



House of the week
Real Estate Resource



Late migration may be sign of rising numbers

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Feeding the cape's hungry

Teitelman club leads food drive in Lower

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA — The Builder's Club at the Richard M. Teitelman School prepared 20 bags of Thanksgiving food for needy families in the school district and teachers delivered the bags to homes Monday afternoon.

Science teacher Paul Schulte, adviser to the Builder's Club, said the food went to the families of nine high school students and 11 middle school students.

"Our Builder's Club, which is part of Kiwanis Club of Cape May, is spearheading the food drive and collected most of the stuff for us," he said. "I have about 22 kids in Builder's Club that have been actively involved in helping us."

In many cases the delivery of all the ingredients for a Thanksgiving dinner is a surprise for the children of families in need but not for their parents.

Inside large reusable



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The Builder's Club at the Richard M. Teitelman School in Lower Township gathered food and packaged it for distribution to 20 needy families in the area.

grocery bags were 12- to 18-pound turkeys and the side items needed for a Thanksgiving dinner. Schulte said most of the turkeys were donated by teachers or families involved with the Builder's Club.

"It's kind of overwhelming to know there's this

many families in need but it's more overwhelming to see the community rally behind them and make sure that they can have the Thanksgiving that everybody else gets to have," he said.

This Thanksgiving was the first year of the Builder's Club taking on the proj-

ect but the school has provided the dinners for years through various groups, according to Schulte. While canned goods and boxes of stuffing can be stored in a classroom, 20 frozen turkeys is another story.

"Thankfully we have a

Builder's Club, Page A3

Campbell gets house arrest in theft from PBA

Lower Twp. man also charged with embezzling from Local 59

TRENTON — A retired police officer who formerly served as president and state delegate of New Jersey Policemen's Benevolent Association Local 59 in Cape May was sentenced Monday for embezzling about \$105,000 from the union over five years.

Cape May County Superior Court Judge John Porto sentenced John Campbell, 49, of Cape May, to six months of home detention under the county's alternatives to incarceration program, as well as five years of probation. He must submit to electronic monitoring with an ankle bracelet. Campbell also was ordered to serve 300 hours of community service, pay a fine of \$5,000 and provide full restitution to the union of \$105,000, which was paid in full.

Campbell pleaded guilty Aug. 10 to a charge of third-degree theft by unlawful taking. In pleading guilty, Campbell admitted that he stole tens of thousands of

dollars from PBA Local 59 from 2012 through 2016 while serving as the state delegate for the union by using the union's checking account and a business American Express card to make unauthorized personal purchases, expenditures and withdrawals that were unrelated to union business.

Campbell was arrested July 13 as a result of an investigation by the State Police Official Corruption Bureau and the Division of Criminal Justice Corruption Bureau. Deputy Attorney General Brian Uzdevinis prosecuted the case and handled the sentencing for the Division of Criminal Justice Corruption Bureau, under the supervision of Bureau Chief Anthony Piccione.

"Campbell was entrusted with access to the credit and checking accounts of his PBA local, but rather than living up to his duties as a police officer and leader of this union,

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CAMPBELL

Community Food Closet serves food-insecure

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — While this town may seem prosperous to visitors, it has an active food bank, the Cape May Community Food Closet, that supplied local residents in need with free food for Thanksgiving.

Director Tina Johnson said food normally is distributed on the second and fourth Fridays of each month but due to Thanksgiving, food was distributed Monday.

"We try to do the Monday before so people have time to defrost their turkeys and so they know what they have from us and can make their plans," she said.

Johnson said for Thanksgiving, the food closet provides an "extra fixin's" bag with cranberry sauce, stuffing, gravy, vegetables and pie. A small family may receive a turkey breast and a large family a whole turkey.

To stock the food closet, empty bags with an attached list of food needs were distributed to members of First Presbyterian Church, where the food closet is housed.

"People really embraced it and we got 50 bags from people all over," Johnson said. "People will take



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Lee O'Connor, Pastor Nicole Duran and Director Tina Johnson pack bags for Thanksgiving at the Cape May Community Food Closet. Johnson said the organization received 50 bags of food donations during its drive for the holiday meals.

them and give them to their friends if they have a dinner party."

She said the Cape May Garden Club also participated in donating food. During the first Saturday in December, the post office collects food that is

split among the Cape May Community Food Closet and food pantries in Lower Township. After the food arrives by truck from the post office, Boy Scouts assist in organizing the donated food into the food bank in the basement of the

church. The same type of food is distributed just prior to Christmas, she said. Johnson said the food closet purchases food for Thanksgiving because it cannot

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Lower to study best places for marijuana shop

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA — If Gov.-elect Phil Murphy follows through on his campaign promise to legalize recreational use of marijuana in New Jersey, where would businesses that sell the drug be allowed to operate in Lower Township?

Councilman Tom Conrad posed that question during the Township Council meeting Monday.

"It doesn't matter which side you fall on, but the legalization of marijuana looks like it's going to be a fact," he said.

Conrad said Murphy promised to legalize marijuana in his first 100 days in office.

"Whether you want it legal or not, what's Lower Township doing about it?" he asked. "We need to open discussion and possibly get the Zoning Board to start looking at that now because if we don't do anything, they could put it in any commercial business area in the township,"

'We have to be proactive so we're not trying to be reactive after businesses have opened in areas that maybe we don't want.'

—Councilman Tom Conrad

Conrad said. It is unknown whether the state would require a license to sell marijuana similar to a liquor license, he said.

"We have to be proactive so we're not trying to be reactive after businesses have opened in areas that maybe we don't want," Conrad said.

He requested Township Clerk Julie Picard send a letter to the Zoning Board requesting it examine what is taking place in other states for marijuana-dispensing businesses.

Council unanimously approved the motion.

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