



House of the Week, B1



Defense will be key for Cape Tigers, B2



Christmas Frank with MAC, ELTC, B6



# Cape May Star and Wave

158TH YEAR NO. 49 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, December 5, 2012 50¢

## Naval Air Station – Wildwood Museum damaged by Sandy

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – The Annual Giving Campaign at Naval Air Station Wildwood this year will be dedicated to repairing damage sustained by the historic hangar during

lems,” he said. “They have to be custom built. We can’t go to Home Depot or Lowe’s, unfortunately. It’s pretty labor intensive.”

He said two sections of protective coating on the roof, which was redone during a prior Annual Giving



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, workers attempt repairs on damaged windows at Naval Air Station-Wildwood. The windows were damaged during Hurricane Sandy.

Hurricane Sandy. The cleanup and rebuilding process began on Halloween Day, after the World War II hangar experienced some roof damage, mangled metal flashing and multiple broken windows and frames. Aviation Museum Director Bruce Fournier said because the hangar is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the replacements must be custom built 16 light windows correct to the period, which will cost around \$40,000. “There’s over 4,000 windows around the hangar – so strong wind and birds are usually the biggest prob-

Campaign, were peeled back during the hurricane and need to be repaired. Fournier said there is also metal flashing on the northeast side of the hangar that was also substantially damaged. Those projects will cost anywhere between \$60,000 and \$100,000, he said. “It could have been much worse. Overall we were lucky, we’re not complaining,” he said. “But being out in this wide open area, we’re more susceptible to wind damage, especially to the windows.” Fournier said many were curious as to why the non-profit aviation museum

Please see NASW, page A2



Photo by Frank Scott

## ‘Tis the season to be jolly

WEST CAPE MAY – The big red one, the “right jolly old elf,” Santa Claus, made his annual appearance at the West Cape May Community Christmas Parade, Dec. 1. There were 165 entrants in this year’s parade, which begins on Broadway and winds around the Washington Street Mall to Ocean Street. See more photos of the parade on page A12, and photos of other holiday events on page A10.

## WCM must clean up old underground tank sites

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – Remington and Vernick Engineers and Associates recently sent a letter to the borough proposing to perform environmental engineering services on four underground storage tank sites at a cost of \$10,750.

According to the Remington and Vernick letter, in August 2000 the borough removed several underground storage tanks (UST) after holes were found in them. Based on the observations, the state Department of Environmental Protection

(NJDEP) was notified. Remington and Vernick said it was not retained as the borough’s engineering firm at the time of the UST closure; therefore, the firm prepared no report on the UST closure, and ultimately no reports were submitted to the NJDEP.

The letter says even though there were holes in the tanks, the post-excavation soil testing did not indicate any soil contamination. However, in order to close out the case, a Licensed State Remediation Professional (LSRP) will be responsible for assuring compliance with all NJDEP rules and regulations.

“Once all of the outstanding issues are resolved, the LSRP will prepare both a Site Investigation Report (SIR) documenting compliance with all appropriate regulations and remediation standards, and a Response Action Outcome (RAO) to bring the site to closure,” the letter says.

Borough Clerk Elaine Wallace said West Cape May also received a letter from the state saying the borough was not in compliance with NJDEP regulations.

Paul Kenny of Remington and Vernick is a LSRP and will be assigned to the borough to handle the case. The

firm recommends several steps to completing the process.

Based on the incident discovery 12 years ago, it is unlikely required documentation such as clean fill certification, disposal slips, liquid disposal manifests and other information can be obtained. Remington and Vernick claims it can certify the proper closure of the tanks, as representatives oversaw the process. However, the backfill used to fill the excavations is of unknown quality, thus samples will need to be taken

Please see Tanks, page A2

## Women’s holiday socks are needed

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COUNTY – I was approached via email by the founders of an organization called Socks for Seniors. I opened the email and learned they were looking for area coordinators for their program.

The program seemed simple enough – they look for people to collect holiday socks, novelty socks, or socks with bright colors or patterns – fun socks that would brighten the wearer’s mood. Once collected in your area, the socks are distributed to seniors in nursing homes in your area.

It sounded like an easy thing to do, and since I generally feel like I should be



The Star and Wave’s Christopher South with socks collected for nursing home residents, doing something to give

Please see Socks, page A2

## ALS sufferer says she is left out of evacuation plans

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

NORTH CAPE MAY – Feeling helpless in the face of danger is something we hope to never experience, but Barbara Mitchell said she was put in such a position during both Hurricane Irene and Sandy.

Mitchell was diagnosed with ALS (Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) or “Lou Gehrig’s Disease” when she was 55-years-old. At the time, she was given two to five years to live, but has miraculously battled the nerve cell-damaging disease and is now 74. She feels fortunate to have use of her voice, the ability to slightly turn her head to greet guests and enough strength in her hands to use the mouse on her computer or dial a phone. However, the rest of her body

refuses to operate normally. “Your muscles just give up working and you can’t move,” she said. “Most people with ALS lose their voice, can’t eat, can’t breathe after a few years, but I seem to be an exception. I’m lucky that I’m able to do those things.”

Mitchell has aides who visit her three times per day, helping her with tasks like getting in and out of bed, changing clothes, eating and small chores around her house. Because of her condition, she is dependent upon her aides from Bayada Nurses, Inc.

Mitchell’s friend, Gail Donaghy, said that on Wednesday, Oct. 24, four days prior to the arrival of Hurricane Sandy, she called the Bayada Home Health Care office in Cape May Court House and had Mitchell’s information forwarded to the

county Office of Emergency Management.

On Sunday prior to the storm’s arrival, Mitchell said she made a call to the Lower Township Police Department, the emergency number listed on the township website, and was told she would receive a call back but never did.

She and Donaghy called again and were told North Cape May was not a mandatory evacuation area and there was nowhere for her to go, so they would need to seek out another solution.

“We called the police department first and the woman we spoke to was very rude,” Donaghy said.

Lower Township Police Chief Brian Marker said he would have gone back through records and listened to the phone call recording, but neither Donaghy nor

Mitchell were able to recall precisely when the call was made. After hearing about Mitchell’s experience on Nov. 30, Marker said he would have her put on the “senior emergency call list” to prevent it from happening again. Mitchell said her primary concern was to evacuate so one of her aides would not be put at risk by coming to get her during the storm.

After receiving little help from anyone else, Donaghy texted Curtis Hamilton of the Lower Township Rescue Squad and explained the situation.

“I spent the whole day with her trying to figure out what we could do,” Donaghy said. “Suppose I had already evacuated and not gone to her house. She would have

Please see Plans, page A2

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