

Kerri

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High School. She is going to be home for three weeks, and be going to New York where she will serve as an escort for a family of a fallen military member.

Numbers has not been a stranger to the dangers of war while stationed in Afghanistan. She said she was told a vehicle in which she was riding was shot at, but she didn't know it at the time.

She said a VBIED (vehicle borne improvised-explosive device) exploded at the gate of NATO Headquarters just before she arrived at the scene.

Numbers enlisted in the US Army to become an MP on March 20, 2008. She finished her basic training and AIT at Fort Leonard Wood Missouri and in August 2008 was assigned to the 554th Military Police Company in Stuttgart, Germany. She was then cho-

sen to be a member of the Person Security Detachment for McChrystal.

Numbers is expected to go before the sergeants board when she returns to her unit in Germany. Numbers plans to stay an MP and make the military her career. She said as a female, being an MP brings her closer to the action than any other job description.

"And I want to be out there. I want to be at a base that gets

deployed a lot," she said.

Kerri is the youngest of four daughters.

"We are proud of all our kids," her father said, who said he wished he could do a tour in Afghanistan.

Numbers was a member of the 253rd Transportation Company of the Army National Guard, which is headquartered in Cape May Court House. A volunteer fireman at Townbank, Numbers said when the

World Trade Center was attacked on Sept. 11, 2001 he wanted to be involved.

"I tried to enlist but they said I was too old," he said.

Bill Howard, commander of VFW Post 5343, said the VFW members are honored and committed to helping any veterans and especially those serving on active duty overseas. The post currently supports military members, sending them care packages. Howard said for him it's a

matter of returning a favor.

"I was in the desert in 2005-2006, and I know what people did for me," Howard said.

While she is here, Numbers will celebrate her 22nd birthday, which is on July 6. Other than that, all she is looking forward to is spending time at the beach.

And eating banana ice cream.

Meeting

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Kurkowski said, is to downsize the new Convention Hall to keep it under the \$10.5 million already bonded for the project.

Kurkowski said, unfortunately for him because his term is ending, significant information has only been recently available, including a Temple University study on the viability of the Convention Hall plan.

"A lot of times you can't tell what it will be like until the cake is baked and out of the oven," he said.

Kurkowski said a lot of the information and the work done on the Convention Hall project was done out of the public view. He said it was just recently the city had data and costs for the project available, as well as the Temple study.

"I felt we ought to have a meeting and lay it all out

there. I have no vote on the project, but the information deserves to be out there and in the public knowledge, so we decided to go ahead with the meeting," he said.

Kurkowski said all the information the city now has on the project came at a cost to the taxpayers, who he said own it.

"It belongs to the public," he said.

Kurkowski said he thinks tonight's meeting should prove to be very interesting, but he has no idea how it will turn out. He said he would be attending the meeting, as will other council members and council-elect, but he would be sitting in the audience.

"I might give my opinion on the project, but I would give my opinion as a citizen," he said.

Kurkowski said he would have to see what sentiment is being expressed before he offers his opinion. From the

tone of his Letter to the Editor, Kurkowski favors proceeding with the current plan.

"People have the idea you could go with the original footprint and save money, and do it in a week or two," he said. "That's not necessarily true."

Kurkowski said Steve Markley, a consultant with Hunter Martin and Associates, an engineering consulting firm, said labor and material costs will be 10 percent higher a year from now.

"It's more complicated than saying 'Just go smaller.' You might not go cheaper," Kurkowski said.

Kurkowski said the city has missed opportunities to raise revenue by booking Convention Hall, and the consultants say there would be a new demand for bookings in the fall - a demand that cannot be met. Kurkowski said

the city now had definite bids on the project but would need more money to fund the project. The city received nine bids earlier this month but has taken no action on them, leaving the decision to the new council, which will be sworn in July 1.

Kurkowski feels if council decides to go another direction the city will end up with less of a building at a higher cost.

"That was why I was pushing for the meeting," he said.

The current design is expected to take 14 months from the beginning of construction. Demolition could begin after Labor Day, but the next phase is the geothermal work, which is mainly under ground, so the new construction won't be apparent for some time. Kurkowski said it would then take 14 months from the time the construction begins. The demolition and construction,

he said, would be delayed if another plan is created. He said designs would have to be drawn up and the city would again have to apply for a CAFRA permit with the new design.

