

Cape May loses another legend with death of Bob Fite

By R.E. HEINLY
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The latest in a series of recent deaths of the pioneers and paragons who drove Cape May's renaissance and economic and cultural revival in the 1970s is that of Bob Fite.

Fite was a Cape May

legend, made officially so in a ceremony in 2006. Already an accomplished athlete and scholar at Cornell University and a U.S. Army officer, the Lower Cape May Regional High School alum returned to his beloved home to the hospitality business. He immediately had a huge effect both economically

and in historic preservation with his work with the then-Colonial Hotel (1894).

Fite saved the Colonial from the wrecking ball. During the 1960s and 1970s, many historic buildings fell to the wrecking ball to be replaced by modern (for the day) hotels and motels as the town

struggled to compete with Wildwood, Atlantic City and other more successful resorts.

The fate of the Lafayette Hotel (now the Marquis de Lafayette) just down Ocean Drive from the Colonial was a sad example. In this epic moment in local historic preservation, Fite opted to restore the Colonial while adding a new motel wing (now Avondale by the Sea) to establish the best of both options.

He later sold both to the preservation-minded Menz family, who remod-

eled them and renamed the Colonial the Inn of Cape May and Avondale in 1986.

All the while Fite was a tremendously positive civic contributor. He made major philanthropic contributions to what is now Cape May MAC and Cold Spring Presbyterian Church as prime examples. He was a pillar of the Kiwanis Club, Masonic Lodge and American Legion.

Throughout, those who were privileged to know him know that he per-

sonified his favorite saying with which he often greeted them, "Be of good cheer!"

Cape May will miss Fite dearly. One hopes our emerging new generation of local entrepreneurs will use him as a role model along with other recently departed similar Cape May pioneers and paragons and continue the tradition of advancing their economic success while concurrently making equally great contributions to Cape May's civic and cultural excellence and fame.

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The following lakes (Lk) or ponds (Pd) may be treated with aquatic pesticides using backpack or boat mounted spray equipment on or between June 1- 30, 2024: In Cape May County: Magnolia Lake in Dennis Twp

The following pesticides may be applied: Clipper/ Flumigard SC (flumioxazin), Hydrothol 191, Aquathol K (endothall), Captain/Captain XTR/Cutrine Plus (copper), Roundup Custom (glyphosate), Seclear (copper sulfate), Sonar Genesis or Sonar One (fluridone), Tribune (diquat dibromide), Copper Sulfate (CuSO₄), Aquastrike (endothall/diquat dibromide), Komeen/Nautique (Copper), Green Clean Liquid 5 (hydrogen peroxide).

Treatments will be conducted by TIGRIS Aquatic Services (NJ Cert #98622A), 56 Rte 130, Bordentown, NJ 08620 ph: 888-243-0891, under the supervision of Chris Borek (NJ Cert#27355A). Upon request, the pesticide applicator or applicator business shall provide a resident with notification at least 12 hours prior to the application, except for Quarantine and Disease Vector Control only, when conditions necessitate pesticide applications sooner than that time. For pesticide health emergencies contact NJ Poison Info & Ed System 800-222-1222. For Routine health inquiries or exposure symptoms contact NJ Pesticide Info Center 800-858-7378. For pesticide regulation information, pesticide complaints, and health referrals, contact the NJ PCP 609-984-6507.

Book brigade

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to be done to prepare for the event.

Councilman Shaine Meier said many people are needed to participate in the human chain.

"We are encouraging everybody to ask their church, their garden club — we have two dozen non-profits in this town — and I just want to encourage everybody in this town to either represent yourself as a citizen or

an organization. Everyone is invited and it should be a good time," he said.

Not all of the books will be transferred by the book brigade. Meier said the ceremony would likely involve only about 100 books.



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Strawberry Festival set for June 1

WEST CAPE MAY — The West Cape May Strawberry Festival is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 1 (rain date June 2) in Wilbraham Park.

Local artisans offer pottery, handmade jewelry, artwork, T-shirts, hats, accessories, woodwork, photography, soaps and candles, healing lotions, birdhouses and feeders and, of course, strawberries. Vendors will be offering breakfast sandwiches, pulled pork and chicken, brisket, tacos, seafood, macaroni and cheese, hot dogs, sausages, Thai delights and specialty pizza. Desserts will include cookies, baked goods, doughnuts, shaved ice with ice cream, lemonade and wine tasting.

There will be music all day with The Capers from 10 a.m. to noon, Parker Lengle from noon to 1:30 p.m. and Joe Ryan from 2 to 4 p.m.

Free street parking and plenty of bike racks are available. The park is handicapped-accessible.

CAPE MAY
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BAILEN

Saturday, June 15: 7pm

Cape May Convention Hall

New York-based, indie-pop group BAILEN, comprised of Julia Bailen on vocals and guitar, David Bailen on vocals and drums and Daniel Bailen on vocals and bass, returns to the festival this year, bringing their power trio of stellar musicianship and emotional lyricism to Cape May Convention Hall.

For more concert dates and tickets, please visit

CAPEMAYMUSICFESTIVAL.COM

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