



House of the week

Page B1



Lake Lily getting bulkhead, paths, landscaping

Page A8



165th YEAR NO. 14 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2019 \$1.00

City wants to confirm beach replenishment

Beach Safety Committee seeks timeline, fears one delay could lead to others

INSIDE

Retreat rather than replenish may be the best option for shore towns.

Page A3

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Will Cape May receive beach replenishment this year and will it be under way during hurricane season? Those questions are being asked by the city's Beach Safety Committee.

The city is expecting beach replenishment in September. The replenishment was originally scheduled for January but funding was not in place reportedly because the U.S. Coast Guard did not include the replenishment in its budget in time.

The main portion of this beach nourishment, 400,000 cubic yards of sand, was scheduled to be dumped on the Coast Guard base beach. The sand migrates south to the city's other beaches.

The city receives a small portion of the project, 42,000 cubic yards at Wilmington Avenue at Poverty Beach.

At a March 25 meeting, Beach Safety Committee Chairman Dennis DeSatnick said he was concerned the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would

arrive in September while beaches were still open and during hurricane season.

"Are they going to be laying the pipelines? Are they going to be bringing the dredge? Are they going to be working on the beaches?" he asked.

Deputy Mayor Patricia Hendricks, City Council liaison to the committee, said the Borough of Avalon received notice it would not receive beach replenishment for 2019. She said the federal government cannot appropriate funds to take sand away from Hereford Inlet.

Hendricks said Avalon was seeking support from surrounding towns to pressure the federal government to provide beach replenishment.

She said the city manager would contact the Army Corps to confirm that beach replenishment is scheduled for Cape May and ask for a more precise timeline.

"When we have that information, we'll also be trying to work to make sure that we have a congressman's set of eyes on this as well," Hendricks

See Confirm, Page A3

Sandman fifth-, sixth-graders donate to homeless ministry

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

RIO GRANDE — Seventeen students from the Sandman Consolidated School arrived in a school bus March 29 to The Branches, bringing items they collected to the organization that helps the area's homeless population.

Jessica Menzano, secretary for Lower Township Board of Education, said the students brought cases of water, ChapStick, health products, jackets, gloves, hats, shampoo and Easter baskets.

The fifth- and sixth-graders worked with the school's Wellness Committee.

"We asked the children what they would like to do for the community and so they came up with this idea themselves and got together and put a cart out in the school and put a nice sign on it saying what they were collecting and when we would be coming here," Menzano said.

Branches Director Sandra Lockhart took students on a tour of the facility, beginning with a room of clothing and personal care products for the homeless. She pointed out a supply of blankets, sheets and pillows and a shower available to the homeless.

The room also had refrigerators and freezers filled with food used to prepare meals at the Branches and given to the homeless. Lockhart said as many as 60 persons per day come to the



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Students from Sandman Consolidated School took a bus to The Branches, where they donated items such as cases of water, ChapStick, health products, jackets, gloves, hats, shampoo and Easter baskets they had collected at the school.

facility, where breakfast and lunch is served six days per week.

"By lunchtime, this place will be full," she said.

Lockhart said during Code Blue alerts, when the temperature is forecast to drop below 32 degrees, the Branches is open 12 hours per day, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

A student asked where homeless persons slept at night.

"That's a really good question," Lockhart replied. "Some of them sleep outside, some of them sleep in the woods, some of them sleep

in their cars, some of them have homes, some of them sleep in motel rooms and sometimes they don't have a place to stay."

She said some are fortunate enough to stay in a motel for a period of time.

"You can imagine that in the wintertime, it's really, really hard for a lot of folks that live in the woods," Lockhart said. "There is no homeless shelter in Cape May County."

The Branches was started 10 years ago by St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Stone Harbor. A student asked if the ministry gave away the

food and clothing. Lockhart confirmed all the items were given away free of charge.

Another student asked if anybody could donate items to the organization.

