

Cape May Star and Wave

160TH YEAR NO. 50 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2014 75¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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EPA GRANT TO FUND UPGRADES TO FERRYBOAT

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
Almond Weech, compassionate care director for Seashore Community Church, checks the inventory of the food closet. Weech, who hails from Bahamas, said he was surprised by the level of need.

Food pantry struggling to meet need resulting from seasonal economy

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA — In an area with a high level of seasonal unemployment, winter brings new challenges when full-time work is scarce and heating bills soar.

Last winter was a difficult time financially for a number of Lower Township families, according to Almond Weech, compassionate care director of Seashore Community Church of the Nazarene.

The church's food pantry and thrift store provide the immediate needs of food and clothing.

Weech, who hails from Bahamas, said he was surprised by the level of poverty in Lower Township, which he compared to a Third World country.

A slow national economy has also increased the need for the food pantry, he said. Weech said need is created in

this area by seasonal employment, underemployment and unemployment.

Last year, the food pantry began limiting its services to Lower Township residents.

"We just could not accommodate everyone," Weech said.

Residents in need may use the food pantry once per month.

Acme Markets donates fresh produce to the food pantry that is available Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the church. Individuals may pick up produce once per week. Those with clothing needs may fill out an application.

"It is then pulled in 24 hours providing we have the sizes," Weech said of the clothing.

From time to time, the ministry may be able to supply furniture or items such as cribs and strollers. He said many of the younger clients

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Villas man sentenced to 18 years in prison in deaths of teen girls

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Villas resident Joshua Malmgren was sentenced to 18 years in prison for causing the death of two teen girls in 2012.

Malmgren, 33, was sentenced Dec. 5 by Superior Court Judge John Porto. The sentence stipulates that Malmgren must serve a minimum of 85 percent of the imposed sentence.

Middle Township police responded to a report of an auto/pedestrian accident at about 9:17 p.m. July 31, 2012, at 14 Bayshore Road in Green Creek. Upon arrival, officers discovered two unresponsive

teenage girls lying on the side of the road. A short time later, the girls — Ashley Dauber, 13, and Naomi Lazicki, 15 — were pronounced dead. Officers observed the driver of the vehicle, Malmgren, still on the scene. An investigation ensued by the Major Crimes Unit of the county Prosecutor's Office and detectives from the Middle Township Police Department. It was learned that Malmgren operated his vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and prescription drugs.

In September, Malmgren pleaded guilty to aggravated manslaughter.

Sounds of the season

Congress Hall Festival Choir presented a free concert Dec. 5 to a standing-room-only crowd. The public was asked to bring canned goods or unwrapped toys to benefit both the Cape May Food Closet and Toys for Tots. See more holiday photos on A8.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
Trees for Troops donated 50 Christmas trees to Coast Guard Training Center Cape May that were distributed to junior-ranking members on the base.

Trees for Troops delivers holiday cheer to Coasties

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — On a gloomy, gray day, the lives of U.S. Coast Guard members and their families were brightened when a tractor-trailer full of free Christmas trees arrived at the base.

A total of 50 Christmas trees were donated by Trees for Troops and delivered free of charge by FedEx, Dec. 5. Trees for Troops is a program of the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation, working together with FedEx and members of the National Christmas Tree Association and a number of state and local Christmas tree associations.

The trees were distributed to

junior-ranking service members on the base, including crewmembers of the tenant commands stationed at Training Center Cape May (TRACEN). Trees were also donated to Coast Guard families whose loved ones are currently deployed for the holiday season such as the crew of the Cutter Dependable.

"The support of organizations like the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation is really important to the well-being of our members," said Capt. Todd Prestidge, commanding officer of TRACEN. "A lot of men and women are deployed on missions across the world

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WASHINGTON INN

Serving Dinner Friday and Saturday from 5 pm

*Cape May Wine School Champagne Class
Saturday, December 13 @ 1pm*

THE WINE BAR Open Friday and Saturday

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