



Summer jitney service on hold in Cape May

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House of the week

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Murphy delays indoor restaurant dining

Says he's reluctant to allow indoor activities amid spike in COVID-19 cases in other states

'We have seen spikes in other states driven in part by the return of patrons to indoor dining establishments where they are seated without face coverings for a significant period of time. We do not wish to see New Jersey experience a similar spike.'

-Gov. Phil Murphy

By DAVID NAHAN
Sentinel staff

Because of rising COVID-19 cases in multiple states across the country — and bad behavior at some establishments in New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy delayed the start of indoor dining at restaurants.

Indoor dining was to be allowed, at 25 percent capacity, starting this Thursday, July 2, in time for the July Fourth holiday weekend. Restaurants are allowed to serve customers outdoors.

"Given the current situation in numerous other

states we do not believe it is prudent at this time to push forward with what is, in effect, a sedentary indoor activity," Murphy said during Monday afternoon's COVID-19 press conference, "especially when we know this virus moves differently indoors than out, making it more deadly."

He said indoor dining would be decided at a later date, but offered no specific timeline.

"We have seen spikes in other states driven in part by the return of patrons to indoor dining establishments where they are

seated and without face coverings for a significant period of time," he added. "We do not wish to see New Jersey experience a similar spike."

The governor said his administration has been taking a cautious approach to reopening the state's economy and has always indicated it would "not hesitate to hit pause to safeguard public health. This is one of those times."

He said part of the rationale also comes from what New Jersey has experienced in various situations as the COVID-19 restrictions have been

eased — overcrowding, not wearing face coverings and no regard for social distancing.

He said that is not the case with most establishments, but the state can't move forward without full compliance.

"It only takes one," he said. "The carelessness of one establishment can completely undo the good work of many others. We will not tolerate outlier bars and restaurants and frankly patrons who do not think the rules apply to them. They are the ones who ruin it for everyone else."

Outdoor graduations resume next week

The governor said outdoor graduation ceremonies will be allowed to begin on Monday, July 6.

Mainland Regional High School in Lnwod is planning two separate outdoor ceremonies on Thursday, July 9 on the football field at the Mustang Corral, one at 4 p.m. and one at 7 p.m., to accommodate more spectators while keeping social distancing in place.

At Ocean City High School, graduation is

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Dems face off, hoping to spar with Van Drew

Cunningham, Harrison, Kennedy share opinions in congressional debate

By CRAIG D. SCHENCK
Cape May Star and Wave

Democratic candidates in the Second Congressional District primary faced off in an online debate Thursday, June 25, sponsored by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University in Galloway Township.

Topics covered included health care, economic opportunities, infrastructure, climate change, gun control and bipartisan cooperation.

The race for the Second District — which covers Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland and Salem counties, as well as parts of Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Ocean — is being watched locally and nationally after incumbent U.S. Rep. Jeff Van Drew very publicly changed parties from Democrat to Republican amid the impeachment proceedings against President Donald Trump last year.

Will Cunningham, a graduate of Vineland High School, overcame homelessness in his youth to graduate from Brown University and the University of Texas-Austin School of Law. He was a policy staffer for Sen. Cory Booker and has worked since 2016 as a chief investigator for the House Oversight Committee under the late U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings.

Brigid Callahan Harrison, a political science professor at Montclair State University who grew up in Absecon, is a graduate of Holy Spirit High School and earned a bachelor's degree in liberal arts with a focus on political science and economics in 1988 from what is now Stockton University. She earned a

master's degree and doctorate, and is the author of the book "American Democracy Now."

Amy Kennedy, a former teacher at Northfield Community School, is education director of The Kennedy Forum, where she works to facilitate policy change in the areas of education and mental health. She has more than a decade of experience working in public schools in New Jersey and serves on the boards of Mental Health America and Parity.org. She is the wife of former U.S. Rep. Patrick Kennedy.

Cunningham talked with the experience of hardship about making "bold" policies and decisions and "reimagining" ways to care for the neediest of the district's families, advocating for the homeless population and those living in remote areas who would benefit most from increased public transportation. He supports Medicare for all, creating homeless shelters and gun control.

Harrison, a frequent commentator in both state and national media, spoke with the authority of years of teaching law and political science. She backs a universal right to health care and the Affordable Care Act.

Kennedy advocated for education and mental health reforms, as well as humane immigration policies.

Also running are West Cape May Commissioner John Francis III, an environmental advocate, and former FBI agent Robert Turkavage, who switched from the Republican Party to the Democrats after losing the bid to challenge Van Drew

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Summer kicks into full gear

It was a sea of umbrellas and suntan lotion-slathered bodies June 26 on the beach north of Convention Hall in Cape May.

City expands outdoor dining

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — More restaurants will be offering outdoor seating in parking lots and on the sidewalks and streets of Cape May.

City Council approved additional temporary outdoor seating to help restaurateurs, who had been able to serve only take-out for months due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The city approved a number of establishments during a special meeting June 11, then gave the nod to others during a virtual meeting June 16.

The YB, at 314 Beach Ave., had been approved for two six-top tables but the owner requested additional tables encroaching onto the sidewalk of a neighboring business.

The business owners signed off on the encroachment. Council approved 14 existing seats consisting of two four-top tables and one six-top table.

A Ca Mia, at 524 Washington St. on the Washington Street Mall, was approved to use space next to Winterwood on the Ocean Street sidewalk on



Benita Battaglia/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

City Council has approved more restaurants and bars for temporary outdoor seating to help business owners who have suffered financially amid the COVID-19 crisis. Eateries are allowed to put tables and chairs on lawns, parking lots, sidewalks and streets.

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