"We exist by stuff that people drop off," Lockhart said. "Our food is all donated."

The Branches does not have a kitchen in which it can cook but has enough equipment to warm up food, she said. At the end of the day, bag lunches are given away so clients have something for dinner as the Branches

See Sandman, Page A8



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Joel Gonzalez connects wires to a World War II-era telephone at Fire Control Tower 23 at Sunset Beach. The telephone, known as an EE-91, eased communication with a bunker.

WWII phones back online at lookout tower

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

SUNSET BEACH — A working EE-91 telephone from World War II was installed from the ground floor to the top of Fire Control Tower 23 by men in uniform March 23.

Their uniforms were from World War II, but they were not time travelers. Instead they were members of the nonprofit Army Ground Forces Association. The organization focuses on coastal artillery-related restoration. Much of their work is done at Fort Hancock-Sandy Hook Proving Ground National Historic Landmark managed by the National Park Service.

"We do electrical, we do concrete, we do telephone communication. We do all kinds of stuff to make the (gun) battery come back to life," said Shawn Welch, treasurer and a board member.

Known by locals as the World War II observation tower, operated by the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities, its wartime purpose was to use optical instruments to aim large guns capable of firing on enemy ships. Soldiers would communicate with the bunker on the beach near the Cape May

Lighthouse known as Battery 223 by telephone, he said.

Welch said such phones operated from a Fire Control Switchboard used in harbor defense here.

"There was one of those switchboards on this side of the defenses in Battery 223's plotting and switchboard room," he said.

The switchboard would receive power from a set of batteries and a generator, Welch said. A lead cable with 300 to 500 conductors also crossed the bay to Fort Miles, headquartered in Cape Henlopen, Del., he said.

Welch said two switchboard rooms were located at Fort Miles, one in the harbor defense command post and another tied to Battery Smith, which housed the two 16-inch guns.

"Within the defenses, there were probably somewhere in the neighborhood of about 500 phones," he said. "This tower probably had about three."

Project documents were found showing schematics of the phone system for Tower 23, which was a fire control station for only Battery 223. Welch said other towers had multiple functions but Tower

See WWII phones, A5

Need, outreach continue in warm weather

By JOHN ALVAREZ
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — As the spring season begins, all of our thoughts turn to activities and events inclined toward the warmer weather. Sadly, in many folks' minds, this excludes proper treatment and care of the homeless community.

In the colder months, it is certainly easier for people to donate clothing or spare

change to aid those who need to escape from the cold. Even in Cape May County, where the Code Blue watch was supposed to end in the beginning of March, the last one occurred March 8 with assurance it could have been sustainable until March 15 if needed.

So now with the winter weeks behind us, everything should be OK, right? "I was out to the Cape Community Church and

drove past the bus stop in Whitesboro," said Chris Hope, a volunteer for Cape Hope, a faith-based homeless outreach organization. "One of the guys who were a regular Code Blue recipient was there. He's been hanging out at the bus shelter."

What so many in Cape May County and others southern New Jersey may fail to realize is that when the weather gets warmer, the homeless population

hides in plain sight.

"As of now, the homeless are back in the woods," said Denise South, director of Cape Hope Homeless Outreach. "Some will have jobs now, though they may only be part-time work. Here, in Cape May County, we have the unique problem with the homeless population seeking seasonal employment. The lack of year-round employment

See Need, outreach, A8

Rusty Nail
OPEN WEEKENDS
SPRING STARTS AT THE NAIL

The Rusty Nail is open early this spring! Join us Fridays for Chef Jimmy's Southern Fried Chicken and Saturdays for our Angus Prime Rib special. Kick back and relax indoor by the fireplace or outdoors around the fire pit with food & drink and live entertainment.

Friday: Dinner
Saturday: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Sunday: Breakfast



205 BEACH AVENUE 609.884.0017 RUSTYNAILCAPEMAY.COM