



House of the week

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MV Twin Capes to join reef off N.J. coast

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Sheehan, city file motions in demotion case

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Arguments for summary judgment were presented July 20 in the civil case of Sheehan v. the city of Cape May before Superior Court Judge Christopher Gibson.

A summary judgment motion is a request to have some or all portions of a case decided by a judge in that party's favor before it requires a trial by jury.

A motion for summary judgment is served with a brief and a separate statement of material facts with or without supporting affidavits. A party opposing the motion files a responding statement either admitting or disputing each of the facts in the movant's statement.

City Council voted 3-2 not to renew Sheehan's contract as chief of police in March 2015 on his one-year anniversary. He subsequently filed a lawsuit in Superior Court



SHEEHAN

seeking to be reinstated as chief of police with all lost wages and benefits.

Attorney Matthew Curran, representing Sheehan, said he moved for partial summary judgment concerning motions made by some members of City Council at meetings to reinstate Sheehan as chief of police. Motions of council to reinstate Sheehan at several public meetings failed.

The state Conscientious Employee Protection Act (CEPA) protects an employee who reports misconduct as a whistleblower. Curran said Sheehan was targeted for adverse action because he was a whistle-blower. Sheehan notified the county Prosecutor's Office of the city's investigation of then-lieutenant Chuck Lear's alleged misuse of comp time.

In his complaint, Sheehan stated City Manager Bruce MacLeod and City Solicitor Tony Monzo wanted to take disciplinary action against Lear

without his involvement as chief of police.

Cape May hired retired State Police Maj. James Fallon to conduct an internal affairs investigation into Lear's alleged overtime abuse.

Curran said Sheehan objected to Fallon, a civilian, conducting an internal affairs investigation of Lear's comp time. Sheehan said he should conduct the investigation. The county Prosecutor's Office placed a monitor

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John Cooke/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Cooling off in Cape May

U.S. Coast Guard recruit Nieves Ayala enjoys some ice cream on the Washington Street Mall with a family member. Ayala was on liberty from Coast Guard Training Center Cape May, the only recruit training center in the country.

City to take over fire inspections after complaints

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved an ordinance in a 4-1 vote establishing a Bureau of Fire Prevention, taking away fire inspections from state inspectors who developed a reputation for being unsympathetic to owners of historic inns.

During a council meeting July 18, City Manager Neil Young said the city needed to handle over 3,000 inspections annually. He said the bureau would have at least one full-time fire official, a full time inspector and a clerical worker.

During public comment, resident Jules Rauch asked how the city would find rental properties for inspection that may be listed online but not with local real estate companies.

"It's been an ongoing problem," he said. "We know that there's many properties that are rented that are not being li-

ensured."

Mayor Chuck Lear said code enforcement could search for such properties online and notify the owners they must obtain a mercantile license and fire inspection.

Resident Jay Schatz, a former owner of a historic bed and breakfast inn, said fire inspections were turned over to state inspectors in 2003 and they had no knowledge of accommodations allowed for historic inns by city fire inspectors. He said after complaints were made, state inspectors allowed closing off of hallways, automatic door closers for use in a fire, iridescent paint on doors, hard wired and monitored smoke detectors, limited sprinkler systems and the sealing of transoms.

"The owners were generally on the premises 24/7 or nearby that had daily supervision, whereas whole-house rentals, in a house very similar to this,

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Cape May County worst for kid safety, well-being

By ERIC AVEDESIAN and JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

NEWARK — Cape May County ranked last in safety and wellbeing of children among all 21 counties according to Kids Count, an annual report by Advocates for Children of New Jersey.

Sponsored by the Baltimore-based Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count is a national and state-by-state statistical effort to track the state of children in the United States.

Advocates for Children of New Jersey, a 35-year old statewide child research and action organization and New Jersey Kids Count grantee,

receives its data from the U.S. census and state departments and agencies.

Kids Count Coordinator Alana Vega said the report's rankings include four areas of child wellbeing: economics, health, education, and safety and wellbeing.

"What we really wanted to do with these rankings is show counties and different areas issues that they can target their resources towards," Vega said. "It's about what can we serve do better and how can we improve the lives of children."

According to the report, the child population in Cape

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Cape Regional tracking surf zone injuries

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Cape Regional Medical Center is tracking surf-related injuries throughout the county this season.

During a meeting of the city's Beach Safety Committee on July 24, Dr. Andrea McCoy, chief medical officer of CRMC, said the hospital has developed a form to gather data on beach injuries used for a monthly report.

"Of 71 forms that were completed since Memorial Day, only 43 of them had a beach location attached to them," she said.

McCoy said she tracked five injuries in Cape May that did not correlate with a report from the Cape May Fire Department.

Deputy Fire Chief Richard Lundholm reported seven surf injuries from June 18 to July 24.

— June 18: A 12-year old male received a knee injury while running out of the ocean. Leg immobilized, transported to CRMC.

— June 19: A 13-year-old male received a laceration to toe from a seashell in the ocean. Parents signed a refusal.

— July 2: A 31-year old male struck head on ocean floor while body surfing, received arm injury. Transported to CRMC.

— July 7: A 9-year-old male body boarding struck head on ocean floor, immobilized and transported to CRMC.

— July 18: A 31-year-old female received an ankle



A QR code linked to the city's online beach safety information will be posted around the city.

injury while walking in surf. Transported to CRMC.

— July 21: A 12-year old male tumbled in the surf with head and neck pain. Parents signed refusal.

— Lundholm said a surf-

related injury had occurred just before the meeting on Queen Street beach involving neck pain. He said the patient was transported to CRMC.

A monthly report from Cape Regional Urgent Care had not been received as of the meeting date, Lundholm said.

McCoy said she would work on getting reports from Cape Regional Urgent Care and wanted to refine CRMC's reporting system of surf-related injuries.

Committee member Joe Picard, director of Public Works, reported his department would begin installing signs on the beach this week containing Quick Response (QR) codes. Smart phone users

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