



House of the week
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School, officials celebrate status as Lighthouse District
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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Joanne Reagan Dancers turned the parade route into a winter wonderland during West Cape May's 52nd annual Christmas Parade on Dec. 2. Below left, the Cape May City Elementary School. Below middle, Our Lady Star of the Sea. Below right, Lower Cape May Regional High School.



Cape Christmas celebrations



Jack Fichter
CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE



Cape May holds a tree-lighting ceremony at the gazebo in Rotary Park. Above, LCMR entertains the crowd. At left, Mayor Chuck Lear lights the tree.



Jack Fichter
CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE



The Lower Township Rotary Club held its annual tree-lighting and veterans ceremony Nov. 28 at the Lower Township Recreation Center. Above, the Righteous Ringers of Seashore Community Church of the Nazarene. At left, the tree at Township Hall.

Taylor sues freeholders over denial of benefits

Claims he was pressured to use old drug statistics; county calls suit frivolous

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Former Cape May County Prosecutor Robert Taylor is suing the county, the Board of Chosen Freeholders and county Human Resources Director Jeffrey Lindsay, claiming bullying, intimidation and misrepresentation of heroin/opioid data.

Taylor is seeking retirement medical benefits and alleging Civil Rights Act violations in relation to alleged harassment of the union leader for attorneys working in the county Prosecutor's Office. In addition, he alleges the county deliberately underreported the severity of a heroin/opioid epidemic in the county.

Taylor was county prosecutor from Oct. 1, 2004, until his retirement effective Oct. 1, 2017. While the

county contends he is not eligible for benefits after just 13 years, Taylor contends he has 34 years in the Prosecutor's Office. Taylor said the county contends he needs 25 years of service to receive retirement health benefits.

"They've already given retirement health benefits to another prosecutor that was only in the system for about 25 years," he told the Star and Wave.

Taylor also worked as a municipal prosecutor and municipal court judge in Lower and Middle townships.

The complaint notes the prosecutor's position is a constitutional position and as such does not belong to a collective bargaining unit. The vast majority of attorneys working in the county Prosecutor's Office belong

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Surf-zone injuries declined summer 2017 in Cape May

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — According to Cape May Beach Patrol Capt. Geoff Rife, the number of surf zone-related injuries was down this past summer. He presented statistic to the city's Beach Safety Committee, of which he is a member, during a meeting Nov. 27.

Rife said from mid-May through the end of June, the Beach Patrol had 20 rescues, pulling in 27 people from the ocean with first aid rendered eight times. He said 911 was called twice during that time period with one victim suffering a surf-related injury.

Rife said the Beach Safety Committee focuses on the 911 calls.

"In July, we called 911,

11 times and out of that 11, 10 had to do with surf-related injuries," Rife said.

He said the 33 surf-related injuries among the crowds Cape May experienced last summer was lower than in year's past.

"I am painfully and acutely aware of the two more significant head, neck and back injuries that occurred down there," Rife said. "As I said before, hitting zero is never going to happen."

Not all the reported surf-related injuries were head, neck and back, he said. Rife said some of the injuries could be a twisted knee or ankle. He credited the work of the committee and giving lifeguards the power to ban boogie boards when conditions

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