

Cape May Star and Wave



159TH YEAR NO. 11 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, March 13, 2013 50¢



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After the storm there is more than structural damage

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

GALLOWAY TOWNSHIP – When disasters strike, the aftereffects are more than structural damage to homes or property. The mental anguish and trauma left by sudden displacement and loss can manifest after months and have long-term consequences.

The Richard Stockton State College hosted a symposium March 8 titled “Superstorm Sandy: The Emotional Aftermath”, which was sponsored by PerformCare.

Former U.S. Congressman Patrick Kennedy (D-RI), a Brigantine resident, was the keynote speaker. Kennedy served 16 years in the House of Representatives and was the lead sponsor of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008. Kennedy is currently the co-founder of One Mind for Research, a coalition advocating for new treatments for neurologic and psychiatric diseases.

Kennedy told attendees the symposium wasn't about emotion or behavior, but about physical health care. “What we're talking about

today is not a character issue. It's a chemistry issue. When people act strangely and when they act bizarrely, we say they're nuts. We say they're psycho. We say they're crazy. Who amongst us wants to be labeled psycho, nuts or crazy? I don't want to be,” Kennedy said.

Kennedy said 2/3 of people with health insurance will never receive care for mental health because of stigma surrounding mental illness.

He said it was “insulting” to veterans to label Post Traumatic Stress and traumatic brain injuries as

“invisible” wounds. He said 18 veterans commit suicide today because of their mental illness and the stigma surrounding them.

“The system we develop to treat the mental health care of those in the wake of Superstorm Sandy, that system of care will not only help our friends and neighbors and family members here in southern Jersey, it's also going to help our American heroes and their families,” Kennedy said.

Kennedy challenged attendees to not only look at the trauma suffered by south

Jersey residents after Sandy, but examine treating the whole person for psychiatric diseases.

“These behaviors are not a matter of choice for these people. They're the physical result of altered brain chemistry. As real as you can treat someone who has leukemia, or asthma or diabetes, we need to treat these wounds,” Kennedy said.

Television broadcaster, university professor and former New Jersey Assemblyman Steve Aduabato moderated the panel.

Aduabato said the media

“failed miserably” in presenting the mental health or of Hurricane Sandy victims.

“We are obsessed by the visual, powerful, painful pictures associated with this storm. They are important. It is important to share those stories. It is important to share those pictures and it is important to talk about the pain and suffering experienced by homeowners and businessfolks along the Jersey shore and other parts of the state,” Aduabato said. “I cannot think of one pro

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Connie Mahon to take MT administrator job

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT – Taking advantage of an opportunity of a lifetime, Connie Mahon will become the first female administrator in Middle Township history when she takes that post on April 8.

Mahon, the Cape May Point clerk/administrator for the past 13 years, said she has already been putting in some time in her new position in order to be able to hit the ground running. Mahon feels it is an opportunity to focus her skills.

“I will no longer have five titles, or however many I have,” she said.

Despite wearing many hats, the Point position was not a full time job. Borough Hall is open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, with monthly meetings held in the evening, Mahon said she put in 32 to 33 hours per week.

Mahon said she filled in for Middle Township clerk Kimberly Krauss when she was on maternity leave, going into Middle Township Hall three days per week. There, she and township officials got to know each, and when administrator Mark Mallett left to take a job with the Lower

Cape May Regional School District, Mahon applied for the administrator's position in Middle Township.

Asked about her new duties, Mahon said, “I will be a liaison between the department heads and the governing body.”

She said she would be in charge of the day-to-day operations of the township, assist in negotiating contracts, and be a liaison between the township and county, state and federal agencies, to name a few of her duties. She would also be working with the CFO to develop the annual budget. Middle Township has a \$25 million budget as compared to Cape May Point's \$1.6 million.

Middle Township is also a municipality of 83 square miles, compared to the Point, which is three-tenths of a square mile. She will oversee 187 fulltime employees, including 13 department heads. Cape May Point has seven full-time employees and about 40 seasonal employees.

“Middle Township is unique, very diversified,” Mahon said. “You can go from the bay to inland communities, and there are so many challenges and opportunities in between.”

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St. Badricks at the Teitelman School



Above, Brianna Giantomenico checks to see what it feels like after getting her hair buzzed off in the St. Badrick's Foundation's annual fundraiser. At right in photo are Amber Nelson and Kerri Harrigan, who were two other brave souls who collected pledges and cut their hair to benefit research to find a cure for childhood cancer. See more photos on page A10.

Sixth annual Singer Songwriter Cape May to hit town March 22-23

By KEVIN MCKINNEY
For the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – This historic seaside resort will be awash in music two weekends from now.

From near and far, about 175 tunesmiths and guitar slingers will converge here for the 6th annual Singer-Songwriter Cape May, Friday and Saturday, March 22-23.

By day, the annual conference offers more than 60 music industry professionals who offer seminars and workshops.

By night, singer-songwriter



Submitted photo
Left, Black Wolf Records artist Ellis Paul will play Saturday night.

ers from all walks will showcase their talents on 18 different stages, at 15 different venues throughout Cape May. The original music starts at 7 p.m. and will run the gamut from classic rock, country, folk and blues.

The showcases are free. “We have artists from as far away as Australia and the West Coast again this year,” said concert promoter John Harris, who has local ties

and worked with friends at Congress Hall six years ago to make the annual musical smorgasbord event a reality.

A couple of heavies in the industry will be a part of the action at Congress Hall's Grand Ballroom. Each night features a different keynote speaker/performer. Red House Records artist Tracy Grammer will perform Friday night. Black Wolf Records artist Ellis Paul will play Saturday night.

Each artist will address conference goers at 5:15 p.m. and then follow up with 8 p.m. concerts. Tickets for the

Ballroom concerts are \$10 in advance and all ages are welcome.

“This conference is modeled after a host of other singer-songwriter conferences across the country,” said Harris, a longtime consultant to the entertainment, hospitality and sports industries.

Among the best known singer-songwriter conferences are South by Southwest in Austin, Texas and the Folk Alliance in Nashville, Tenn.

A handful of local songwriters, such as Mike “MQ”

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