

Bezaire stripped of liaison roles on City Council

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House of the week

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RTO: New position supports all guards

By DAVID NAHAN
Cape May Star and Wave

OCEAN CITY — A new position on the Ocean City Beach Patrol this summer didn't come as a directive from above.

Instead it was devised by a pair of working lifeguards who believed their fellow guards needed someone to turn to for support and training throughout the summer.

The RTO position — Resource and Training Officer — was the brainchild of Lieutenants Holly Lesser and Samantha Vanderslice.

"Holly and I literally sat down together in May at Starbucks and created this position of the RTO," Vanderslice said. "This isn't something Allan Karas came in with or anyone. We want to make the improvements we need to make so this an awesome place to work. We had tremendous support from Allan and Mark (Jamieson, OCBP operations chief) and Matt (Garbutt), who was named captain of the patrol this year. They couldn't be any more supportive of the RTO position and our mission."

The support came in the wake of a turbulent off-season for the beach patrol. An anonymous Instagram page called "OCBP predators" sprang up in the spring featuring post after post alleging inappropriate behavior — sexist and far worse — on the beach patrol going back decades. As the Instagram page grew, the allegations spread across numerous beach patrols beyond Ocean City, more as an indictment of a toxic male culture among certain guards that has persisted along the Jersey shore.

It prompted Mayor Jay Gillian to call for an investigation, hire Karas to oversee the patrol and to hire a labor attorney to investigate the allegations and meet with female guards to get their recommendations on policy.

Lesser and Vanderslice are tenured guards. Vanderslice said she has had a good experience during her decade on the beach patrol but was aware that hasn't been the case for all female lifeguards across southern New Jersey.

They, however, saw a need that went beyond supporting women to helping all lifeguards on their patrol.

Vanderslice explained the RTO duties "would be anything from building relationships, checking in, offering bathroom breaks, water breaks, just being a resource really that's mobile. Checking on the

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Rising with the tide

More women lifeguards taking leadership roles on patrols across southern New Jersey

By DAVID NAHAN
Cape May Star and Wave

OCEAN CITY — Historically, lifeguarding has been a male-dominated profession, but times are changing. More and more women have been taking over leadership roles on beach patrols across southern New Jersey after serving for years protecting ocean-goers and working their way up the ranks.

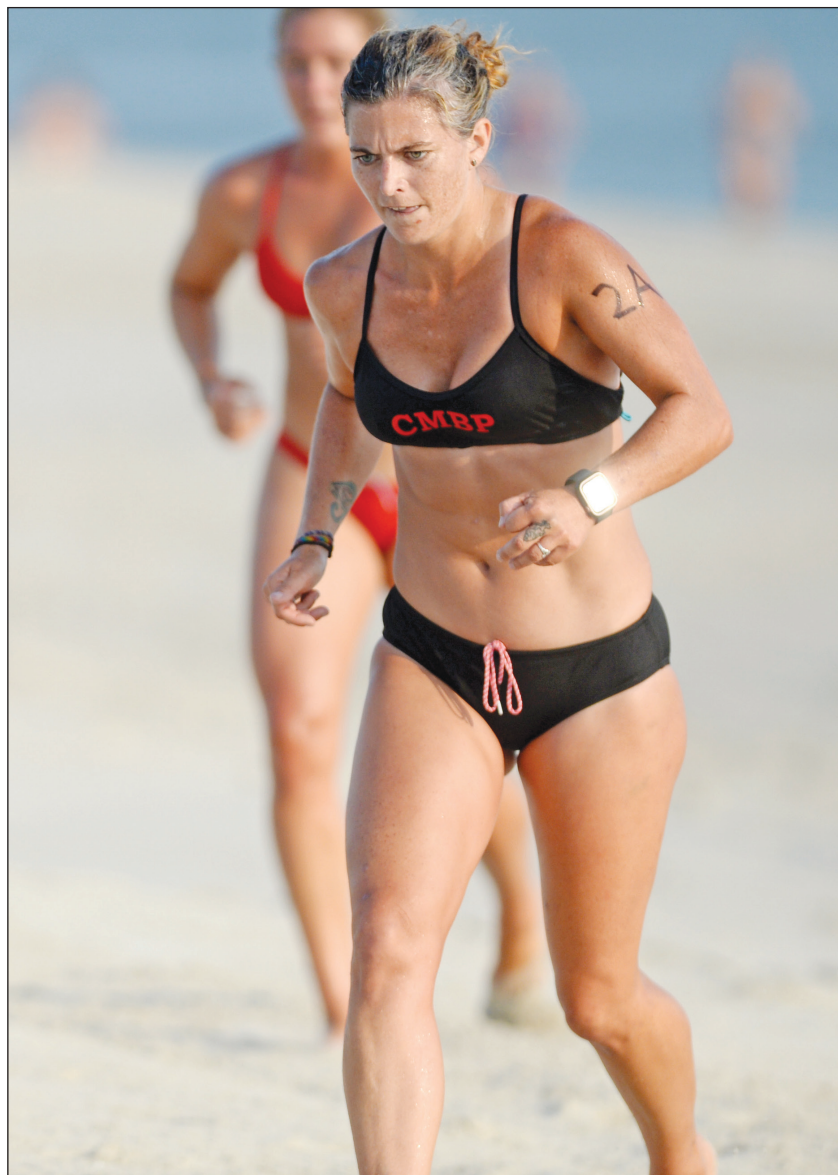
They also are serving as role models, not only for the younger women taking on the responsibility of guarding the beaches, many of them still in high school, but for the young men as well, demonstrating that competency in a job crucial to resort communities along the coast is not based on gender.

