

Murphy rips Van Drew, GOP as ‘shameful,’ ‘unpatriotic’

By **DAVID NAHAN**
Cape May Star and Wave

TRENTON — Gov. Phil Murphy blasted U.S. Rep. Jeff Van Drew and his fellow Republicans for trying to overturn the presidential election, calling is shameful and unpatriotic.

During his COVID-19 press conference Monday, Murphy spent a few minutes going off on the “shameful, dangerous, undemocratic and unpatriotic” congressional Republicans “who are openly and unabashedly working to undermine our constitutional norms ... and to overthrow a free and fair election decided by the American people. An Ameri-

can president, sitting in the Oval Office, working the phones, to subvert American democracy for personal benefit.”

He lit into the U.S. senators and representatives who are opposing counting the electoral votes of a number of states Wednesday, Jan. 6, even though President-elect Joe Biden received 307 votes, more than the 270 required to be elected president. The vote is normally a formality but President Donald Trump continues to refuse to concede, making unsubstantiated allegations about fraud and that he won the November election. His attorneys have lost 59 of 60 court cases trying to

overturn results in multiple states. Biden received more than 7 million more votes than Trump in the election.

The Wednesday vote is expected to fail because it would require a majority in both the House and Senate to reject the Electoral College vote. Democrats control the House and although the Senate has a narrow Republican majority, enough Republican senators have already said they would not support contesting the vote.

“Thankfully,” Murphy said, “there are enough Republicans in Congress to prevent the fevered dreams of a band of right-wing conspiracy theorists and their pathetic minions, like Sena-

tors Ted Cruz and Josh Hawley, Representatives Louie Gohmert and Mo Brooks from succeeding.

“The voters have spoken. Our election officials have spoken. The courts have spoken. The Electoral College has spoken. That seemingly isn’t enough for those willing to overturn an election just because they can’t accept their guy lost decisively,” said Murphy, a Democrat.

“It pains me particularly to see one of our own representatives, Congressman Jeff Van Drew, cynically siding with conspiracy theorists and throwing his fate in with the far right’s disproven and crackpot theories. “If that’s the legacy Jeff wants, I guess

‘it is what it is.’”

The governor said he was amazed how few senior New Jersey Republicans have “done the right thing by acknowledging the true outcome of the election” and he blasted those who have.

“I know there are many more who privately share their misgivings about the rabbit hole their colleagues are preparing to drag our nation and the Constitution down. Their silence is equal to acquiescence. I commend the Republicans who have shown the courage of their convictions to say what’s right and I would put up two stellar examples — one of my predecessors, Gov. Christie Todd Whitman, and Assem-

bly Republican Minority Leader John Brammick.”

Murphy said the damage these Republicans are doing will hurt the nation and its work across the globe.

“We’ve lost something greater when simply acknowledging the will of the people after an election is considered courageous,” he said. “And shame on those who have not found a semblance of courage. Hopefully tomorrow will just be a day of noise and our Constitution will emerge intact, but this cowardly and reckless effort weakens our republic here at home and undermines America’s efforts to promote democracy around the world.”

Number of county coronavirus cases high but stable

By **DAVID NAHAN**
Cape May Star and Wave

The number of active COVID-19 cases in Cape May County has been relatively stable over the past two months – much higher than earlier in the fall, but the numbers haven’t shifted greatly.

There was an average of 51 new cases a day over the past week and seven deaths attributed to the coronavirus between Dec. 28 and Jan. 3.

Overall, as of Sunday, Jan. 3, there were 479 active cases throughout the county’s communities, another 30 in long-term care (23 in Woodbine and six in Dennis Township) and only seven among non-residents, all in Cape May.

The Cape May cluster of

non-resident cases spiked at more than 30 in December.

There were 359 new cases between Dec. 28 and Jan. 3.

There were four fatalities reported Jan. 2, a 62-year-old male, 68-year-old male and 94-year-old female from Wildwood and a 99-year-old female from Dennis Township. The death of a 61-year-old man from Woodbine was reported Dec. 31, and on Dec. 29 the Cape May County Department of Health reported an 86-year-old female from Dennis Township and an 84-year-old male from Ocean City had died.

Lower and Middle townships led with active cases, 128 and 108 respectively, followed by Ocean City with 56, Upper Township with 49 and 67 in the Wildwoods – 32

in Wildwood, 19 in Wildwood Crest, 15 in North Wildwood and three in West Wildwood.

Cape May had seven active cases, West Cape May had six and there were no active cases in Cape May Point.

New cases

On Sunday, there were 41 new cases, with 11 each in Lower and Middle townships, six in Dennis Township, four in Ocean City, two in Sea Isle City and one in Upper Township.

The Department of Health reported there were 61 new cases on Jan. 2, 40 on Jan. 1, 52 on Dec. 31, 61 cases on Dec. 30, 57 on Dec. 29 and 47 on Dec. 28 for an average of 51 and a total of 359 for the week.

City, 520 in Upper Township, 316 in Dennis Township, 266 in Wildwood, 247 in North Wildwood, 223 in Woodbine, 133 in Wildwood Crest, 106 in Cape May, 81 in Sea Isle City, 60 in Avalon, 34 in West Cape May, 31 in West Wildwood, 23 in Stone Harbor and seven in Cape May Point.

Long-term care deaths

Of the 84 fatalities in long-term care, there were 33 in Lower Township, 17 in Dennis Township, 12 each in Ocean City and Middle Township, and 10 in Woodbine.

