

# Cape May Star and Wave



159TH YEAR NO. 31 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, July 31, 2013 50¢



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## Sunset Parades are a Coast Guard Tradition at Cape May Training Center

By **CAIN CHAMBERLIN**  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

CAPE MAY – The U.S. Coast Guard Training Center-Cape May (TRACEN) will be hosting a Sunset Parade on Sunday, Aug. 4 in conjunction with “Coast Guard Day,” an annual celebration of the service’s birth.

Sunday will mark the 223rd anniversary of the U.S. Coast Guard. Cmdr. Owen Gibbons, executive officer at TRACEN, said the history of the service is somewhat complicated because the modern day Coast Guard we know

today is the collaboration of five federal agencies.

These agencies, the Revenue Cutter Service, the Lighthouse Service, the Steamboat Inspection Service, the Bureau of Navigation, and the Lifesaving Service, were originally independent, but had overlapping authorities. The first of these agencies was the Revenue Cutter Service, established by the U.S. Department of the Treasury on Aug. 4, 1790, which is now considered to be the birthdate of the Coast Guard.



Photos by **CWO Donnie Brzuska, USCG**

Coast Guard members demonstrate a rifle drill during a recent Sunset Parade at US Coast Guard Training Center-Cape May.

“We still call our ships ‘cutters’ in recognition of the Revenue Cutter Service we evolved from,” Owens said.

The military branch was not officially known as the U.S. Coast Guard until January

1915, when the U.S. Congress merged the five agencies together. Owens said Coast Guard Day is celebrated at the Training Center annually.

“We use (Coast Guard Day) every year to reconnect with the heritage of service to our nation. We do that in a bunch of different ways,” Owens said. “One of the ways we celebrate here at Training Center Cape May is by opening our doors and putting on a Sunset Parade that allows the public to come in and be

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## West Cape May hears about energy aggregate

By **CHRISTOPHER SOUTH**  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

WEST CAPE MAY – The West Cape May Board of Commissioners heard from representatives of Commercial Utility Consultants, who are proposing to assist West Cape May in joining a third party electricity provider to reduce household electrical costs.

John Fish of Commercial Utility Consultants explained the process by which CUC would help set up a contract between the borough and a third-party electricity provider. The underlining principle is borough residents would end up getting a cheaper rate than they are currently getting with Atlantic City Electric.

Fish said CUC is trying to create an energy aggregate of about 30,000 electrical meters (customers) to enter into an agreement with a third-party electricity supplier. The aggregate includes more than one municipality, and Fish said by bringing West Cape May into an aggregate currently being formed it would be around 30,000 meters. He said West Cape May has about 1,000 meters to add to the aggregate to reach the 30,000 mark.

Fish said in 1999 the power

supply industry was deregulated, which allowed customers to search for third party suppliers. He said in deregulation, power generation and power supply became separate. According to Fish, Atlantic City Electric is not a power generator, only a power supplier, as are the third party suppliers. Since 1999, he said, New Jersey residents have had the right to choose any power supplier, but only about 15 percent of residents made a change from their primary supplier.

Fish said the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) became concerned that customers were not making the switch, and third party suppliers would eventually leave New Jersey, making deregulation effectively null and void. In 2003, the BPU said rather than individuals, entire communities could band together and get a commercial rate based on Title 14 (July 2012).

Fish said most municipalities already belong to a group for buying power, saying the Borough of West Cape May belonged to the South Jersey Power Cooperative. He said what they were proposing was to bring the residents into a third party, energy aggregate to allow them to

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Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

### A man walked into Cape May...

Above, Aaron David Ward was one of the semi-finalists in the Cape May Comedy Festival held Saturday and Sunday in Convention Hall. Ward was joined by other prospective comedians and seasoned veterans during the two nights of comedy – a first ever event for Cape May’s new Convention Hall. **See more photos on page A12.**

## Falling to Ruane: Guarding beaches falls to family with a history

By **CAIN CHAMBERLIN**  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

CAPE MAY – If ever caught in a life-threatening situation on a Cape May beach, rest assured because there is likely a member of the Ruane family to come to your rescue.

Presently there are five Ruane family members serving on the Cape May Beach Patrol, a tradition that has been in the family for more than 40 years. Every summer, Jack Ruane welcomes practically his entire family to his home on Tranquility Drive, including his six grandchil-



dren.

Lexi Sullivan, 23, Tim Haines, 19, Sam Haines, 16, Brian Ruane, 18, and Sean Ruane, 16, all graduated from Cape May’s junior lifeguard program and now serve on the beach patrol. Tim and Sam’s younger brother, Ryan, 11, is currently enrolled in the junior lifeguard program and plans to serve on the beach patrol when he comes of age.

Tim said nearly every morning in the summer, the Ruane clan can be seen riding their bikes into Cape May and out to the beachfront for their morning beach workout and

roll call at headquarters. He said there is no better job in the world than one that allows you to keep people safe and work on your sun tan at the same time. Lifeguarding has always symbolized a strong bond between him and the rest of his family.

“We’re coworkers, roommates, best friends, cousins – we’re stuck together, but it’s cool,” he said. “It’s the best job in the world – I mean, you get to stay on the beach all day.”

“I get to see my cousins everyday, the job forces you

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