"I kind of feel like for a lot of us, we felt a need to prove ourselves or earn our keep among the guys and just show everyone we were just as capable, and as lifeguard intelligent, as could be," said Kristen Moorby, a senior guard and former lieutenant on the Cape May Point Beach Patrol. "For us, it took a little longer for us to prove that," she said. "There's been a general shift in perspective. I think along with the new youth and patrols having younger guards, and the leadership being the next generation, they're a little more open-minded. Which is excellent, obviously."

"I personally have had an incredible experience since my rookie year in 2011, which is why I keep com-

'In the past it could be hard to picture yourself rising up through the ranks if there's no one like you in that role. Now we have seven women in the administration. That's an awesome example and goal for all the young women.'

Samantha Vanderslice, OCBP resource and training officer



David Nahan/SENTINEL

Cape May Beach Patrol Lt. Sara Werner competing in the 2021 Cape May Point Beach Patrol Women's Challenge, a triathlon for female guards.

ing back," said Ocean City Beach Patrol Lt. Samantha Vanderslice, a resource and training officer (RTO). "I definitely know there are people who haven't on every single patrol. That was my motivation for coming

back every year. Even before I was an administrator I strived to bring all the women together, send a group message, have a group workout or all go out to dinner. Build that strong bond among the women on our patrol."

To increase that bond across the patrols in the South Jersey Lifeguard Chiefs Association, Ocean City hosted a one-day women's conference last month that attracted more than 50 guards from patrols including Cape May, Cape May Point, Upper Township, Sea Isle City, Ventnor and Margate.

"This year, in my new position (as RTO), I wanted to create the community even broader, with all the patrols, not just the women in Ocean City. Everyone," Vanderslice said. "I think that's a huge untapped resource having all the women get together and sharing ideas. We can make this a great place for everyone, not just the women. Men and

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—Kristen Moorby, senior guard, CMPBP



David Nahan/SENTINEL

Ventnor City Beach Patrol Lt. Meghan Holland overseeing the Bill Howarth Memorial Lifeguard Invitational in August. She has credited the late Capt. Howarth with supporting and mentoring female lifeguards during his career.

Shore real estate guru Jay Lamont dies at 76

Remembered as opinionated and knowledgeable

By CRAIG D. SCHENCK
Cape May Star and Wave

OCEAN CITY — Jay Lamont, 76, a longtime Ocean City resident, real estate adviser, radio talk-show host and founder of the Real Estate Institute at Temple University, died Aug. 21 after a long battle with cancer at Los Robles Regional Medical Center in Thousand Oaks, Calif.



LAMONT

Joe Lamont said his cousin was battling cancer and had lost a lot of weight but knew what was going on with the piping-hot real estate market in Ocean City.

"He found it hard to believe. He was still pretty sharp but his body was giving out on him," Joe Lamont said. "He was a big guy and really wasting away."

He said Lamont was well known to island real estate agents as well as the general public.

"A lot of the residents and people down here, I get asked all the time about Jay, people saying they miss his program," Joe said. "Even the agents down here ask me all the time about him. He was a big influence on a lot of people."

Lamont's radio show, "All About Real Estate," was broadcast on WPEN-AM for 31 years, from November 1978 to September 2009. Lamont shared his vast knowledge and irascible personality with callers from the greater Philadelphia metro region to the Jersey shore.

"It was like going to church, like gospel to them. People couldn't wait for Sunday to listen to him," Joe said. "He had a strong impact in the 1980s and 1990s, as well as the early part of the 2000s."

He said his cousin's teachings remain relevant today.

"A lot of his beliefs have carried on. Location, location, location — I never heard about that until he started preaching it. 'A place you rent is a house and a place you own is a home,'" Joe said.

In 1973, Lamont partnered with Temple to create the Real Estate Institute to help industry professionals succeed. He wrote real estate columns for the Philadelphia Daily

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