



House of the week

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Spring athletes missing more than the games

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Cape May MAC: New name for 50th year

Same mission of offering culture, art, history tours

By DAVID NAHAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY— It's now Cape May MAC (Museums+Arts+Culture).

The Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities announced Friday afternoon, March 27, that it was launching a new brand, complete with new name and logo – and a website that will be up and operating April 1.

It is part of the organization's 50th anniversary year celebration.

Cape May MAC (Museums+Arts+Culture) will "continue to launch elements of the new brand in the subsequent days, culminating in the launch of the organization's new website on April 1," according to the announcement.

The COVID-19 pandemic restrictions across New Jersey affected the original brand launch, which was planned for an evening opening of the Carroll Gallery Exhibit, "50 Years of MAC," March 27. Under an executive order from Gov. Phil Murphy, public gatherings and events across the state were cancelled to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

In its place, Cape May MAC is being unveiled online.

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City closes promenade and beach

By JACK FICHTER
and DAVID NAHAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — A few days after Ocean City Mayor Jay Gillian closed the resort's Boardwalk and beaches last week, on Friday, March 27, Sea Isle City Mayor Leonard Desiderio did the same.

On Monday, Mayor Chuck Lear said Cape May was following suit. There was no announcement whether Wildwood was doing the same.

Cape May closed its beaches and Promenade until further notice by an executive order effective 12:01 a.m. March 31.

The order notes in light of the current COVID-19 epidemic and to further protect the health, safety and welfare of residents and visitors to Cape May and pursuant to an executive order by Gov. Phil

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Provided

Feeding the student body

Brittany Delano prepares breakfasts and lunches that the Lower Township Elementary School District is offering to anyone under 18. The school district is averaging between 200 and 300 breakfasts and lunches at each of its two locations, with 500 to 600 on Monday and Tuesday and 1,100 to 1,200 per week. Beginning March 30, the distribution included a location across from the North Cape May Wawa and at St. Raymond's church parking lot in the northern end of Villas, as well as continuing with Memorial and Sandman schools from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays. The school district said it would continue to serve the community through spring break April 10-17.

Cape May County mayors ask for stop to short-term rentals

By DAVID NAHAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — All 16 municipalities in Cape May County, backed by the Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders, have upped the ante in discouraging visitors to the county by asking for a halt in short-term property rentals.

In a news release issued late Monday afternoon, the freeholders said all the municipalities were "unanimous" in discouraging nonessential visits to their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. That includes property owners from outside the county.

The freeholders said the agreement was reached during a conference call among elected and appointed officials earlier in the day.

"County leadership applauds our municipal leaders for taking a proactive approach as we all

work together to slow the spread of COVID-19," Freeholder Director Gerald Thornton stated in the release. "We are very supportive of this practical and reasonable approach to coping with pandemic and urge everyone to follow the directives coming from the Office of the Governor and health officials."

The release offered "two specific requests" that read:

"The Covid-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the safety and welfare of citizens of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware and Connecticut. As an effort to protect our citizens, first responders and others who are working collectively to provide essential services to us, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy has issued a series of executive orders that have the force and effect of law. These orders, in part, identify essential service and place travel restrictions in

New Jersey.

"As a result of this pandemic and in an abundance of caution and concern for everyone's safety and well-being, the mayors of the 16 municipalities in Cape May County... from Ocean City to Cape May Point ... are unified with two specific requests. First, we are strongly urging the elimination of all short-term rentals for the duration of the governor's executive orders, which continue indefinitely until rescinded. This appeal is made to all realtors, online rental platforms and individuals. Hotels and motels are considered to be essential services and we ask that they rent only to individuals who are performing essential functions per the governor's executive orders, not to traditional tourists.

"Our second ask is for you to remain at your primary resi-

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Pews empty, church services streaming online

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

Churches are closed and the pews are empty, but Sunday services are still being held via live-streaming from many places of worship due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Congregants can view a sermon from their pastor and, in many cases, music from church bands and musicians. Services can be viewed on computers, phones, tablets and Smart TVs.

Pastor Tim West, of Seashore Community Church of the Nazarene in the Erma section of Lower Township, said his church installed the technology needed to live-stream when the pandemic broke out.

"We were headed in that direction. We believe the church has been trending that way for years and we're kind of on the

'That's what we're hoping to use these platforms for is to just communicate hope, that this, too, shall pass and the Lord is with us and we can trust him.'

— Pastor Tim West,
Seashore Community Church

back end of that trend," he said. "I think the majority of churches probably do stream online."

West said live-streaming has become an absolute necessity due to the pandemic. He said the church installed the needed equipment quickly.

Very basic live-stream can be accomplished with a smart phone and a Facebook or Instagram account, West said. He said for the best quality, the church's audio board needs

to be plugged into the live-stream.

"The camera is picking up with its microphone every little noise versus when you're plugged into the sound board and use a remote camera with a designated computer, everything is hard wired in and there's no Wi-Fi and the sound is much crisper because it's going through the channels of the sound board," West said.

He said with some programs, scripture verses can be placed on the screen along with the image from the sanc-

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Jack Fichter
STAR AND WAVE
Seashore Community Church is one of many holding services online.

COVID-19 Separate to flatten the curve

Local cases increasing; still fewer in south N.J.

By DAVID NAHAN
Cape May Star and Wave

By Monday afternoon, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases had climbed to 19 in Cape May County and to 30 in neighboring Atlantic County.

Five of those infected in Cape May County had recovered, dropping active cases to 14, according to the Cape May County Department of Health. Similar figures on recovery were not posted for Atlantic County.

While numbers were still relatively low in south Jersey compared to north Jersey, they had risen to 16,636 cases statewide, with 198 reported deaths by Monday afternoon.

Gov. Phil Murphy kept reinforcing his message that social distancing is the most important thing individuals can do to ensure there will be enough hospital capacity to handle patients when the pandemic hits its peak in the Garden State.

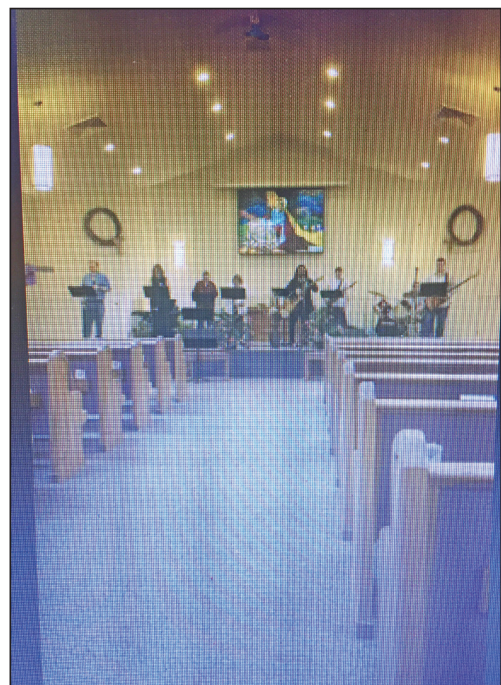
Late Sunday night, March 29, the Cape May County Department of Health reported five new cases – the single biggest day for positive tests.

"The new cases in Cape May County include a 12-year-old female, 21-year-old male, a 56-year-old female, 63-year-old male, and a 78-year-old male," the department reported.

On Monday, there were another five cases reported: a 35-year-old male, 93-year-old female, 68-year-old female, 56-year-old female and a 63-year-old male.

The department also said five individuals have recovered in the county, one each from Ocean City, Upper Township, Avalon, Lower Township and Middle Township, leaving no active cases in Avalon, Ocean City and Upper Township.

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