



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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WILDWOOD BATTLES FOR BEACH PATROL SUPREMACY

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USCG recruit dies during basic training

Va. man collapsed during physical fitness assessment, taken to Cape Regional



'Seaman Recruit Redd was only a member of the Coast Guard family for a few days but we are deeply saddened by his tragic loss. Our thoughts are with his family during this difficult time.'

-TRACEN commander Capt. Owen Gibbons

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The U.S. Coast Guard is investigating the death of a recruit after he collapsed July 1 at Coast Guard Training Center Cape May (TRACEN) following an initial physical fitness assessment.

According to a news release from the Coast Guard, Seaman Recruit Aaron Redd, 21, of Stafford, Va., collapsed after completing the 1.5-mile run portion

of his initial physical fitness assessment. Coast Guard medical personnel, who were already on-scene as part of the training center's safety protocol, immediately rendered first aid before transporting him to Cape Regional Medical Center. There, Redd received medical attention up until he died July 6. The cause of death had not been determined as of press time.

"Seaman Recruit Redd was only a member of the Coast Guard family for a few days but

we are deeply saddened by his tragic loss. Our thoughts are with his family during this difficult time," said Capt. Owen Gibbons, commanding officer of TRACEN.

He said Redd was running on a track in a 1.5-mile timed run, a test intended to establish his baseline physical fitness level to determine whether it was safe for Redd to enter the more rigorous training program that follows the assessment.

Recruits of all the armed forces undergo medical evaluations at

a Military Entrance Processing Station prior to enlistment, Gibbons said. Redd also received additional medical screenings once he arrived in Cape May in accordance with Coast Guard regulations to determine whether they meet the criteria for enlistment in the armed forces, he said.

"We can say with certainty that Seaman Recruit Redd did," Gibbons said.

He said the purpose of the ini-
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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Dome to top off Rotary Park gazebo

Workers from Burkhardt Welding continue working on the gazebo at Rotary Park on July 11. A grand opening ceremony for the refurbished park is scheduled for July 22. See story, A2

Hendricks again running for seat on City Council

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Local real estate agent and civic activist Patricia Gray Hendricks announced July 11 her candidacy for Cape May City Council.

"Cape May needs strong leaders who represent the interests of our diverse community, from our youth to our Coast Guard families, year-round residents, seniors, businesses and visitors," she said. "Our small, tightly-knit community becomes a large city 'in-season' and we must be ready to respond to all while maintaining Cape May's character and integrity."

Hendricks has been a resident of Cape May since 1988. She said she grew up traveling throughout the United States and overseas

as the daughter of a U.S. Air Force intelligence officer. Her commitment to community service was kindled early through participation in the Girls Scouts and in high school, as a student representative to her town's city council. Following graduation from George Washington University, Hendricks taught social studies in the Washington, D.C., public schools.

Hendricks was the first female commodore of the Corinthian Yacht Club of Cape May, 2015 president of the Cape May County Board of Realtors, director of the New Jersey Realtors Board of Directors and first vice president of the Cottagers Association of Cape May 2015-16. She was named Outstanding

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INSIDE

Hilary Clinton uses Atlantic City casino as backdrop to bash Trump.

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Work stoppage affects road, bridge projects countywide



File photo by Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
Traffic is backed up at the Lafayette Street Bridge during construction in April. Gov. Chris Christie's work stoppage on road and bridge projects may affect its completion.

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

TRENTON — Some Cape May County road projects are among the hundreds of road and transportation projects that shut down July 8 following an executive order issued by Gov. Chris Christie.

Christie met with the Legislature on a plan to replenish the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) by raising the gas tax by 23 cents per gallon while reducing the sales tax from 7 percent to 6 percent over the next 18 months.

The Assembly voted June 28 to approve the plan 53-

23. First Legislative District Assemblymen Bob Andrzejczak and Bruce Land, both D-Cape May, Cumberland, Atlantic, voted against raising the gas tax.

The plan received opposition in the Senate.

On June 30, Christie issued Executive Order No. 210, which orders a work stoppage temporarily of ongoing projects funded by the TTF by 11:59 p.m. July 8 for a period of at least seven days.

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (DOT) and NJ Transit were instructed to use the intervening days to assess and

prioritize the list of projects to obtain the greatest effect out of the remaining TTF funds.

According to a release from Christie's office, the plan exempts projects deemed essential for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of all citizens and will not affect projects funded through federal sources.

"Senate Democrats are clearly conflicted over how to appease their public and private-sector union masters, because their union masters also are divided over the bipartisan tax fairness solution that passed the

Assembly. The Senate's inaction ignored the benefits the package would bring to the overburdened taxpayers of New Jersey, who would benefit daily from the sales tax cut it would provide and the retirement income tax elimination for 81 percent of senior citizens," Christie said after signing the executive order. "The Senate's inaction also ignored New Jersey's necessary transportation infrastructure improvements, as well as the hundreds of private-sector workers who came to Trenton today with their jobs hanging in the

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