

# Cape May Star and Wave

161ST YEAR NO. 50 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2015 75¢



## HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Page B1



## SUZY SNOWFLAKE DESERVES RETURN TO PROMINENCE

Page A7



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

## Jolly St. Nick arrives in Cape May

Santa Claus arrives on a fire engine at the end of the 50th annual West Cape May Christmas Parade on Dec. 5. The parade was dedicated to its founders, Charlotte Daily and Dot Burton. **See more photos on A2.**

## Feasibility study on beach slope fix due Dec. 15

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City engineer Tom Thornton is scheduled to present a feasibility study with a cost estimate at City Council's Dec. 15 meeting. The study will determine what steps could be taken to eliminate a sharp drop off along the waterline of Cape May beaches due to sand replenishment.

Known as a beach slope or shorebreak, the drop off may have been responsible for more than 200 spinal injuries that have taken place on the city's beaches since 2001. In November, Thornton, of Hatch Mott MacDonald, requested a two-week extension.

At a Dec. 1 council meeting, Thornton said it was more difficult than he expected to get documents from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as they were "not just something they could pull out of a drawer."

"We also had more of a delay than we thought getting the grain size analysis from Stockton, but we do have those now, so we're reviewing those, getting ready to start the modeling," he said.

He said the study would include an assessment of what causes the shape of the wave that's breaking in Cape May.

"We're looking at the grain size, which is a known con-

tributing factor to a steeper beach," he said.

The study will include a recommendation for a pilot project to modify the beach in one area to observe changes from the modification, he said, adding that the study would also address whether it is cost-effective and feasible to undertake such a project.

Mayor Edward Mahaney said there was discussion of a pilot program at council's last meeting and "having a pilot project was not the direction the city wants to go in, so we should have a discussion on that before the study is finished."

"We've assured the public we're not going in that direction," he said.

The mayor said there hasn't been any direct replenishment of a beach below Wilmington Avenue since the initial replenishment in 1990. He said other beaches are fed by the sand that drifts down from the Coast Guard beach, which receives sand from an offshore dredge.

"There isn't any sand that's pushed up on the beach," Mahaney said. "The sand that's pushed up on the beach is the result of storms."

Thornton said the study would also describe what type of permitting would be required for a beach-modification project.

## Former county health worker among Calif. shooting victims

By ERIC AVEDESSIAN  
Sentinel staff

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — A former Cape May County Health Department employee was one of the victims of the Dec. 2 mass shooting at a San Bernardino, Calif., public health facility.

Nicholas Thalasinis, 52, worked for the Cape May County Health Department from 1988 until 2002. During his time in Cape May County,

Thalasinis lived in Middle Township with his family.

Syed Rizwan Farook, 28, and Tashfeen Malik, 27, a husband and wife, opened fire on a holiday party attended by San Bernardino County Department of Public Health employees at the Inland Regional Center, a government-funded nonprofit agency that provides services and programs for 30,000 developmentally disabled people and their families.

The shooters killed 14 people and wounded 21 others at the party before fleeing. Both Farook and Malik were later killed by police.

Police found an arsenal of weapons, including tactical military gear, bombs and more than 4,500 rounds of ammunition at the couple's house. The FBI is officially investigating the shooting as an "act of terrorism."

See Thalasinis, Page A4

## Maud Abrams School students collect 1,000 items for soldiers

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

COLD SPRING — Students of the Maud Abrams School collected more than 1,000 items to be sent to military personnel in Afghanistan, including snacks, toiletries and Christmas cards with a personal message from the youngsters.

Cape May Court House resident Rob Seitzinger started an organization three years ago called Freedom Fighters to send care packages to troops serving in Afghanistan. On Dec. 4, he visited Anna Thompson's third-grade class to thank the children and pick up the items for shipping overseas.

"These are some of the loneliest people on Earth because they are not home, they don't have any family or friends with them and they're in harm's way," Seitzinger said. "That's part of the big reason we send the care packages, because it reminds them of home and lets the soldiers know that all of you guys are thinking about them."

He told students the U.S. has more than 11,000 people serv-



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The items, such as snacks, toiletries and Christmas cards, will be sent to troops in Afghanistan through Freedom Fighters, an organization started by Cape May Court House resident Rob Seitzinger.

ing in Afghanistan. Seitzinger said he would include photos of the students in the care packages.

"Dear troops, Merry Christmas. I want to thank you for all your hard work saving the country. You really deserve a

break. I really, really, really hope you enjoy all the stuff we gave you," student Kayla Allen wrote on the Christmas card she created.

Seitzinger said he sent 22 **See Students, Page A3**

## Holiday shoppers beware size, weight fraud

By CAROL R. EMMENS  
Special to the Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — During the holidays, we typically buy more and rush more, so it is easy to get scammed.

Michael Peeler, an inspector, and Kelly Fairclough, an investigator from the state Office of Weights and Measures, presented tips for consumers at a Dec. 2 seminar since so much of what we buy is sold by weight, volume, measure

or length.

Peeler emphasized the need to check labels. He said it is important to read the labels to ensure that it has the product name, the distributor and the manufacturer on them. For example, what does Jersey Fresh really mean?

Driving to grandma's house? Be sure you get the right price at the gas station by checking the credit versus cash prices on the street sign and at the pump. They do not

always match, and the station is required to honor the lowest price, Peeler said. He said to make sure the pump starts at zero and always get a receipt and check it against what the pump registered.

He noted frequently "a large sign is over multiple products but the products are marked separately with the lowest price item on the bottom shelf." That is decep-

See Size, weight, Page A3

## CHRISTMAS TAP TAKEOVER

DURING DECEMBER WHILE SUPPLIES LAST... RARE, UNIQUE & VERY LIMITED

Best Local Place for the Holidays  
Gift cards and lots of stocking stuffers available  
Come in for our CHRISTMAS TAP TAKEOVER

LUCKY BONES BACKWATER GRILLE

OPEN FOR LUNCH & DINNER DAILY

1200 RT. 109 SOUTH CAPE MAY, NJ • 609-884-BONE (2663) • WWW.LUCKYBONESGRILLE.COM