Community fatalities

In the communities, there have been 58 deaths, including 13 in Lower Township, 10 in Middle Township, six each in Ocean City and Upper Township, five each in Wildwood and Woodbine, four in Dennis Township, three each in Cape May and North Wildwood, two in Sea Isle City and one in Wildwood Crest.

tion Center was to get its first vaccine doses on Tuesday, Jan. 5. “This is the beginning of the next effort to vaccinate vulnerable populations, after the initial doses went to front-line health care workers,” a spokesman for the county said.

Statewide

As of Monday, Gov. Phil Murphy and State Health Commissioner Dr. Judith Persichilli reported New Jersey was just shy of 500,000 cases of COVID-19 since the first case on March 4. As of Monday, Jan. 4, there have been 494,317 cases.

There also have been 19,204 New Jersey residents who have died because of the coronavirus. That number includes 2,021 cases suspected, but not confirmed, caused by COVID-19.

The rate of transmission was at 0.92, meaning less than one person is being infected by someone with COVID-19.

and by Monday had vaccinated 101,417 front-line medical workers and staff and residents of long-term care facilities.

State Health Commissioner Dr. Judith Persichilli said 120,000 does of the vaccine have been set aside for long-term care and most should be administered by the end of January. About 8,000 doses have been given in long-term care facilities.

She also put out a call to get more people to administer vaccinations.

Persichilli said there is a Medical Reserve Corps in every county and that anyone who is certified to do inoculations, including EMTs and other health professionals, are urged to sign up because more are needed to give the vaccinations to New Jersey residents.

She and the governor told residents to go online to covid19.nj.gov/vaccine to get updates and answers about vaccine. It also will be the portal to sign up for vaccines when the state moves to the next group of eligible residents.

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Lower tops 1,000

Lower Township was the first community to report more than 1,000 cases since the pandemic began in New Jersey with 1,020 as of Sunday, which is almost a quarter of all county cases (4,469). There have been 855 in Dennis Township, 547 in Ocean

Mullock takes over

Continued from Page A1

Former Lower Township Manager Michael Voll was appointed as interim city manager for one year at a salary of \$110,000.

Upon notice of his replacement, City Manager Jerry Inderwies submitted his resignation to council Dec. 30. He is expected to continue as Cape May’s emergency management coordinator and fire official with the city’s Fire Prevention Bureau.

Mullock said Voll served as mayor of Middle Township for 16 years, as a township manager for

Lower Township and is a retired police officer.

Council appointed Engineering Design Associates to replace Mott MacDonald at the city’s engineering firm, with Vincent Orlando as lead engineer. The contract excludes engineering services and site work inspection services for planning and zoning compliance, which will continue to be provided by Polistina and Associates.

Council renewed a contract with James Rutala Associates as grants consultant. Leon Costello was retained as city auditor.

By resolution, council created the Cape May City Creative Team “which seeks to optimize quality of life for its residents by ensuring that its environmental, economic and social objectives are balanced and mutually supportive.” The resolution noted the city is participating in the Sustainable Jersey Program and is one of only 45 communities in the state to be silver-certified.

Members of the team are Mullock, the Rev. Jeff Elliot, Sandy Sandmeyer-Bryant, Jody Alessandrino, David Mackenzie, Joe Salavatore, Gretchen Whitman, Roy Steinberg, Mitchel Malnato, Brett Ewald, Gayle Stahlhuth,



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
Cape May Councilman Zack Mullock receives the oath of office from retired judge Raymond Batten on Jan. 1 at City Hall.

Michael Kline, Jerry Tarrant, Norris Clark, Anne Salavatore, Harry Bellangy, Doreen Talley, James Rutala, Brian Kempf, Robert Mullock, Bernadette Matthews and a representative of Cape May’s Civic Affairs Office.

Council approved the

formation of a Hazard Mitigation Planning and Floodplain Management Public Information Group to assist in planning future hazard-mitigation projects and evaluating existing public information disseminated by the city.

Council approved dissolving four citizen’s advisory groups: the Master Plan Advisory Committee, Pet Advisory Committee, Lafayette Street Park Advisory Committee and the Seawall Advisory Committee. Mullock said the issue specific to Lafayette Street Park was the ongoing environmental cleanup.

“Our goal here is to bring in the professionals, make sure that we have the correct engineers, attorneys involved and getting the park free and clear and then bringing this committee back again when the land is free and clear and we can get back to business,” he said.

Bezaire said the city is not at the point where it could address the seawall.

Council ruled all advisory committee meetings should be videotaped or livestreamed and placed on the city’s website for viewing.

Meetings of City Council will be moved to a 6 p.m. start time on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

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One of the greatest
adjustments in life occurs
when a man and woman
decide to become
husband and wife. It is
very important to remem-
ber that no two mar-
riages are alike, and that
each couple must work
out what is best for them.
Couples who have been
married for several years
will all admit that they
have experienced
problems, but they have
worked them out. They
stuck together and each
problem they worked out
made their marriage
stronger. Couples should
ask, "what can I give to
this marriage," not just
"what can I get out of it."
When married couples
give their support, trust, and love to each other, the marriage
is bound to be successful. Three persons should be involved
in each marriage; husband, wife and God. God instituted
marriage and intended that the couple remain married as long
as they both should live. Working together to resolve marital
problems isn't always easy, but with God's help, all things are
possible.



...a man will leave his father and mother and unite with his
wife, and the two will become one...
Good News Bible 10:7,8

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