

Cape May Star and Wave



159TH YEAR NO. 48 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, November 27, 2013 50¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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CHRISTMAS OPRY SUPPORTS CHRISTMAS PARADE

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USCG teaches training methods to Korean counterparts

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – After finishing up a training exercise with the 404th Civil Affairs Army (Reserve) unit in recent weeks, Coast Guard Training Center Cape May (TRACEN) took on another training opportunity with a friendly foreign Coast Guard outfit.

TRACEN Public Affairs Officer CWO Donnie Brzuska said an international delegation with seven senior members of the Republic of Korea Coast Guard was held at the Training Center on Friday, Nov. 15. The tour of the base included direct observation of recruit training, time in the classroom and a chance to sit in on a Coast Guard recruit graduation.

“Our Korean counterparts

at the Korean Coast Guard Academy visited Coast Guard Training Center Cape May to see how we train our members and determine some best practices,” he said. “They were focused solely on an introduction to the service and how the Coast Guard functions, so they can take that back and replicate it around their service.”

Brzuska said the Korean Coasties visited the USCG Training Center in Yorktown, Va., the day prior to their tour of Cape May’s base, learning the ins and outs of how the U.S. Coast Guard trains its members. He said the Korean Coast Guard functions more like a law enforcement agency rather than a military branch, but perform many of the same tasks as the American Coast Guard. Brzuska said leading the delegation was



Photo by CWO Donnie Brzuska

Members of the US Coast Guard and representatives from the Republic of Korea Coast Guard Academy discuss training methods.

Senior Superintendent Inshik Chang, whose rank is equivalent of Capt. Todd Prestidge, the commander of TRACEN. “The Korean delegation was very much focused on the

specific science, theory and tactics that we use to develop U.S. Coastguardsmen,” Brzuska said. “So, instead of spending a lot of time in the firefighting simulator, or on the range or doing tours of the facility, they were directly observing recruit training, receiving briefings on our scientific approach to recruit training. Specifically, human performance, analysis and human performance technology.”

He said Dr. Pam Pollara, a civilian employee of TRACEN, and Training Officer Cmdr. Matt Smith both gave presentations on the human performance and analysis aspects of recruit training. Brzuska said by observing this training, the officers were able to see first hand how the Coast Guard instills the courage, commitment and devotion to duty in

its members. “They were interested in how we use physical training as a tool. Our application of artificial stressors like yelling, time objectives – things that help prepare recruits emotionally through the rigors of serving in the U.S. Coast Guard so they have both the physical and mental strength they need,” he said.

Because the delegation was on base for just one day, the training needed to be broken down quickly into a step-by-step process where training is divided into five different phases: Forming, Storming, Norming, Performing and Adjourning.

Brzuska said forming refers to when the recruits first arrive at the Training Center, storming pertains to the per

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CM officer pulls man from burning vehicle

WEST CAPE MAY – On Nov. 25, at 6:04 p.m. Cape May Police Department responded to a 9-1-1 call reporting a car on fire on Sunset Blvd. in West Cape May. The caller reported that she believed the car to be occupied.

The first officer on location, Ptlm. Scott Krissinger, confirmed that the vehicle was on fire and was able to remove the unconscious driver from the burning and smoke-filled vehicle, a 2005 Chevrolet Colorado pickup truck, and drag him to safety.

Officer Krissinger then returned to the burning vehicle to search for any additional occupants and was able to determine that the driver was the only occupant.

The driver, identified as Gerald K. Ferrill, 61, of Mays Landing, was transported by

Cape May Fire Department EMS to a medavac site in Cape May where he was airlifted for medical attention.

An eyewitness reported that prior to the fire, the truck was being driven on Sunset Boulevard near Broadway with a flat tire and loud sounds were coming from the engine area of the truck.

The Cape May County Fire Marshall’s Office, the West Cape May Fire Department, the Cape May Police Department and the Detective Unit are investigating the incident and subsequent fire.

Assisting agencies that responded to the scene or provided coverage assistance were: Cape May Fire Department, Cape May Fire Police and USCG TRACEN Fire Department.



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Congress Hall Christmas Tree donated from N. Cape May

Above, workers secure a 32-foot blue spruce donated by Fredrick and Josephine Brinkman, Adriatic Avenue, North Cape May, to Congress Hall as their 2013 Christmas Tree, which will be lighted on Friday, Dec. 6. The tree has a twin still standing. Will it be the 2014 Congress Hall Christmas Tree? Find out next year. See more photos on page A12.

‘E is for Erik’ aims to help children learn

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
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LOWER TOWNSHIP – Numerous studies have confirmed that music can enhance a child’s learning process, which is why Erik Simonsen has taken his passion for both education and music to reinforce that correlation.

Simonsen, a local singer/songwriter and assistant principal at the Richard M. Teitelman Middle School, just released an album called “E is for Erik” – a compilation of 12 songs covering an array of subjects including language arts, math, science, tolerance, civil rights, culture and social skills.

“Music is such a great com-

munication tool,” he said. “There’s a lot of different stuff in the songs for kids to learn – everything from counting songs, interactive songs for kids that need physical therapy, simple life lessons and even tolerance, like civil rights. It’s just things I knew would catch the kids attention.”

Through the years, Simonsen has performed with They Might Be Giants (Disney), Nils Lofgren (The E Street Band), Edwin McCain, Jewel and other renowned artists. He has been featured on compilation albums with Bon Jovi, Bruce Springsteen, George Thorogood and more. He is best known as a singer/

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Solicitor offers committee definition of ‘resort houses’

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
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CAPE MAY – Because the term “resort home” does not exist in the city codebook, City Solicitor Tony Monzo has drafted a proposed definition, which refers to these structures as “dwelling units” used for other than habitable purposes.

At Monday’s meeting of the Resort Home Advisory Committee, Monzo presented the definition to the committee for them to consider. At this, the committee’s second meeting, Monzo said he created a definition for a

resort home based off what was discussed at the first meeting, held on Nov. 15. He said he used the term dwelling unit because it is defined in the city codebook. He said his definition of resort house limited the use of the term for larger events and does not include smaller gatherings at a vacation rental.

“A resort house is a dwelling unit that is used, maintained and/or advertised as a destination location for a gathering of an excessive number of guests who are not using the structure for habitable purposes or are using it primarily for func-

tions and special events, including, but not limited to, weddings, retreats, parties and meetings,” he said. “For the purposes of this definition, an excessive number of guests shall be reached when the total number of occupants at the property, which includes both inside and/or outside the structure, exceeds four times the number of bedrooms.”

Along with that definition, Monzo said a dwelling unit that is used for such functions and special events by the owners or tenants who occupy the structure as a primary residence is not

considered a resort house.

He said his calculation of the occupancy limit of exceeding four times the number of bedrooms was simply a “discussion point” for the committee to work off of, as was the rest of the definition he drafted. Monzo said the committee will also still need to discuss the issues, current ordinances and the possible implementation of ordinances regarding parking, noise, zoning, permits and alcoholic beverage consumption as they apply to these resort homes.

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