**Journey to Freedom**

Harriet Tubman museum to celebrate city’s vital role in abolition movement

By CRAIG D. SCHEINICH

CAPE MAY — A historic building has been turned into a tributary in an important part in the history of Cape May’s African-American community and abolitionist past, and more.

The Macedonia Baptist Church has a new role: It’s a museum filled with objects and stories that tell the story of Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad.

The church, located on the corner of Lafayette and Independence streets, was recently purchased by the Cape May County Historical Society, which plans to open it to the public as a museum dedicated to Tubman’s legacy.

The museum will feature exhibits on Tubman’s life, including her role as a conductor of the Underground Railroad, her work as a nurse and her contributions to the abolitionist movement.

The church was founded in 1846 by the Rev. Stephen Smith, who was a noted abolitionist and organizer of the Underground Railroad.

Tubman, known as the “Mother of the Harriets,” was a key figure in the abolitionist movement and helped countless enslaved people escape to freedom.

The museum will also feature artifacts from the church’s history, including a large painting of Tubman and a replica of the church’s original building.

The opening of the museum is a significant step in preserving the history of the Underground Railroad and honoring the work of Harriet Tubman.

The museum will be open to the public on a regular basis, with events and programs planned throughout the year.

For more information, visit the museum’s website at www.macedonia-baptist-church.org.

**Erma man, 21, drowns in ocean off Cape May**

By JACK FICTER

CAPE MAY — The body of an Erma man was discovered in the surf off Philadelphia Avenue in the early hours of June 3.

The Cape May Police Department received a call at 6:14 a.m. reporting a man who had been reported missing and was last seen in the area.

When police arrived, they found a deceased male, identified as Kevin L. Lare, 21.

The investigation revealed that Lare was swimming in the area when he went under the water.

Police Chief Tony Marino, 33, said that the wave appeared to have been “a huge chunk of midpeneum” and that the water was quite stormy.

Lare was a resident of the area and had been known to swim in the area.

The cause of death is still being investigated.

**Schools form plans for students’ return**

By JACk FICTER

CAPE MAY — Cape May City Elementary School plans to re-open for the school year on Aug. 26.

School officials said that they are working on a plan to ensure the safety of students and staff.

The school will be following all state and local guidelines for a safe return to school.

For more information, visit the school’s website at www.cape-may.k12.nj.us.

**Shore Medical Center is proud to join the PENN CANCER NETWORK**

SHORE MEDICAL CENTER is proud to join the PENN CANCER NETWORK, a collaboration between Shore Medical Center and the Penn School of Medicine.

The network will provide access to the latest treatments and technologies, as well as opportunities for clinical research.

For more information, visit www.smcnj.org.

**Dems kick off campaign for CMC freeholder**

By DAVID NAHAN

Cape May and Wood

Democrats Brendan Sciarra and Elizabeth Lee Casey kicked off their campaign for the County Board of Chosen Freeholder, seeking the seat of the current Freeholder, Richard M. Free.

Sciarra, a 37-year-old Wildwood Crest native, is a real estate agent and small business owner. He previously served on the Wildwood Crest Council and is running for the seat of the current Freeholder.

He believes there is a need for more transparency in government and that the county needs a new, more engaged voice.

Casey, a 41-year-old Wildwood native, is a nurse practitioner and a mother of two. She previously served as a member of the Cape May County Freeholder and is running for the seat of the current Freeholder.

She believes that the county needs a new, more engaged voice.

Both candidates are running on a platform of reforming the county government and increasing transparency.

For more information, visit Sciarra’s website at www.brendansciarra.com and Casey’s website at www.lee-casey-for-freeholder.com.

**Sense of hurry to change for county gov’t**

By DAVID NAHAN

Cape May and Wood

Brendan Sciarra believes that the time is right for change in county government.

The county is facing challenges such as a record-high budget, a lack of transparency, and a lack of representation.

Sciarra believes that the county needs a new, more engaged voice.

For more information, visit Sciarra’s website at www.brendansciarra.com.

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