

Cape May Star and Wave



159TH YEAR NO. 49 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, December 4, 2013 50¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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CLEANERS OF THE AIR - THE TURKEY VULTURE

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Van Drew team spends over \$1 million to beat GOP

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPEMAY COURT HOUSE – According to New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) reports, First Legislative District Democratic candidates raised more than \$1 million in the Nov. 5 election, far outspending their Republican challengers.

Candidates are required to disclose campaign contributions before and 20 days following elections.

Filing under a joint committee, Sen. Jeff Van Drew

and Assemblymen Bob Andrzejczak and Nelson Albano raised a total of \$1,015,419 according to an ELEC report received Nov. 21.

Van Drew and Andrzejczak won re-election; Republican challenger Sam Fiocchi defeated Albano.

The ELEC report lists \$451,770 raised were monetary contributions in excess of \$300, while \$563,648 constituted in-kind contributions over \$300.

The campaign spent a total of \$998,975, with \$435,327 listed as campaign expenses.

An 11-day pre-election report, received on Oct. 25, showed the three Democrats raised \$687,554.

Some of the donors who contributed over \$300 to the Democrats include IBEW PAC Educational Fund of Washington D.C. (\$8,200); Gloucester County Democrat Executive Committee of Sewell (\$21,600); Operating Engineers Local 825 of Springfield (\$16,400); The Leaders Fund, no address provided (\$24,600); Princeton Public Affairs Group of Trenton (\$2,000); CWA NJ Political Education

Committee of Trenton (\$8,200); DiMarco and Christie for Freeholder of Sewell (\$13,400); Council of NJS College Locals COPE of Union (\$6,000); Friends of Angel Fuentes of Camden (\$7,500); Acacia Financial Group of Marlton (\$1,500); Wayne DeAngelo for Assembly of Hamilton (\$16,400); EFO Troy Singelton of Palmyra (\$24,600); Union City First of Pompton Lakes (\$2,500); District Council of Northern NJ Ironworkers PAC of Kenilworth (\$8,200); IBEW Local Union 456 of North Brunswick (\$10,000);

EFO Whip Wilson for Assembly of Camden (\$7,500); Comcast of Philadelphia, Pa. (\$7,800); UFCW Local 152 of Mays Landing (\$2,000); and Food Council Committee for Good Government of Trenton (\$1,250).

In-kind contributions to Democrats included the Cape May County Democratic Committee of South Seaville (\$102,000) for a "media buy"; NJ Democratic State Committee of Trenton (\$18,365) for "direct mail"; DACC of Trenton (\$123,774) for "field services and staff"; and NJSDM of Hamilton

(\$261,841) for "field services".

The Democrats' campaign spent \$72,000 on "media time" to Petta Ryan of Natick, Mass; \$44,360 to "Switchboard" of Washington D.C. for "administrative and field services"; and \$75,000 to Kennedy Communications of Washington, D.C. for mailing.

Senate candidate Susan Adelizzi-Schmidt's information was filed under a joint committee with her running mates, Kristine Gabor and Fiocchi.

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Media response 'crazy' for cop in burning truck rescue

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Cape May Police Ptlm. Scott Krissinger said things got a little crazy after he pulled a man from a burning pickup truck, Nov. 25.

By "after" he was referring to the media attention his actions received.

Krissinger, who started as a Class II officer with the CMPD, is a full time officer, who was just starting his shift when the call came in reporting a vehicle fire.

"The call came in at 6:02 p.m.," said Krissinger, who was working a 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. shift. "I literally just walked in the door."

The door was at the CMPD substation in West Cape May. They received call of a cart on fire on Sunset Boulevard, and he headed out as the dispatcher was trying to get more information. On the way, Krissinger learned the vehicle was on

Sunset near the Cape May Wicker store and it was possible someone was inside.

"I originally went there just thinking a car was on fire," Krissinger said. "I jumped out and shouted to some people there if anyone was inside the vehicle. No one was really sure."

Video from the dashboard camera in Krissinger's patrol car captured him rushing up to the 2005 Chevrolet Colorado, which was belching smoke, and he was trying to open his expandable baton.

"I expanded my baton as I was running because, in my head I was thinking 'Why isn't someone getting out... maybe the door is locked,'" Krissinger said.

Krissinger said he thought he might have to break the driver's side window to get to a victim. However, the

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Ptlm. Scott Krissinger



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, Thanksgiving Day guests gather at the home of Dot Merlino in South Dennis, including Katie Davies and Tom Wheeler (back left and right in photo), who were visiting from the United Kingdom. Davies and Wheeler were celebrating their first American Thanksgiving with all the traditional foods and hospitality.

Brits get first taste of Thanksgiving

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – It was an ideal time for Katie Davies and Tom Wheeler to celebrate their first Thanksgiving considering all they have to be thankful for, especially their recent engagement and a long overdue trip to Cape May.

Making the trip "across the pond" from Southampton, England, the two spent their first two days in the United States in Hoboken, N.J., with friends who had just emigrated to the U.S. from England. It was in Hoboken, while overlooking the New York City skyline, where Wheeler proposed to Davies.

"It was ideal. I'd been planning to ask her, but it had to

be somewhere memorable, in my opinion, but also intimate," he said. "It just felt like the perfect place."

Following their obligatory first tour of Manhattan, the newly engaged couple caught a bus and headed south on the Garden State Parkway to Atlantic City, where Davies reunited with her longtime friend, Dot Merlino. Weeks prior, Davies and Wheeler asked if they could celebrate Thanksgiving at Merlino's house in South Dennis. Merlino was ecstatic to have the two visit for four days, as she had wanted to reconnect with Davies for years.

It had been 11 years since Davies first came to Cape May County when she was a foreign exchange student at Middle Township High

School and Merlino was her host parent. After attending Middle for about a month, she celebrated her 16th birthday. As a Sweet 16 gift, Merlino, her daughter Jamie and family friend, Dan Errickson, invited Davies on a trip to California.

"We were there for five days or so," Merlino said. "We went to San Francisco, Yosemite, the Redwood Forest – it was great."

Davies said she has never lost touch with Dot or Jamie, who is Davies' age. Jamie had hoped to be home for Thanksgiving to spend time with the newly engaged couple, but recently took a job with the Hyatt Resort in Hawaii and was unable to make the trip back.

"We spoke mainly through

email," Davies said. "But, with Dot and I, we can go months without speaking, but as soon as we do, it's like we have been speaking every day. There's no awkwardness at all. She's my American mommy."

The Keenan family, friends of Merlino, also came to Thanksgiving dinner, bringing their own contributions of homemade dishes, board games and instruments to play. Davies and Wheeler were astonished by the array of traditional Thanksgiving foods that lined the dining room table as well as the hospitality and generosity everyone showed one another this time of year.

"Dot was so accommodat-

Please see Brits, page A2

Leaking pool cancels recreation programs

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The Cape May City Recreation Department has faced some big challenges in recent months due to a decreased staff and the temporary loss of the Cape May Elementary School pool, which is used in numerous aquatic programs.

Michael Chait, Assistant Director of Marketing for the city, said former Recreation

Program Coordinator Jean Whalen left the city a few weeks ago for a position at the Cape May County Zoo. City Manager Bruce MacLeod said there have been other staff losses as well and the city will need to begin hiring.

"At a certain point we're going to have to bring in additional staff," he said. "(Whalen) was an important part of the recreation depart-

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