



House of the week

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Group honors longtime residents

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164th YEAR NO. 42 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2018 \$1.00

Treatment taking place of incarceration

Cape Assist, Cape Counseling and HopeOne van provide options to addicts

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — While the opioid epidemic has hit Cape May County hard, with 206 opioid overdoses last year, only one person was under the age of 18, according to Lt. Joseph Landis, of the county Prosecutor's Office, who attributed the low rate of youth overdoses to educational programs.

"They are not messing with the harder drugs and dabbling into that stuff," Landis said.

He spoke as part of substance

abuse information panel presented by the Lower Township Healthy Youth Coalition on Oct. 9 at Lower Township Hall. He said he has worked in law enforcement for 20 years, spending much of his career in narcotics investigations. He said he grew up in a family of addicts.

The Prosecutor's Office has changed its mentality on arrests for opioids, putting the actors in jail and forgetting about them, Landis said. He said his office still enforces the law but also is trying to educate the community by working with Cape Assist and Cape Counseling.

The Prosecutor's Office created the HopeOne van, which is staffed by a county detective, licensed clinician, certified peer recovery specialist and ARCH nurse who understand the needs of those suffering from addiction. HopeOne provides clients immediate access to services and treatment facilities, putting them on the road to recovery and wellness prior to having contact with law enforcement. HopeOne sets up in parking lots in an effort to encourage those in need of services to approach the vehicle.

Landis said HopeOne provides

training on the use of Narcan, which is used to save the life of persons who overdose. He said the van provides free Narcan kits to those who will take the training.

"Our goal is to get people all the resources and help they need on the street at that time," Landis said.

He said HopeOne is working. Each time the van has been at a location, it ran out of Narcan. At two or three stops, members of the public asked for help, Landis said.

"We got them directly into rehab within an hour or two," he said.

Landis said he has been address-

ing students in every middle school and high school in the county.

Overdose numbers falling

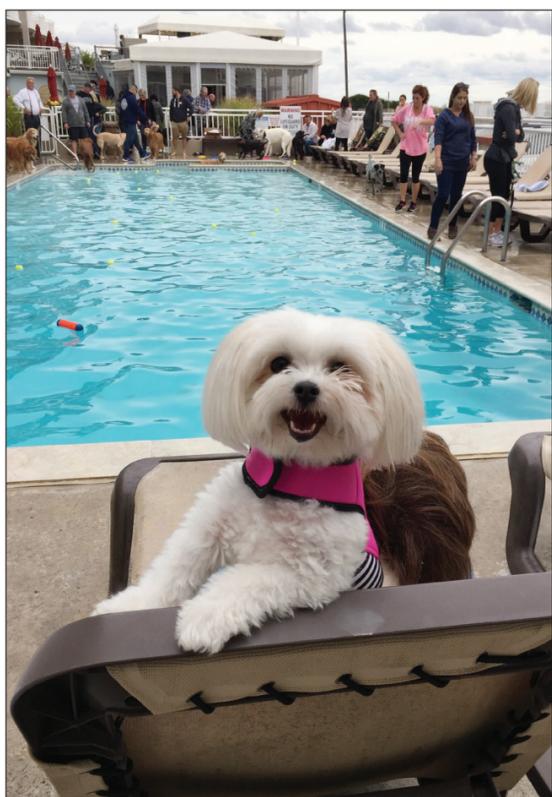
Overdoses in the county are down 7 percent year to date, he said.

"Last year, we were at 170; today we are at 158," Landis said.

He said he believes the decrease is a result of the efforts of organizations and the county.

