

Cape May Star and Wave



160TH YEAR NO. 33 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2014 75¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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KIDS COOL OFF AT NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Capt. Todd Prestidge gives a tour of Coast Guard Training Center Cape May to Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno and Freeholder Director Gerald Thornton.

Guadagno tours USCG base

Mission to gather data to keep base open in Cape May

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno toured Training Center Cape May (TRACEN) Aug. 7 along with members of a task force gathering information to help keep military bases operating in the state.

Guadagno said the mission of the state Military Installation Growth and Development Task Force was to involve stakeholders in the outcome

of what could be military downsizing. Stakeholders include local officials and base personnel, she said.

"We'll be back to talk to the businesses that surround the area," Guadagno said.

A second part of the task force's mission is to try to fortify the bases against any potential downsizing, she said.

"The third is to make sure the missions of the bases are consistent with the Department of Defense, so that we

can ensure the continued existence of these bases in New Jersey," Guadagno said.

She said military bases represent about \$9.6 billion of the state's economy and 73,000 jobs.

"We can't afford to have any base close in New Jersey, and that's what we're trying to avoid by touring the bases now and making a recommendation to Gov. (Chris) Christie about how we can make sure these bases stay strong going

into the 21st century," Guadagno said.

Capt. Todd Prestidge, commanding officer of TRACEN, said his goal for Guadagno's visit was to showcase the mission of the base from a Coast Guard perspective.

"We call this the Coast Guard's hometown, because 80 percent of our workforce starts right here," Prestidge said. "It has been that way

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West Cape May files action vs. Willow Creek

Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — The borough has filed a declaratory judgment action against Willow Creek Winery, seeking to enforce a recent amendment to the Right to Farm Act that prohibits preserved farm wineries from hosting weddings or other "special-occasion events" unless certain conditions are met.

The amendments, adopted July 2, direct the state Agricultural Development Committee to establish a pilot program for special-occasion events subject to 11 enumerated conditions, including municipal site plan review and approval.

According to a news release from West Cape May, Willow Creek Winery, a preserved farm, has indicated that it will continue to hold weddings and other special-occasion events on its premises despite its failure to comply with any of the newly enacted statutory conditions.

"This is about compliance with the law," Mayor Pamela Kaithern stated in a news release. "While West Cape May welcomes wineries and agricultural tourism within its borders, it is imperative that these activities be conducted in accordance with the law and in a way that properly balances the state's interest in agricultural tourism with

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John Cooke/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Rough surf last week resulting from Tropical Storm Bertha far offshore resulted in a number of people suffering C-Spine injuries Aug. 4-6 in Cape May.

Big waves batter bathers

Several suffer cervical, neck and spine injuries in Cape May

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Rough surf and rip currents from Tropical Storm Bertha caused a number of cervical, neck and spine (C-spine) injuries to swimmers and bathers here Aug. 5-7.

Capt. Buzz Mogck of the Cape May Beach Patrol said waves were big and lifeguards were very busy Aug. 5 and 6.

"Mostly all injuries were in the surf. There were hardly any rescues," he said. "The undertow wasn't that bad, it was just that the waves were so big."

Large waves from Bertha arrived before the storm paralleled our coast, Mogck said.

Big waves cause erosion, which accentuates the slope of

'Unfortunately, it doesn't take much of a swell with the way the shore break is to injure people that are not familiar with it.'

— Chief Alex Coulter, Cape May Fire Department

the beach, he said. "In high tide, they're riding their boogie boards in the waves and they run right into that shelf," Mogck said.

He said most of those injured in the surf were out-of-town visitors. Mogck said the beach patrol never knows if the injuries are serious or minor. Those injured in the surf are turned over to emergency medical technicians.

Cape May Fire Department Chief Alex Coulter said that

from Aug. 4-6, the department had 12 surf-related injuries, with 10 transported to the hospital and one person with a dislocated shoulder due to surf conditions.

"Unfortunately, it doesn't take much of a swell with the way the shore break is to injure people that are not familiar with it," Coulter said.

He said body surfing in 1 foot of water is not a good idea.

Sharp drop-offs at the shoreline, called a shore break, were

thought to be responsible for a number of injuries to body surfers and boogie board riders who run into a wall of sand. Cape May's beaches have been replenished with sand from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers since 1999. Replenished beaches have been the sites of C-Spine injuries in several states.

Beginning in March 2010, the city began distributing a beach safety brochure explaining shore breaks and other hazards. City Manager Bruce MacLeod told said the brochures are distributed along the beachfront by beach taggers and at kiosks on the Promenade.

He said C-Spine injuries have

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Report: LTMUA plant in need of long-term repair

By BETTY WUND
Special to the Star and Wave

VILLAS — Does the Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority (MUA) have a plan, and why hasn't a plan been in place for the last five years?

That was the question asked repeatedly of the MUA's Board of Commissioners at an Aug. 6 meeting. Lower Township Deputy Mayor Norris Clark and Councilmen Tom Conrad and Jim Neville were in attendance, as were Township Manager Mike Voll and independent council candidates for the November election Glenn Douglass and Johnny Walker.

Although the board tried to give evidence of improvements over the last five years, a report from MUA acting Director and Superintendent Craig Loper showed otherwise. A presentation by crew supervisor Mark Johnson added to Loper's report.

Loper, with the MUA three years, listed all the replacement and emergency repairs done to the sewer pipes in the past month in his report. He also listed the upgrades

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