



House of the Week, B1



LCMR
Girls beat
Absegami
Page B2



Murder
Mystery
Weekend, B6



Cape May Star and Wave

158TH YEAR NO. 51 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, December 19, 2012 50¢

Decorative pumpkins from mall not wasted

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Rocky the Siberian tiger and other animals at the Cape May County Zoo received pump-

kin as playthings or food items thanks to a contribution from the Washington Street Mall Management Company.

The WSMCC is the administering board established for the city's Business Improvement District (BID). Each holiday season the BID decorates the mall with traditional colors and



vegetation. Leading up to Thanksgiving, that meant there were pumpkins, cornstalks and straw as part of the holiday displays.

According to the BID's Board of Trustees Chairman Joanne Klineberger, when

it came time to take down the Thanksgiving decorations, board members Cindy Huf and Hilary Prichard contacted the Cape May County Zoo to see if there was anything they could use.

"They sent a truck and picked up all the pumpkins

Please see Mall, page A2



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

'We Wish You a Merry Christmas'

CAPE MAY – Carolers strolled around the Washington Street Mall entertaining visitors on Dec. 7, one of two Hospitality Nights on the mall. The carolers were made up of the Town Crier Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape May.

Captains honored for aid given during boat fire

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Capt. Scott Neeld and Capt. Jack Moran of Sea Tow Cape May were recently awarded citations for brave actions taken on July 1, when they helped prevent catastrophic property damage during a boat fire at the Avalon Marine Center.

Neeld and Moran were awarded Sea Tow citations for "Efforts Above and Beyond," an honor bestowed upon members of the Sea Tow network who participate in an operational event or incident, including a rescue or community program that brings great credit to the Sea Tow franchise and network.

Moran said around 11:30 a.m. on July 1, a Good Samaritan put out a distress call over the radio reporting an explosion at the Avalon Marine Center. The explosion came from the fuel tanks of a 20-foot, center console fishing boat, which had ignited. There were two individuals aboard at the time. Moran said he notified Neeld, an Avalon Sea Tow captain, who lives on a trawler bus just a few boat slips from the fuel dock where the explosion occurred. According to Moran, Neeld was already responding to the incident when they spoke.

"He actually felt the explosion," Moran said of Neeld.

Neeld boarded his Sea Tow vessel and arrived on the scene just moments after the explosion. The two boat passengers suffered burns, but made it off the vessel and were being treated ashore. Neeld and the marina manager sprang into action, try-



Photo courtesy of Capt. Jack Moran

AVALON – Capt. Scott Neeld of Sea Tow attempts to extinguish a boat fire near the Avalon Marine Center, which occurred on July 1. Neeld and Capt. Jack Moran were given Sea Tow citations for "Efforts Above and Beyond" their duties.

ing to free the burning boat from its anchor line to move it away from the dock. With five to 10-knot winds blowing against the dock, the boat wouldn't drift from the marina to open water on its own. Neeld quickly hooked up a tow line and dragged the boat to a sandbar about 500 feet north of the fuel dock.

Moran said Neeld's actions prevented a potentially disastrous situation and kept people, other boats, and the marina out of harm's way.

"On a fuel dock like that... the Avalon Marine Center is a pretty big marina. I'm personal friends with the owner and he just put all new docks around the entire place, so that could have been a disaster if the fire ignited those too," Moran said.

Moran said driving from Cape May to Avalon with a trailer full of equipment hooked to the back of his pickup truck, his response time was around 20 minutes. When he arrived, Neeld was

keeping the fire at bay with a water hose as the Avalon Fire Department boat was just arriving on scene.

"Water doesn't help much with a large gasoline fire – you need (fire-fighting) foam to completely extinguish it," Moran said. "There's only so much you can do with the equipment you have."

He said the fire department boat's pump wasn't working, which forced Neeld to keep

Please see Fire, page A2

LT council honors citizens

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Lower Township Council honored dozens of people Monday night, including the 26 players of the Lower Township Raiders football team.

The Raiders recorded an undefeated season and Cape May County Junior Football League championship.

The Raiders had a 12-0 regular season, and won three playoff games, culminat-

ing in a 29-18 win over Egg Harbor Township, Nov. 24.

"They are a Rec Department team, and we are grateful for the support the town gives the Rec Department," said Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare, who is an assistant coach for the Raiders and father of one of the players.

The CMCJFL includes teams from Atlantic, Cumberland and Cape May Counties. Most of the Raiders players are from the

Please see Honor, page A2

Geyer resigns as commissioner

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – Ramsey Geyer officially resigned from the Board of Commissioners Dec. 14, leaving Mayor Pam Kaithern and Deputy Mayor Peter Burke less than a month to appoint a new commissioner before a special election is neces-

sary. At the Dec. 12 regular commissioners meeting, Geyer, who served as public safety commissioner, thanked the public for allowing him to serve West Cape May for the past two and a half years. Geyer said he has been a strong supporter of the Volunteer

Please see Resign, page A7

Fire company needs truck

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – The borough's Volunteer Fire Company has requested funding in order to add a new pump truck to its fleet, which according to Deputy Chief Steve Nelson would cost in the range of \$480,000 to \$500,000.

At the Dec. 12 regular meeting, Nelson and Fire Chief Chuck McPherson made a case for their proposal to the Board of Commissioners.

Nelson said the fire company's lead truck was purchased in January 1993, making it nearly 20 years old, while the second truck used for response calls was bought in 1978.

He said the first truck out is the most critical piece of equipment the company has and "must be dependable." He said the vehicle required \$5,000 in repairs this year alone and was out of service for a total five weeks last

Please see Truck, page A7



WASHINGTON INN

Open December 21st, 22nd, and 26th - 31st • Serving dinner from 5pm

Merry
Christmas

THE WINE BAR

Five for Friday

\$5

sliders
glasses of wine
appetizers specials

5 GREAT SPECIALS FOR \$5 EACH

801 WASHINGTON STREET • 609-884-5697 • WWW.WASHINGTONINN.COM