



Kennedy wins primary, will face Van Drew

Page A4

House of the week

B1



166th YEAR NO. 29 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2020 \$1.00

CMBP rescues 98 in wake of tropical storm

Southwest winds, incoming tide created stronger-than-normal rip currents

'The wonderful thing is the 98 people we saved on Saturday and Sunday went home with no harm. They left as safe as they came here and that's a goal that all of us in this organization should be proud of.'

—CMBP Chief Geoff Rife

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The aftereffects of Tropical Storm Fay, which swept through the area July 10, caused the Cape May Beach Patrol to rescue 98 bathers during the past weekend — 21 on July 11 and 77 on July 12.

CMBP Chief Geoff Rife said the residuals of the storm, with fairly strong southwest winds and a tide that was coming in all day created rip currents.

The effects of Tropical Storm Fay,

as well as a system that brought stronger winds in the middle of last week, changed the topography of the beach, including the bottom of the ocean and how the waves were breaking, and affected Cape May's beach drop-off, he said.

"It just literally made for the perfect storm for us this weekend," Rife said.

He said every rescue over the weekend was due to stronger-than-average rip currents on the entire beachfront from the Cove to Poverty Beach. Rife said a large volume of

sand was moved, altering not only the beach drop-off but underneath the water.

"The thing that I am most proud of is that our entire organization, from the lieutenants to the senior guards down to the rookies that we just hired this year, acted in concert with one another and did a phenomenal job of teamwork and backing everybody up," he said.

Rife said he believed the past weekend was in the top three or four busiest days in the history of the CMBP.

"The wonderful thing is the 98 people we saved on Saturday and Sunday went home with no harm or need to call 911 for any of the people we brought out of the water," he said. "They left as safe as they came here and that's a goal that all of us in this organization should be proud of."

City Manager Jerry Inderwies said he was on the beach Sunday and witnessed multiple rescues and was monitoring the beach patrol radio traffic.

See CMBP, Page A3

Public drinking, outdoor dining hours extended

City Council agrees to allow the activities until midnight

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council has extended the hours that alcohol is allowed on city streets and restaurants are allowed to serve outside by two hours until midnight.

City Council voted 3-2 on July 8, with Mayor Chuck Lear, Deputy Mayor Patricia Hendricks and Councilman Shaine Meier voting for the resolution and members Zack Mullock and Stacy Sheehan voting against it.

On June 11, council voted to permit temporary outdoor seating for the serving of food and beverages on the city's sidewalks, parking spaces and on some closed streets to ameliorate the effects of COVID-19 pandemic on restaurants and bars.

At that time, council also approved a resolution temporarily permitting public consumption of alcohol during the COVID-19 crisis on the beach, Promenade, Washington Street Mall, Rotary Park and sidewalks of designated streets.

At the July 8 meeting, City Manager Jerry Inderwies said there was confusion and inconsistency with establishments closing at different times. He said state approval for exten-

sion of premises for serving alcohol would allow them to stay open until 2 a.m., the normal business hours for bars. The resolution now closes bars at midnight.

Police Chief Tony Marino spoke on enforcement issues for the police department. He said he prepared a report for Inderwies highlighting the difference between calls in 2019 and 2020 from June 1 to July 8.

"For the most part, everything has stayed pretty consistent with our calls for service," he said.

Police answered two additional disorderly conduct calls this year during the same time period. Police answered 19 calls last year for service with 21 calls this year. In 2019, nine of the calls were directly or indirectly related to alcohol, Marino said, with five calls this year related to alcohol.

Police answered 18 noise complaints last year with none related to outdoor dining or alcohol. This year police answered 26 noise complaint calls with two related to outdoor dining or alcohol, both taking place at Elaine's on Lafayette Street.

Marino said the complaint at Elaine's was a result of seating arrangements

See Hours, Page A2



Johnny Glogowski/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Surfing a storm swell

Tropical Storm Fay generated large waves July 10 in Cape May, much to the delight of surfers. The storm dropped more than 3 inches of rain on the city.

Murphy urges testing, wearing masks

By DAVID NAHAN
Cape May Star and Wave

Gov. Phil Murphy on Monday again urged New Jersey residents to get tested for COVID-19 so contact tracing can track new cases and prevent new flare-ups of the coronavirus.

Just because other states are in the news now with outbreaks of COVID-19, he said, "doesn't mean that testing is any less important. In fact, as we look to protect our state from a resurgence of COVID-19 because of the national spike, and continue moving forward on our road back, getting tested is perhaps even more important than ever."

There are 245 locations across New Jersey where people can get tested for the coronavirus. To find one, visit

covid19.nj.gov/testing.

"We have the capacity to meet demand," the governor said at his COVID-19 briefing, showing a chart indicating the state is averaging 22,000 tests a day since June 28, with a low of 11,000 on July 6 and a high of 38,000 on Friday, July 10.

He said an analysis by The New York Times shows New Jersey is one of only 12 states meeting its testing targets.

Testing remains prioritized with vulnerable populations at the top of the list — demographics at high risk of infection or mortality and their caretakers. After that is the frontline population — individuals at the forefront of the pandemic who have a higher risk of infection and transmission. After that comes the general population, residents

who suspect infection or prolonged exposure to the coronavirus.

"Regardless of your situation, we have the capacity," he added.

Testing is important to add to the state's data pool so decisions can be made that affect the entire state.

He said if residents have been in a hotspot state, they should get tested and self-quarantine even if asymptomatic.

New totals

New Jersey's COVID-19 cases totaled 175,522 as of Monday, July 13, with 231 new cases reported. There were higher case totals over the weekend.

The daily positivity rate dropped

See Murphy, Page A3

Report: Solid plan, state help needed to open schools

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

Parents may be nervous about sending their children back to school in September with the COVID-19 pandemic continuing and the need to keep socially distant, and school districts must submit a plan for dealing with the coronavirus by next month.

The New Jersey Work Environment Council (WEC) and the national Coalition for Healthier Schools co-released a report last week called "The Pandemic V.

Schools," asking state health agencies to provide authoritative infection prevention and control plans for all schools to adopt.

The current piecemeal approach of no-plan, just-open will clearly deepen the disparities and sow more confusion at a time when parents and schools need to rely on a stable, predictable course of connected actions, the WEC stated.

The report covers the role of both the state and local officials — noting federal and state regulations in place —

then outlines considerations in reopening buildings that have been closed for weeks if not months, maintaining and updating ventilation and cleaning protocols, and then discusses options for scheduling occupancy, including screening for illnesses, masks and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and services for children with health and learning issues.

Contributing to the report were the New Jersey Education Association, Healthy Schools Now (NJ), NEA Healthy Schools Caucus,

Learning Disabilities Association of America, National Association of School Nurses, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest and the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America.

"This report was issued in part because of the lack of strong federal guidance that leaves both school staff and students at risk," said Debra Coyle McFadden, executive director of NJ Work Environment Council.

She said as a parent, she should not be put in a position to have to choose

between her child's health or attending school. McFadden said a worker should not have to choose between their health or a paycheck.

The report states by their nature, schools are an environment conducive to the spread of COVID-19 — densely occupied for long periods. In fact, schools are where children spend the most time outside the home — often 30 to 40 hours per week, it states.

Like adults, children may shed and transmit the coronavirus yet show no

symptoms, according to the report. Except for masks, there is no PPE for children, who breathe more air per pound of body weight than adults; further, children cannot identify or protect themselves from risks, states the report.

The report notes schools can either slow the spread of the virus or speed it up.

How can students be safely bused to school? Steve Beatty, secretary-treasurer of the New Jersey Education

See Report, Page A2

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