and math and measures a student's progress or growth in school. The test is unique to each student as questions are adjusted by the computer.

He said the school tried to administer the tests virtually. Palombo said the school was notified

by the company that administers the test that it could not support the infrastructure to present the tests remotely.

"It wasn't our infrastructure, it was the company's infrastructure that prevented that," he said.

Garguilo said 90 percent of parents are complying by filling out a COVID questionnaire each morning at home before their child goes to school. It is available on the school's app.

"It's almost like a contract that parents have prescreened their children before they send them in and if they don't, we go through a

process and procedures, have the nurse check them for symptoms and if any symptoms are exhibited, parents are asked to come pick their child up and then see a doctor," Palombo said.

Garguilo said the Centers for Disease Control stated a child must be screened before going to school in the morning.

More requests for virtual learning have been received than requests to attend school in-person, he said.

Drive-and-go meals are being

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Candidates sue over change in ballot position

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Two City Council candidates and one mayoral candidate are crying foul over the order of candidates on the ballot for the Nov. 3 elections.

The ballot, prepared by County Clerk Rita Fulginiti, reportedly lists the candidates in a different order than the one chosen by City Clerk Erin Burke in a random drawing Sept. 3.

Council candidates Mark DiSanto, Chris Bezaire and mayoral candidate Zack Mullock hired attorney Dan Kurkowski to file for an emergency injunction in Superior Court requiring Fulginiti to change the ballot. The injunction would stop the mailing of the ballots and require them to be reprinted reflecting the results of the initial drawing for ballot positions.

Named in the suit are Fulginiti, Burke, Deputy Mayor Patricia Hendricks and the administrator of county elections as a John Doe.

The order on the ballot as drawn by City Clerk Erin Burke live on Zoom on Sept. 3 was, under the mayoral category:

1. Zachary Mullock
 2. Clarence F. Lear III
- Under the council category, the order drawn for the ballot was:

1. Mark DiSanto
2. Patricia Gray Hendricks
3. Christopher Bezaire

The ballot in question has been printed to link Lear and Hendricks running as a ticket.

As a result, no name is listed in column one for council, Hendricks is in column two, DiSanto was moved to column three and Bezaire to column four.

Fulginiti said a conference was scheduled before a judge Tuesday, too late for the Star and Wave's deadline, but she would comment after that took place.

Cape May solicitor Frank Corrado told the Star and Wave the action was directed against Fulginiti.

"Any claim that Mayor Lear or Deputy Mayor Hendricks had any role in the formatting of this ballot is absolutely incorrect," he said. "To the extent that this lawsuit alleges that Erin Burke did anything wrong is completely without merit."

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Tom Donnelly/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Gov. Phil Murphy cuts the ribbon, dedicating the Harriet Tubman Museum on Lafayette Street in Cape May. Also present are board members and the Mullock family, which founded the museum and partially funded the project.

Murphy cuts ribbon on Tubman Museum

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Gov. Phil Murphy cut a ribbon and toured the new Harriet Tubman Museum on Lafayette Street on Sept. 17, a day that recognized the completion of the project and commemorated Harriet Tubman's Emancipation Day, Sept. 17, 1849.

According to museum Executive Director Cynthia Mullock, Tubman

first set out to escape the bonds of slavery from a plantation in Maryland. She and her two younger brothers, Ben and Henry, escaped the Poplar Neck Plantation in Caroline County, Md., and remained hidden in the area for about three weeks.

Fear drove them back to the Eastern Shore and bondage, but Tubman ultimately self-liberated and fled for freedom shortly thereafter. In 1852, she lived and worked in Cape May as a cook and domestic laborer

to fund her missions back to rescue other people subjected to the bonds of slavery, Mullock said.

"Here on these streets, she would have met with many other abolitionists/activists who spent their summers in Cape May as well working to advance social and racial justice," she said.

Mullock noted the house was transformed from one of the top 10

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CAPE MAY CITY COUNCIL

Bezaire has deep roots in community, service

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council candidate Chris Bezaire is a fifth-generation Cape May resident. While he is a newcomer to the political arena, his family is not a newcomer to public service.

Bezaire's great-great-grandfather, Sol Needles, was mayor in 1948. His grandfather Wister "Barney" Dougherty served as general manager of the county Bridge Commission from 1973 to 1991 and was chief of

the Cape May Volunteer Fire Department from 1970 to 1995.

In addition, Dougherty was heavily involved in the research and ultimate adoption of the city's manager-council form of government. Bezaire's father, Bill Bezaire, has been a member of the



BEZAIRE

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LOWER TOWNSHIP MAYOR

Sippel running to keep local government reins

By RACHEL SHUBIN
Special to the Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP — Mayor Frank Sippel, a Republican, is facing a challenge from Democrat Christopher South to keep his seat on Township Council.

Sippel was in the military for more than three decades before running for and winning the deputy mayor's seat.

He served in that capacity for three years before being appointed

mayor in January when former Mayor Erik Simonsen was elected to the state Assembly.

"I spent 36 years in the Army and retired as a command sergeant major in 2015," Sippel said. "In 2017, I ran and was elected [as]



SIPPEL

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South hoping to break GOP hold on township

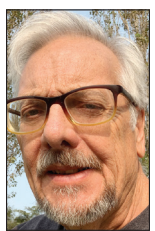
By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP — For 16 years, Christopher South reported and edited the news for the Cape May Star and Wave and Gazette newspapers.

Now he would like to be on the other side of the dais as mayor of Lower Township.

"What prompted me to step up and offer my candidacy to the Democratic Party is simply this — the Republican Party is a

well-oiled, finely tuned machine that controls virtually all of Cape May County," he said. "The machine maintains its hold on the county and Lower Township by handing out jobs and contracts, paid for with your tax dollars,



SOUTH

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Walk-Up/Drive Thru FLU SHOT CLINICS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3rd & 24th • 8:00am - 1:00pm

649 Shore Road (Surgical Division Parking Lot), Somers Point, NJ 08244

To protect yourself the entire flu season, the CDC recommends getting a flu shot during the month of September or October. Patients must be 18 and older.

To schedule an appointment, call your Shore Physicians Group Primary Care Provider Office or visit ShorePhysiciansGroup.com.