SueAnne Agger, Cape Addiction Recovery Services (CARES) recov-

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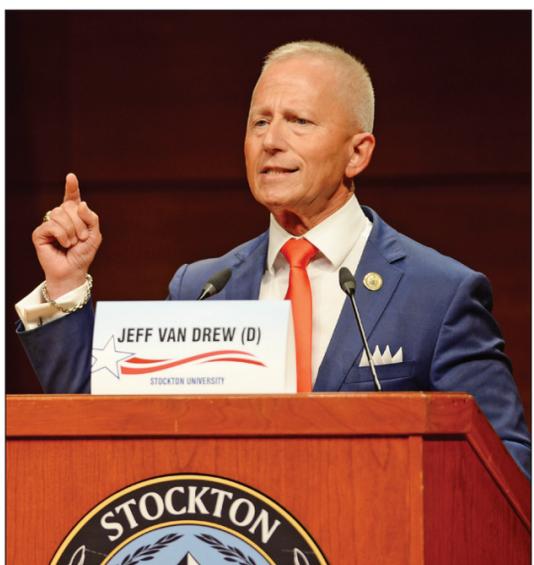
Steve Platt/PROVIDED

Dog Day at the Pool

The second annual Dog Day at the Pool, organized and sponsored by the Montreal Beach Resort, was held Oct. 14 in Cape May. The public was invited to bring their dogs to swim in the pool for \$10, with proceeds benefiting Animal Outreach of Cape May County.



Republican Seth Grossman, left, and Democrat Jeff Van Drew are vying for the Second Congressional District seat held by U.S. Rep. Frank LoBiondo, who chose not to see re-election after 23 years in Congress. The candidates faced off Oct. 10 at Stockton University in Galloway Township.



David Nahan/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

House hopefuls go head to head

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

GALLOWAY TOWNSHIP — Candidates for the Second Congressional District sparred over immigration, gun control and other issues in an hour-long debate Oct. 10 at Stockton University.

An overflow crowd attended the oft-contentious debate between Democrat Jeff Van Drew and Republican Seth Grossman, spilling into another room where the event was shown on TV screens.

Van Drew, 65, a dentist and senator representing the First Legislative Dis-

trict, served as a Cape May County freeholder and Dennis Township's mayor. Grossman, 69, an attorney and radio talk show host, served as Atlantic City councilman and an Atlantic City County freeholder.

Both are running in the Nov. 6 election to represent the sprawling district,

which encompasses Cape May, Cumberland, Atlantic and Salem counties, and parts of Gloucester, Camden, Burlington and Ocean counties.

During his opening statement, Van Drew remarked on the current state of

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Sheehan would base decisions on the best evidence available

By RACHEL SHUBIN
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Understanding the facts is imperative to making critical decisions for the Cape May community, said Stacy Sheehan, who is running for a City Council seat Nov. 6.

"I was born and raised in Cape May, going to Cape May City Elementary and graduating from Lower Cape May Regional," Sheehan said. "My roots go deep in Cape May. My mother was born and raised here and she met my dad when he was in Coast Guard basic training. I have two sons who were raised here."



STACY SHEEHAN

Sheehan has a bachelor's degree in microbiology from Rutgers University and a master's degree from Temple University.

"I worked for Merck and Co. in vaccine development and my current job is in research and development of vaccines," Sheehan said. "With my background in sciences, I learned how to use evidenced-based critical decisions. I review the facts and reach conclusions, which is the same approach I would take if I was elected to City Council."

Sheehan's planform is "commitment, integrity and independent."

"I will show up and keep the best interest of the city as my highest priority," Sheehan said. "I will do

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Van de Vaarst favors long-range planning, sustainability for city

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council candidate John Van de Vaarst said he is inspired to run for council after spending his life in public service.

"I love Cape May," he said. "I've been active in the city serving on the Planning Board, now on the Zoning Board. I'm a charter member of the Green Team, I'm vice chair of the Master Plan Re-examination Committee and I was vice chair of a committee to select a new city manager."

He said he wants to ensure the city moves in the right direction and contin-



JOHN VAN DE VAARST

ues to be sustainable.

Van de Vaarst said he retired from the federal government after 36 years as deputy area director of

the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.

Before moving to Cape May full time, Van de Vaarst and his wife visited the town during two Christmases, in June and on a Presidents Day weekend, when they attended an open house and wound up buying a home, he said.

On the topic of redevelopment, he said it is a tool to be kept in the toolbox and "you leave it in the toolbox unless you need it." If used, it should be used properly, Van de Vaarst said.

"Compare it to a saw," he said. "If you pull a saw out,

Van de Vaarst, Page A8

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