

Cape May Star and Wave

154th YEAR NO. 51 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2008 50¢



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SPORTS

Caper Tigers lose season opener but rebound in Ocean City, **A14**

YOUTH

Three make Eagle Scout in West Cape May, **A7**

OUTDOORS

The tenacity of life, **A10**

The Star and Wave wishes everyone a Happy Holiday!

DEC. TIDE TABLE

	HIGH		LOW	
	am	pm	am	pm
12/24	5:41	6:00	11:55	11:41
12/25	6:22	6:43		12:38
12/26	7:01	7:23	12:21	1:19
12/27	7:40	8:02	12:59	1:58
12/28	8:17	8:40	1:37	2:35
12/29	8:54	9:17	2:14	3:11
12/30	9:29	9:54	2:51	3:46
12/31	10:04	10:28	3:29	4:20
1st Quarter			12/5	
Full Moon			12/12	
Last Quarter			12/19	
New Moon			12/27	



Spreading holiday cheer

Above left, West Cape May sixth grader Megan Verycken tells Santa Claus she wants "moon shoes" for Christmas as part of the West Cape May Fire Department's annual visit to the school. Above right, Lower Cape May Regional High School senior Rebecca Crosson helps load one of the 84 boxes of food the school's student council collected during its annual food drive. The school has been providing holiday meals for 25 years for district families with the help of Cape May's United Methodist Church who supplies the space and the Lobster House Restaurant which yearly supplies the boxes. This year's food drive was the school's biggest in its history.



Jennifer Kopp/Cape May Star and Wave

Cape May County bridge tolls to rise Feb. 1

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COUNTY - Those coming into Cape May from Wildwood Crest will have to come up with another four-bits to cross the Middle Thoroughfare Bridge. The toll at that bridge will rise 50 cents to \$1.50 effective Feb. 1 in order to help pay off capital improvement

projects. Bridge Commission executive director Steve O'Connor said in 2005 the Bridge Commission bonded \$12 million for repairs to bridges. At the time they staggered the payments in a way that they were making payments on interest only, not the principal, trying to delay a toll increase while they went about reducing operating

costs. "And we did that. We shut down toll collection when it was not profitable, for example, at the Grassy Sound Bridge," he said. "We tried to reduce manpower when it was not profitable." O'Connor said the Townsends Inlet Bridge has to be manned because it is a drawbridge, but they have received approval to shut

down the Corson's Inlet Bridge during slow periods and man it only at profitable times. "We've gone a long way to reduce operating costs," O'Connor said. "We've reduced man-hours, made one-way tolls and reduced nine full time positions and 10-12 part-time seasonal positions." O'Connor said the goal was

to reduce operating costs as much as possible before raising tolls. The principal is now due on outstanding bonds, and according to O'Connor, the toll increase all goes to paying debt service. "We didn't want increased tolls to go to salaries and wages. It will all be for debt

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New history column to appear in Star and Wave

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Although it seems like an oxymoron to say it, the Cape May Star and Wave is introducing a "new history column" to begin with the Jan. 8, 2009 edition. Robert W. Elwell Sr., who has been writing a history column locally for the past eight years, will write a column on Cape May area history, events and people, titled "Days Gone By."

Elwell is uniquely qualified to write a Cape May-centered history column because he has a lot of personal history in the town, starting with his own birth. Elwell was born at home on Corgie Street during the Second World War. "When I say born in Cape May, I mean really in Cape May - not at Burdette," he said, referring to the Burdette Tomlin Memorial Hospital, now Cape Regional Medical Center. "During the war they would not take the ambulance out of town because of gas

rationing, unless it was life threatening," he said. "The closest hospital was Somers Point, so I was born at home." Elwell said he is a fourth generation Cape Mayan and he has always been interested in the history of the town. He is a 1960 graduate of Cape May High School, the last graduating class before opening the regional high school. He joined the Cape May Police Department in 1964 and reached the rank of detective sergeant. In 1974, he said, Cape May County received a federal grant for a Narcotics Strike Force (now

Narcotics Task Force) and he was detached from the Cape May police to serve on that force. He was later asked to work for the Prosecutor's Office as a detective. He retired in 1989 after reaching the rank of captain of detectives. After retirement, the chairman of his church's building committee died and Elwell took over that position, helping to see the construction of a social hall at the Cape May United Methodist Church. In 1990 Elwell ran for city council and served for 10 years, sic of them as mayor.

"In 2000 my wife said 'You've had enough of that,' so I didn't run," he said. Elwell met his wife, Jane, when he was a lifeguard and she was working at the old Lafayette Hotel. In 2000 Elwell started his next venture, which was his history column. "Being born and raised in Cape May, I'm like the fourth generation, I always had a thing about history, and especially Cape May history. Somehow, after going out of office I thought I needed to do

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Soldiers visit Star of the Sea

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Two soldiers serving in Iraq visited Our Lady Star of the Sea Regional School, Tuesday, to greet their student pen-pals. Mike Beck's seventh grade class adopted Specialists Sean and Brandy Glynn as "one of their very own" in a proclamation the class made Oct. 16. The proclamation goes on to say their fervent prayer is for the Glynn's to someday walk through the door of the school and say hello to them. That happened Tuesday when the couple attended a special Christmas presentation for the entire school. The Glynn's are on leave from duty in Ad-diwanayah, Iraq, where they serve with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Special Troops Battalion. Sean is a medic and Brandy a supply specialist, supporting military police in Iraq. The military police, they

said, are training and supporting the Iraqi police. The couple shares a CHU - containerized housing unit - where they are stationed in Iraq, about an hour south of Baghdad by helicopter. Before being deployed, the couple was at Fort Carson, Colo., and they will spend some time there before heading back to Iraq, Jan. 7. They said getting mail from the students was very special because mail is something soldiers overseas value very highly. "It means a lot because we don't get to talk to our families often, and it means a lot to get a few words from home, to hear that people support us," Sean said. "Getting mail is one of the highlights of the day. You check your mail, get to open a piece of mail from people back home, it kind of makes your day." The troops also share things they receive in the mail. "Fudge, cards, cookies...we share it," Brandy said.

"I bring it to work and put it out. We offer it to patients," Sean said. The troops also set up a little Christmas tree to instill some holiday spirit. They said the army makes an effort to see the troops enjoy the holidays as much as possible. For Thanksgiving there was a big meal, and the line servers "put on nicer hats," Sean said. "You could eat as much as you wanted," he said. "On special holidays they always set up a memorial table with a plate with lemon and salt," Brandy said. The elements are part of a POW/MIA remembrance ceremony. The lemon signifies the bitter fate if all are not brought home - the salt represents the tears of the families as they wait for the return of the missing. The Glynn's were able to return and greet the students, as they had wished. Sean is the grandson of Tom Glynn, a World War II navy

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Brandy and Sean Glynn, shown with Sean's grandfather, Tom, were honored at a program at Our Lady Star of the Sea School while on leave from Iraq.

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