



## Caper Tiger football takes on Clayton in second game

Page A8



## House of the Week

B1



169th YEAR NO. 36 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 \$1.00

## Restored DC3 continues life as show piece

### 'Yukon Sourdough' lands in Lower Twp. for AirFest



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Pilot Mike Macario lands the restored DC3 'Yukon Sourdough' on Sept. 1 at Cape May County Airport during Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum's annual AirFest event. 'I like this airplane, its characteristics, the way it flies and just being a part of it,' Macario said. Below, restored vintage airplanes at AirFest.

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA — The airline industry owes a lot to the DC3, a twin piston engine aircraft born in the 1930s that could carry 20 to 30 passengers from coast to coast with a few stops. In the 1970s, DC3s were used by

small commuter airlines and to fight forest fires, and became reasonably priced airplanes for touring rock bands.

Those who arrived early at Naval Air Station Wildwood's AirFest on Sept. 1 had the privilege of watching the landing of a nearly 80-year-old plane, known as the "Yukon Sour-

dough." The plane was available for tours throughout the event, held at Cape May County Airport.

Those who climbed aboard noticed how steep the walk was to the front of the plane, since it sat low in the back due to its tail resting on the ground

See DC3, Page A8



## Ocean Wind 1 work to begin without delay

### Ørsted sets back commissioning to 2026 but project commencing

By DAVID NAHAN  
Cape May Star and Wave

OCEAN CITY — Ørsted announced on its web site that it is pushing back the Ocean Wind 1 commissioning until 2026, but company officials say onshore work is set to start in the next few weeks in Ocean City and offshore work at some point in 2024.

The Danish company behind the project to put up to 98 massive wind turbines 15 miles off the coast of Atlantic and Cape May counties reported last week that supplier delays and higher interest rates are factors expected to push back the full operation of the wind farm.

The project, which is expected to produce 1,100 megawatts of electricity, was originally scheduled to begin supplying energy late in 2024 but had been pushed back before to 2025.

Despite the delay, residents of Ocean City should see work beginning soon.

"Ocean Wind 1 will conduct site investigation work within Ocean City's right of way on 35th Street, from Central Avenue to West Avenue, and in the county's public right of way along

'We have not slowed down or paused any planned project activity. Ocean Wind 1 remains on schedule for operations in 2025, with final commissioning in the first quarter of 2026.'

—Hina Kazmi, Ocean Wind 1 project director

Bay Avenue to Roosevelt Boulevard beginning Sept. 12," an Ørsted spokesperson said Friday.

"Site investigation activities in Ocean City's right of way are expected to conclude by Oct. 2 with the county's right of way concluding approximately two weeks later," the spokesperson added. "The work will confirm the locations of existing underground utilities while collecting soil and groundwater samples. This type of work is common practice for many types of gas, water and sewer utility projects that install mains beneath the road surface."

Overall, this project is Ocean Wind, Page A2

## MTRAC studying city shared services deals

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city provides emergency medical services, municipal court and construction office services to its neighboring communities on Cape Island, but are those deals equitable?

The city's Municipal Taxation and Revenue Advisory Committee (MTRAC) has been examining Cape May's shared service and mutual aid agreements with West

Cape May, Cape May Point and Lower Township to determine whether the city is getting a fair financial return.

At an Aug. 10 meeting, MTRAC member Martin Van Walsum said City Council asked the committee to review the agreements and make recommendations. He said every police and fire department in the county agrees to help other departments through mu-

See MTRAC, Page A4

## Taxation, revenue board turns its sights on beach tag fees

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's Municipal Taxation and Revenue Advisory Committee (MTRAC) is asking whether beach tags are too cheap and if senior citizens should be getting a discount.

At an Aug. 10 meeting, MTRAC Chairman Dennis Crowley said 35 towns in the state have raised their beach tag fees but Cape May has not. He said 28 of 41 municipalities that sell beach tags offer reduced rates for senior citizens by adjusting the fees to

compensate for the revenue.

"We need to take these fees and give them the same treatment we do everything else in terms of inflationary escalation, because part of our mission is to get municipal expenditures into utilities," Crowley said. "As we do that, as we push more of the municipal services into the utilities budgets, those utilities budgets need an increase in revenue."

Some towns, such as Manasquan, have \$90 to \$100 fees for seasonal tags, he said.

Noting a small surplus in the beach utility, MTRAC member

Martin Van Walsum said there is no driving need to raise beach tag fees.

Crowley countered that there is a need to raise the fees since City Council is putting more municipal funds into the beach utility budget. Councilwoman Maureen McDade said capital improvements for the beach are being attributed to the beach utility.

"If we increase the cost of the beach tags, then people will just find ways to work around the cost of beach tags," Van Walsum said. "There were two offers yes-

terday on Facebook pages to resell their beach tags. I personally think that the beach tags fees are incredibly low for the value that you're given."

Those who do not have the means to afford beach tags should be accommodated, Van Walsum said.

McDade said another town may charge \$100 for a seasonal beach tag but offer free parking. She noted the city offers a \$100 commercial tag for hotels and guest houses. Crowley said some local hotels bought as many as 100 commercial tags for their

guests.

Van Walsum said nowhere on the city's website is it stated that beach tags are not transferable. He suggested a flier be included with beach tags at the time of purchase explaining their regulations.

Beach tag sales are not a big moneymaker, Van Walsum said, noting the beach utility pays life-guard salaries and buys equipment. He said he did not know whether the city had the opportunity to raise beach tag fees without demonstrating a need for an increase.

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