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Halloween Happenings in Cape May
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165th YEAR NO. 44 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2019 \$1.00

Officials: Replenishment protects city, economy Lear, Inderwies, Farrell dispute claims it's a waste of money, time

By **RACHEL SHUBIN**
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Two weeks ago, Jeff Tittel of the Sierra Club criticized beach replenishment as a waste of money and a perpetual project, but local municipal leaders and an expert on coastal sustainability say its necessary to protect the city and its multimillion-dollar tourism economy.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spends millions of dollars annually on replenishing sand on beaches across the state, but Tittel said it's neither effective nor sustainable.

“It does not really solve the problems facing the shore, which is sea level rise, climate change and more frequent impact of storms and storm surges,” Tittel said. “It gives people false hope, to pump sand on a beach and it's there for a year or two, before a storm takes it away.”

Cape May's beaches are replenished biennially to combat erosion from coastal storms. The city has a 50-year agreement for replenishment with the Army Corps, which started almost 30 years ago.

Mayor Chuck Lear and Deputy City Manager Jerry Inderwies Jr. said they believe beach replenishment is a successful and important project for Cape May.

“Living here and growing up here like the mayor and I have, on the north end of town from Howard Street north, [there was] virtually no beach at all,” Inderwies said. “There was a few slivers of beach and then every northeast storm on a tide that we got, the town would flood. Since beach replenishment, we've only had a few instances where the town has flooded. It's very rare and little damage. Our claims are 90 percent less than what they used to be.”

Beach replenishment directly affects tourism, they said. “It's incredible. You think of the hotels and resorts that now have a beach they can service,” Lear said. “Of course the city benefits through the sales of beach tags, occupancy tax of hotels, who now have visitors in town to not only see the homes, [but] go to the beach.”

Inderwies said before beach replenishment, there wasn't value to properties at the north end of the city.

“Now we have almost 2 miles of beaches when before it was very limited,” Inderwies said.

In the past, certain sections of the beach from the Cove to Philadelphia Avenue had limited beach when the tide was high, Lear said. “The mission of the Army Corps of Engineers' [replenishment] was for flood mitigation,” Inderwies said.

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The Beach Theatre complex, which houses several retail and food establishments, has been closed since Oct. 13 when one of the support columns was found to be deficient. The entire complex will be put up for sale during an auction in early November.

Beach Theatre complex headed for auction block in November

By **JACK FICHTER**
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The Beach Theatre complex at 701 Beach Ave. is scheduled to hit the auction block during the second week of November at the Icona Resort in Diamond Beach.

NAI Mertz Commercial Real Estate Services, of Mt. Laurel, has the Beach Theatre listed for sale and will place it up for auction as part of the bankruptcy proceedings of Frank Theatres. Matthew O'Rorke, of NAI Mertz, said the final details of the auction were still being worked out.

The sidewalk in front of the theater complex has been cordoned off with yellow tape and barricades since Oct. 13 following an order from City Construction Official Lou Vito after support columns were found to be structurally unsound.

Temporary support rods have been installed under the overhang to shore up the structure. Deputy City Manager Jerry Inderwies said a private contractor installed the support rods.

“They will have to submit plans of how they will fix it permanently,” he said. “It's temporarily stabilized but not open to the public until it's permanently repaired.”

The deficient support columns were discovered when a member of the public leaned against one of the columns and it broke loose, Inderwies said.

O'Rorke said an engineer was sent to the site to install temporary supports. He said he hoped

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Jack Fichter

CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Rust is apparent on support beams at the Beach Theatre complex in Cape May.



Andrzejczak, Testa, running mates spar in legislative debate

Completing Route 55, 'Path to Progress,' ICE cooperation addressed

By **JACK FICHTER**
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Two slates of candidates for the First Legislative District seats — Democrat incumbents state Sen. Bob Andrzejczak and Assemblymen Bruce Land and Matt Milam and Republican challengers Mike Testa, Erik Simonsen and Antwan McClellan — debated for 90 minutes Monday in the historic old court house before a largely Republican audience.

Testa staged a rally at the courthouse flagpole just before the debate, which appeared also to be a video session for a television commercial. Once inside, the gloves came off early in the event.

In his opening statement at the debate, sponsored by the League of Women Voters,

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Freeholder board candidates share their views ahead of election.
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Testa thanked Andrzejczak “for finally agreeing to a debate after 220 days.” He said the election was about Gov. Phil Murphy and accused Andrzejczak of voting with Murphy's “radical agenda 95 percent of the time.”

Testa said Andrzejczak voted for a budget that gave free college tuition to illegal aliens and slashed \$3.7 million from Cape May County schools. Testa said Andrzejczak's political mailers

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Heroin found in candy bag

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Cape May County Prosecutor Jeffrey H. Sutherland and Chief of County Detectives Paul S. Skill warn residents of Cape May County to be cautious with suspicious or unfamiliar-looking candy and other edible items during the Halloween season.

On Friday, Oct. 25, a bag of heroin was found in a child's bag of candy that was collected from a Trunk or Treat event in the Rio Grande section of Middle Township. According to Sutherland, this was one isolated incident.

cautious of any suspicious-looking or unfamiliar packaging and baggies.

Parents and guardians should be vigilante while trick-or-treating with their children and not let them consume any candy until a thorough inspection has been completed.

Anyone who comes into contact with or has any information regarding suspicious candy is urged to contact their local police department. Information can also be reported to the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office at (609) 465-1135 or anonymously through the Cape May County Sheriff's Tip Line at cmcsheiff.net or Cape May County Crime Stoppers at (609) 465-2800.



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