



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, snow leopard cubs, brother and sister, play in their habitat area at the Cape May County Park and Zoo. The leopards are the third litter born to the zoo's breeding pair, and it includes the first female born at the county zoo. They were shown for the first time on June 13.

## Snow leopard cubs appear in public for the first time

By KRISTEN KELLEHER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE - In North America, there are only 148 snow leopards in captivity, according to Cape May County Zoo veterinarian Dr. Alex Ernst.

The Cape May County Zoo has four of them.

Half of that quad, one female and one male cub, were born April 10, marking the third consecutive year parents Vijay and Himani have given birth to new cubs.

The parents' first two births included two males in 2010 and one male in 2011. Dr. Hubert Paluch, zoo director and head veterinarian, said, "We have our first girl," Paluch said. "It's very exciting."

Snow leopard births both in the wild and in captivity have been consistently low, Ernst said, making Himani and Vijay's success even more remarkable.

To put it in perspective, Ernst said that in captivity in

North America, in 2009, out of 43 snow leopard pairs, 13 cubs were born.

In 2010, 77 pairs were bred. Those 77 produced six snow leopard cubs. Two of them were born at the Cape May County zoo.

The number of cubs produced in the wild seems to be even less encouraging.

Ernst said that in the wild, males and females are less likely to reproduce than in captivity.

According to Snow Leopard Conservancy, between 4500 and 7500 snow leopards remain in the wild. They are native to the cool climate of the mountains of central Asia.

To help grow the species, snow leopards, in addition to other animals in danger of extinction, are part of the Association of Zoos and Aquarium's (AZA) Species Survival Program (SSP).

Participating zoos exchange a particular animal of breeding age with another zoo, to encourage captive breeding.

The Cape May County Zoo

is particularly active with snow leopards in the SSP. Snow leopards reach maturity at age two and a half, according to Vincent Sonetto, a supervising animal keeper at the Cape May County Zoo.

The cubs born at the zoo in 2010 are currently at other zoos to participate in the program.

The Cape May County Zoo also participates in the SSP with other animals, including cheetahs, lions and tigers.

Depending on their animal availability, participating zoos are as active or inactive as they chose with a breed.

The Cape May County Zoo's participating animals are marked.

"It's kind of an insurance program just in case the worse case scenario happens with animals in the wild," Ernst said.

Still, Ernst said that a challenge for the SSP program is exploring why captive breeding has been relatively unsuccess-

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## Recruits are mentored at Cape May Training Center

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - As opposed to a stern and demanding company commander, some recruits at the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center Cape May received a slightly different type of guidance last week when they were visited by company mentors.

The Coast Guard's Recruit Company Mentor Program has been used at the Training Center for over 25 years, said Lt. Cmdr. Scott Rae. He said the mentors chosen through an application process motivate the recruits and provide reassurance, as well as a small break from rigorous activity if you're a recruit in the second week of training. Rae is on the board that reviews applications to be mentors.

"We have a good selection of officers, enlisted members and units," Rae said. "They talk to the recruits about what to expect during and after boot camp. It's a benefit for the recruits and the base as a whole."

Company Mentors visit a specific company they are assigned to at least three times during boot camp, which includes being the



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, a Coast Guard company commander shows recruits how to handle the obstacle course in a special program at Training Center-Cape May.

guest speaker at graduation. In the classroom, mentors offer a realistic perspective on Coast Guard membership by sharing experiences and observations from their own careers, along with answering any questions the recruits may have.

On Saturday, June 16, Uniform 186 Company, which is a group in week five of training and just a couple of weeks from graduating, was visited by Senior Chief

Petty Officer Sean Edwards out at the Confidence Course. Edwards is stationed at the Aviation Logistics Center in Elizabeth City, N.C.

He said, since he is in aviation, he had to do homework on other tasks and positions in the Coast Guard. Edwards said he wanted to be able to answer all the questions his company of recruits might ask. He visited the com

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## Bee ordinance introduced

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP - Lower Township Council introduced an amended ordinance to regulate beekeeping, Monday, putting off a public hearing on the matter until July 2.

