

Caper Tigers face Greyhounds in swim meet

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House of the Week

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171st YEAR NO. 4 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2025 \$1.00

Teen dies in motorcycle crash

By CRAIG D. SCHENCK
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP — A 17-year-old Villas boy was killed Jan. 14 when his motorcycle collided with a Lower Township trash truck.

Cape May County Prosecutor Jeffrey H. Sutherland and Chief Kevin Lewis of the Lower Township Police Department announced an investigation into the accident.

According to authorities, the Lower Township Police Department responded to a 911 call at about 11:34 a.m. regarding the collision on Bayshore Road near Atlantic Avenue in

the Villas section of the township.

Authorities did not identify the victim but a link to a GoFundMe page posted to the story on the Prosecutor's Office Facebook page led to a fundraiser organized by Kristina Conroy and Rebecca Smith on behalf of Christa Murphy.

"With heavy hearts, we share the devastating loss of Hayden Schofield, a 17 year old who was so full of life. We would like to give Hayden the dignified and heartfelt send-off that he deserves. Unfortunately, the financial burden of funeral expenses can be overwhelming during this already challenging time. We are

reaching out for support in honoring Hayden's memory. Thank you," the GoFundMe pages states.

Several dozen bicyclists gathered Jan. 18 on Jackson Street and the Washington Street Mall to remember Schofield. Cape May police provided supervision and escort after a brief prayer and moment of silence. "It is so important to process grief... if you don't, it stays inside in some negative ways. Especially the opportunity to do something physical like a bike ride," West Cape May Mayor

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HPC appoints Boecker chair; Kurtz sworn in

Board reorganizes following retirement of longtime lead

By RACHEL SHUBIN
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Considering the Historic Preservation Commission's ethos of protecting the city's historic integrity, the new year marks a fresh start for the group.

Following the retirement of longtime chairman Warren Coupland, several new members were sworn into office Jan. 13 during the HPC's reorganization meeting. He served on the commission since 2007.

John Boecker was unanimously appointed chairman, while Jim Testa was appointed vice chairman and William Kurtz was appointed as an alternate member.

"I'd like to introduce you to our newest member. You might know him as 'Yogi,' but his real name is William Kurtz," HPC member Tom Carroll said, also noting Coupland's retirement.

"We are also missing, and sorry about it, our former chair Warren Coupland," Carroll said. "After many years on the board, he decided he wanted to get into other things."

Chris Gillin-Schwartz was re-appointed as solicitor.

"We've had Chris working with us for the past year, and I wanted to say from a legal perspective, we've

been well-represented," Testa said. "He's been easy to work with and he's found for us during meetings some interesting and creative solutions."

In old business, the commission spoke with Gwen Finley, owner of The Heritage Inn at 721 Beach Ave., about her proposal for siding on the non-contributing building. Boecker noted it was her fourth appearance before the commission. Scott Johnson of Johnson's Handyman and Home Remodelers LLC attended with Finley.

"I think we've finally come down to something than we can use; it's a TimberTech product that's as close to wood without being wood," Johnson said. "It goes up to the fourth floor and we're here for approval to start work."

Commissioner Kevin Hammeran said in reviewing all of the other properties along the beachfront, he found they are using the same or similar products. Carroll asked about the coupling the siding uses and said it should be visible to the least extent possible.

"It will be an L-bracket underneath that blend into the handrail," Johnson said. "You may see a little bit of

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Frank Scott/For the STAR AND WAVE

Musician Adam Cockerham plays the theorbo, an instrument created amid the Baroque Era in Italy, during the first of a series of concerts Jan. 12 at the Episcopal Church of the Advent in Cape May.

Unusual instruments in tune

MAC hosts winter Classical Cape May series through April

CAPE MAY — Cape May MAC (Museums + Arts + Culture) is presenting free classical music concerts this winter featuring unusual instruments, original works and accomplished musicians.

Building on the success of its inaugural season, Classical Cape May announced its second season of programs.

The concerts began Jan. 12 and will continue from 4 to 5 p.m. Feb. 9, March 9 and April 13 at the Episcopal Church of the Advent, 612 Franklin St. in Cape May. Admission is free and attendees are invited to a reception after each program to meet the artists.

The Italian Baroque Serenade on Jan. 12 featured Adam Cockerham on guitar and lute. Cockerham is a specialist in baroque plucked strings who teaches guitar at Rowan University and performs extensively in the New York metropolitan area.



Frank Scott/For the STAR AND WAVE
Above left, Cockerham speaks to the audience holding a Baroque Era guitar. Above right, Classical Cape May co-director Brenda Leonard, who said the concert may have been the first time a theorbo ever was played in Cape May.

He played works for the theorbo and baroque guitar written during the 17th and early 18th centuries by Ital-

ian composers and others who studied in Italy. The theorbo was a newly invented instrument in Italy as the

Baroque Era was beginning. It is a long-necked lute with

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Middle Twp. teacher charged with sexually assaulting 5th-grader

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Laura Caron, 34, of Cape May Court House, a fifth-grade teacher at Middle Township Elementary School, has been charged with aggravated sexual assault, sexual assault and endangering the welfare of a child.

The charges stem from an investigation alleging that between 2016 and 2020, Caron engaged in an inappropriate sexual relationship with a student, born in 2005, who had been residing in her home during that time.

Cape May County Prosecutor Jeffrey H. Sutherland and Chief Michael Emmer, in conjunction with Chief Tracey Super of the Middle Township Police Department, announced the arrest Jan. 15.

The Cape May County Prosecutor's Office Special Victims Unit along with the Middle Township Police Department, Detective Unit took Caron into custody without incident. Subsequently, a court-authorized search warrant was executed at Caron's residence.

She was charged with aggravated sexual assault, a crime of the first degree; sexual assault, a crime of the second degree; and endangering the welfare of a child, a crime of the second degree. Caron was being held at the Cape May County Jail pending her initial court appearance.

Sutherland said those charged with a first-degree crime are subject to a term of imprisonment of 10 to 20 years in state prison, and those charged with a second-degree crime are subject to a term of imprisonment of five to 10 years in prison.

"This arrest underscores the unwavering commitment of our office and law enforcement partners to protect the children in our community," Sutherland wrote in a press release. "Teachers hold a position of great trust, and the al-

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THE CAFÉ MENU RETURNS

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