"Getting another CAFRA permit would take six months," Kurkowski said. "Then come up with plans to go out to bid. It takes several months for an idea to be translated into a workable plan. Going from a concept to a workable plan is no easy project."

Kurkowski said there would be more money required even for a smaller project. The fee for a CAFRA permit alone is about \$20,000. He said he wants all this information to be on the table, because if it is not disclosed people will be angry when it finally comes out.

He said the Temple Study, which just became available within the last few days has

apparently come to the conclusion that the revenue forecast for the current design is quite robust.

"I think people deserve to know that," Kurkowski said. The bond cost will also be discussed, and Kurkowski believes the additional cost could be easily folded into the city's bond structure without much impact on the public.

Kurkowski said he expressed his views to Mayor Edward J. Mahaney Jr., who told him two other members of council were interested in having a town hall meeting. Interest expressed by three members of council is enough to call a meeting. Kurkowski said he is hoping for a high number of residents to attend the meeting, saying whatever their position, at least they will have all the facts.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. tonight at the Cape May City Elementary School.

Angels

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on this, there is open dialogue, and it benefits everyone," Causey said. "With all the stuff going on, the economy, and the options to go

other places, you have to make it as favorable as you can for people to come here."

Causey said the spirit of cooperation is high now in Cape May. He said an example was the recent Beach

Party sponsored by the chamber's Town Crier Committee. The event featured free live music on the beach, which gave people something to do in town. Donations were accepted and the proceeds went to helping wildlife being victimized by the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Causey said the Parking Angels are always looking for more donations and more people to volunteer to feed meters. For more information about or how you can become a Parking Angel call the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape May at 609-884-5508 or visit our website www.capemaychamber.com.

Kitchen grease fire burns New Jersey Ave. resident

CAPE MAY - The Cape May Fire Department and the US Coast Guard Fire Department were alerted to a kitchen fire at 1513 New Jersey Ave. on May 17. Initial reports were the homeowners believed they might have the fire extinguished. Upon the arrival of the CMPD it was discovered that the male occupant of the home had sustained moderate burns to his head, hands, and legs.

Fire Personnel arrived on scene and upon investigation found the kitchen had sustained moderate heat and smoke damage due to a grease fire on the stove.

The occupant attempted to extinguish the fire by moving the burning grease pot to the sink, which in turn spread the fire to the entire kitchen area and himself. The fire was under control prior to the arrival of fire personnel and the kitchen was searched for

any spread of fire.

According to Fire Chief Jerry Inderweis, a person should not attempt to move a pan with a grease fire to the sink and add water, which can cause the fire to "flame up." Inderweis said turn off the heat and cover the pan with its own lid. Without a lid, a person could wet a towel under the faucet and throw it over the pan, smothering the flames.

The burned occupant was transported by CMFD Ambulance 5197 to Cape Regional Medical Center along with Medic 9.

The fire was investigated by the CMC Fire Marshal's Office along with the CMPD.

May Fire Report

The Cape May Fire Dept. responded to 131 calls for service for the month of May 2010. The responses varied

from Emergency Medical Services to Fire Service incidents along with Public Service requests. The department responded to a variety of incidents including a kitchen fire where an occupant suffered moderate burns, motor vehicle accidents, mutual aide to Lower Township to assist with extrication from a motor vehicle accident, downed electrical wires, alarm system activations, natural gas leaks and gasoline spills, mulch fires, rubbish fire, aircraft standbys for Aero Medical transport, emergency medical incidents, public assists and other public services including scheduled fire drills at the local schools.

Prepared by Lt. Alex Coulter, Cape May Fire Dept.


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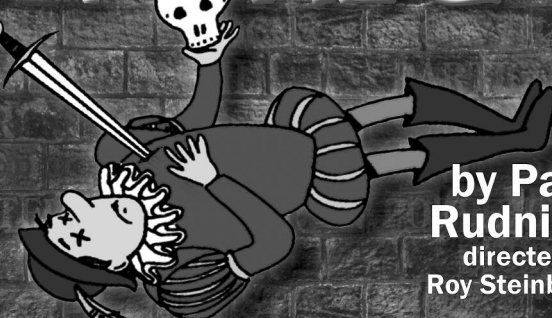
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