Council has been dealing with the issue of regulating beekeepers in the township, after receiving recommendations from the Planning Board, beekeepers, and local residents.

Township Solicitor Mike Donohue said the ordinance was tabled after its original first reading, when council expressed an interest in making amendments. State guidelines say there should be no more than three hives on a lot of less than one-quarter acre. The Planning Board recom-



Honeybees

mended only one hive on a half-acre lot, and council is seeking to compromise at two hives per half acre.

Beekeeper Gary Shemp said he wasn't certain what changes were contained in the

ordinance. Mayor Mike Beck said council changes include provisions that any hives be set back 50 feet from any school, playground or public place where children gather. In addition, they agreed to require signage to inform people bees were being kept on the property.

Councilman Glenn Douglass said public comments from the council meeting two weeks prior had been incorporated into the amendments of the ordinance.

Shemp said there were some good questions raised at the previous meeting, including one about what would happen if a hive were struck by a basketball. He said he has a dozen hives, and he tested the reaction of the bees by lobbing a basketball at a hive,

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## Last in race, first in aid to victim

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT - A man who suffered an apparent heart attack shortly after starting a 5-mile run, Saturday, might owe his life to some fellow runners.

Runner Grace Hickey was the first to come to the aid of a man who stumbled off the course after running about four blocks. Hickey said she saw the man, described as in his 60s, as looking like he pulled something before collapsing.

Darlene Beamer of Sewell was credited with performing most of the CPR on the victim before EMTs arrived. Beamer said she was an ER nurse and is now a nurse practitioner. She said it was fortunate that she and her colleagues were behind the victim in the race or the results might have turned out differently.

"I started CPR and got a pulse," she said. "But the guy was going in and out."

Beamer said through all her years in the medical profession, this is the first time she ever had to administer CPR.



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Above, Darlene Beamer (No. 123) was credited with giving CPR to a fellow runner prior to the arrival of EMTs. Beamer is shown with Coleen Feeney and Grace Hickey, who also assisted the runner.

She said it truly was a learning experience.

"I learned you have to make a decision quickly, and you have to take charge. You have to start CPR fast and hard," she said.

Beamer said judging from

a scar on the victim's chest he apparently was a cardiac patient. She said she had to maintain the CPR until the Cape May Fire and Rescue Department ambulance

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## Stevens Street residents concerned winery events will cause noise, traffic problems

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY - The Board of Commissioners is considering tweaking the borough's noise ordinance due to complaints and concerns of residents related to future operations at the Willow Creek Winery.

At the June 13 regular meeting, many residents of Stevens Street spoke during public comment and expressed their concerns about the Willow Creek Winery, which has not yet officially opened for business. Concerns mainly regarded excessive noise that might occur when the vineyard hosts large events.

During the work session, Mayor Pamela Kaithern said she brought the issue to the table based on the comments she received from borough residents. She said West Cape May currently has a basic noise ordinance. It says sound from a property cannot

exceed 50 to 65 decibels (dB) across neighboring property lines, depending on the time of day.

"I wanted to bring it back here to discuss, to see if there may be something more we need to do," she said. "If properties are hosting events that may be outdoors, is that something we want?"

Commissioner Ramsey Geyer said the noise ordinance has to cover all properties within the borough, with no exceptions, and he was concerned since many residences are within just feet of one another.

"My concern is we would craft a noise ordinance that is so focused, that we wouldn't even be able to have a small party in your own yard, because you're close to your neighbors," he said.

Borough Solicitor Frank Corrado said there are state preemptions with respect to noise ordinances and a municipal ordinance

should meet state standards. However, Geyer said he visited the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) website and found that Lower Township was the only municipality in Cape May County with a state approved noise ordinance. He said all others have been submitted and disapproved.

He said the borough has the same decibel level in its ordinance as the NJDEP standard. However, a municipality must adopt the standard and if it makes alterations resubmit it to the state. Geyer said the reason for so many disapprovals is the technicalities within the municipal ordinances.

"The difference is how (the decibel level) is measured, who measures it and all these details that have to do with the technicalities of determining how noise is generated..." Geyer said.

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