



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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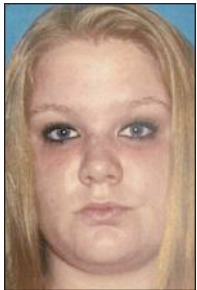
A.J. MEERWALD WILL SAIL INTO CAPE MAY

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Two men indicted in murder of teen girl

Rio Grande residents accused of killing Erma resident Nicole Angstadt in December



ANGSTADT

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPEMAY COURTHOUSE — An exhaustive investigation conducted by members of the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office in conjunction with Middle Township and Lower Township police, led to the arrest and indictment of Derrick Powers, 23, and Charles Mosley, 33, both of Rio Grande, in

the murder of Erma resident Nicole Angstadt.

Cape May County Prosecutor Robert L. Taylor, Middle Township Police Chief Christopher Leusner and Lower Township Police Chief William Mastriana announced the indictment June 28 of the two individuals in the 15-year-old's murder in Rio Grande.

On Dec. 14, 2015, detectives from the county Prosecutor's

Office and the Lower Township police while conducting a missing persons investigation went to 100 Vermont Ave. and discovered the body of a white female later identified as Angstadt. She was reported missing by her mother Dec. 1.

Powers was indicted and charged with murder, felony murder, conspiracy to commit murder, robbery, conspiracy to desecrate a human body,

burglary, attempted aggravated sexual assault, hindering apprehension of another and endangering the welfare of a child.

Mosley was indicted and charged with murder, felony murder, conspiracy to commit murder, desecration of a human body, conspiracy to desecrate a human body, burglary, sexual assault, hindering apprehension of another

and endangering the welfare of a child.

Both men were arrested Feb. 18.

Taylor said those convicted of murder are subject to a term of imprisonment of 30 years to life in state prison.

In December, an investigation led to the arrest of three males for charges unrelated

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Cape May holds Fourth of July festivities

The Colonial Musketeers Fife and Drum Corps of Hackettstown marches in Cape May's Independence Day Parade on July 3. Other participants were the Fralinger String Band of Philadelphia, the Forgotten Warriors Vietnam Museum, Dr. Emlen Physick and children.



Rotary Park's lack of trees, shade worries commission

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's Shade Tree Commission issued a statement last week addressing concerns of residents and visitors of the number of trees cut down in the refurbishment of Rotary Park.

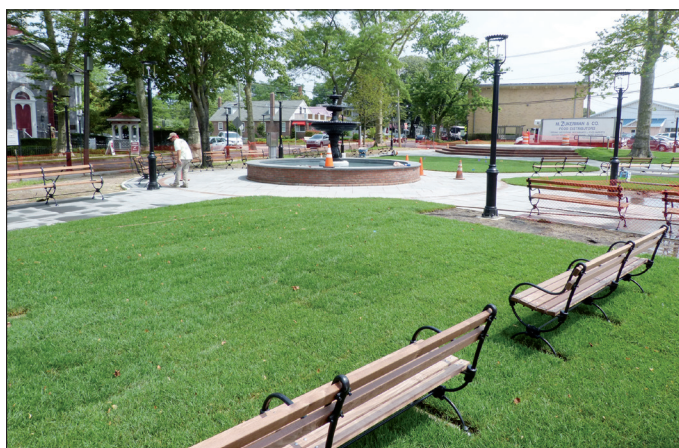
The statement reads: "To Cape May residents and visitors, in response to negative feedback voiced by you, our residents and visitors, we the Shade Tree Commission feel compelled to comment on the current situation of Rotary Park.

Sometime in the spring 2015, proposed renovations to Rotary Park were made public. At that time, the Shade Tree Commission drafted a letter to the mayor and council stating that we seriously

opposed the removal of the mature trees in the park. In a letter from Jay Schatz, chairman of the Shade Tree Commission, to the manager and mayor and council, he stated that the removal of the large trees would compromise the integrity of the park.

The mayor and Rotary Park Council decided to forge ahead with the plans drafted by Temple U. (University) again, the Shade Tree Commission voiced our objections to deaf ears. We pointed out the mature, healthy trees which provided the charm, ambiance serenity and shade cannot be replaced. We believe the few remaining mature trees in the park have been greatly compromised due to the construction.

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The Shade Tree Commission released a statement explaining its concerns about the removal of trees during the renovation of Rotary Park.

Potent pot, hard liquor exacerbate addictions

Healthy Youth Coalition, Cape Assist hold second substance-abuse meeting

By CAROL R. EMMENS
Special to the Star and Wave

VILLAS — Cape Assist and the Lower Township Healthy Youth Coalition held a public meeting June 28 to address the rampant problems of alcohol and drug addiction in young people.

Joe Faldetta, prevention director for Cape Assist, noted that the disturbing image of drug addicts shooting up in dirty alleyways or an abandoned building is sometimes true, but that is not how addiction starts. He described how the process begins in a simple, almost benign way, by youth drinking alcohol or taking prescription opioid drugs. He compared getting addicted to paddling a canoe on a stream that has a waterfall at the end.

"At first the stream is gentle, and it is fun. Then the stream gets faster and faster and it's harder and harder to get to the shore. Finally, at the end, there is the waterfall. Death can be at that end of the stream," he said.

To prevent young people from going over the waterfall, he and coalition coordinator Steve Selby outlined the steps a community and families can take as described in the "40 Development Assets" that were identified by the Search Institute of Minneapolis. Among those assets are family support, caring neighbors and a caring school environment.

Unfortunately, families are sometimes dysfunctional. But adult role models such as neighbors, teachers or faith leaders can step in to help and to build up a young person's confidence.

Faldetta said peer influence is paramount and young people need the tools to resist negative peer influence to drink or to take drugs. In Cape May County, this is critical, they said. According to the PRIDE Survey of students in grades 6-12, there are some students drinking as early as 11 years old.

The younger they are when drinking begins, the greater the chance of addiction and mental health issues, he said. As Faldetta noted, "a lot of young people lack social coping skills and instead of dealing with a problem, they automatically isolate themselves and turn to their iPhones."

Adding to the problem of addiction, according to Faldetta, is the fact that the risks

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