



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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FORT DELAWARE HELPED PROTECT RIVER, BAY

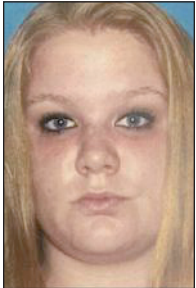
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Two charged with murder in teen's death

Nicole Angstadt, 15, was found dead in the crawl space of a home in Rio Grande



ANGSTADT

By **DEBORAH MCGUIRE**
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Two men were arrested Feb. 19 and charged with first-degree murder and first-degree murder during the course of a sexual assault in the December 2015 homicide of 15-year-old Nicole Angstadt.

Charles Mosley, 33, and

Derrick Powers, 23, both of Rio Grande, were also charged with multiple other offenses.

Angstadt, a resident of the Erma section of Lower Township, was reported missing to Lower Township police by her mother Dec. 1. On Dec. 14, detectives from the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office and Lower Township Police Department went to a vacant property in the 100

block of Vermont Avenue in Rio Grande where they discovered the teenager's body in the crawlspace.

"An exhaustive investigation conducted by members of the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office, Middle Township Police Department and Lower Township Police Department has led to the arrest ... with numerous offenses relating to the murder of Angstadt,"

Cape May County Prosecutor Robert Taylor said in a news release.

According to Taylor, Powers was charged with first-degree murder, first-degree murder during the course of a sexual assault, conspiracy to commit murder, conspiracy to desecrate a human body, hindering apprehension, hindering apprehension of another, endangering the welfare of a

child and robbery.

Judge John Porto set bail for Powers at \$1 million cash. In lieu of bail, Powers was being held at the Atlantic County Jail.

Taylor said Mosley was charged with first-degree murder, first-degree murder during the course of a sexual assault, conspiracy to commit

See **Two charged**, Page A3

Lower will again seek MUA cash for budget

By **JACK FICHTER**
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — In a 3-2 vote that fell along party lines, Lower Township Council voted to request \$205,000 for the municipal budget from the Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority for the second consecutive year.

Republicans Tom Conrad, David Perry and Erik Simonsen voted to request MUA funds while independents Mayor Michael Beck and Deputy Mayor Norris Clark cast negative votes.

In 2015, Lower Township approved a budget with a 1.9-cent increase per \$100 of assessed value in the local purpose tax rate, using a \$205,000 contribution from the MUA to pay the salaries of four new police officers expected to be hired that year.

At a Feb. 17 council meeting, Beck said he had consistently voted against taking money from the MUA, "especially this year because our budget contains a surplus that went up over \$1.2 million, which brought us for the budget year to \$5.2 million."

He said his complaint was that not all of the township's taxpayers use water from the MUA.

"So taking money from the MUA, in essence, some people are paying the taxes of other people if you use it for the municipal budget,"

See **MUA cash**, Page A3



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The Cape May Fire Department wants heat and air conditioning in its Fire Museum to help preserve the 1928 American LaFrance firetruck it has restored, but cost estimates for the work range from \$180,000 to \$200,000. One volunteer says the work can be done for a fraction of the price with a wall-hung unit.

Climate control cost questioned

By **JACK FICHTER**
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Volunteer firefighter Jim Matthews is questioning an estimate of \$180,000 to \$220,000 from the city's engineer to heat and cool the city's Fire Museum to preserve the fire department's 1928 American LaFrance firetruck.

"In my opinion, this report is very vague and his price ranges are outrageous," Matthews said.

He said the fire department was sending its 88-year-old pumper out to be refurbished to pristine condition.

"We need to come up with a heat source and air conditioning source for this museum," he said.

During an October meeting with engineer Tom Thornton, of Hatch Mott MacDonald, and city officials, Matthews recommended ideas for heating and cooling the museum.

He said he recommended putting a wall across the hose tower and installing a door with a closer, install a new door on the outside of the hose tower with a closer, weather strip the front doors and install up in the museum's loft a wall-hung air conditioner.

"I told him we're not looking for

museum status, we're looking for approximately 40 to 50 degrees in the wintertime and 80 to 90 in the summer," Matthews said. "The money we're putting into this truck, we can't have 10 degrees in the winter and 100 to 110 in the summer."

The firetruck has been in Cape May since it was built, he said.

"It's a very valuable tourist attraction to this town," Matthews said.

He said he and others were instrumental in building the Fire Museum and keeping the antique

See **Fire Museum**, Page A2

Attorney alleges Sheehan targeted

Captain's firearms tests not separated by 90 days in 2009

By **JACK FICHTER**
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Was Capt. Robert Sheehan targeted for a firearms qualifications timeframe violation while two other senior officers

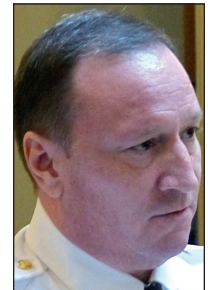
with the same violation were given a pass? Was Sheehan targeted by "malcontents" to advance themselves in the ranks of the police department? Was the firearms officer afraid to report two senior officers failed to qualify in firearms qualifications for fear of retaliation from within the police department?

These questions were asked during the first day of a disciplinary hearing held by the city for Capt. Robert Sheehan on Feb. 17, nearly one year after City Council voted not to renew his contract as police chief. At issue is that Sheehan qualified on the gun range in 2009 at the county police academy twice in that year but the qualifications were not separated by a three-month gap, thus disqualifying him from carrying a firearm by state attorney general guidelines.

Hearing Officer Richard Williams, a retired Superior Court-Appellate Division judge, explained the proceedings were not judicial but an administrative hearing on a disciplinary matter. He said he would render his decision in writing in 20 days from the conclusion of the hearing.

In his opening statement, Attorney Todd Gelfand, representing the city, said carrying a firearm without qualifying on the firing range with the 90-day gap was a third-degree criminal defense. He said the

See **Disciplinary**, Page A2



SHEEHAN

Resident asks why Cape May not fixing beach slope

By **JACK FICHTER**
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City resident Dennis DeSatnick said a lot of action has been taken by City Council in the past year for projects such as refurbishment of Lafayette Street and Rotary parks and extending the Promenade, but he was concerned the city's beach slope would not be addressed by summer.

At a Feb. 16 council meeting, he said he has spoken with City Council members regarding the beach slope that has been blamed for a number of injuries to bathers.

"Since September, I've been asking questions about the beach safety issue," DeSatnick said. "Many times it comes back, 'We've spoken to the Army Corps (of Engineers). We've spoken to the DEP (Department of En-

vironmental Protection).' What I'm hearing mostly is about the Promenade being extended."

"I have yet to this day to hear anything of what we're going to be doing for the summer to the beach," he continued. "I know we have a five-point program. I know we set up a committee. My concern is (summer) is three months away."

DeSatnick asked if the city had a plan to address the beach slope.

He asked whether the DEP or Army Corps has given any council member any information.

"They would not correspond or call an individual council member, they would call Mr. MacLeod or me and I would be included in that because I did send the report and I've had the conversations with them," Mayor Edward Mahaney said.

See **Beach slope**, Page A5

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