

Cape May Star and Wave



159TH YEAR NO. 46 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, November 13, 2013 50¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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LADY TIGERS BEAT MIDDLE, LOSE NEXT ROUND

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, the Atlantic Avenue house that blew up in Villas, last Thursday. Two people inside were injured. The cause of the explosion remains undetermined.

Homeowners injured in Villas house explosion

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS – An explosion last Thursday flattened the Atlantic Avenue house belonging to James and Evelyn McCarty, both 67, leaving them homeless and sending the couple to an Upland, Pa. hospital.

James McCarty was reported to have third degree burns over a quarter of his body, and Evelyn McCarty has two broken

ankles and other injuries.

On Friday, the site was still closed off as members of the federal Division of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms investigated the site of the explosion. Lower Township Mayor Mike Beck said he did not know why the ATF was on the scene, other than to say everything had changed after 9-11 (2001). Federal, state and local officials continued to

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Veterans remembered

Above, Elijah Howell, a third grader at the Maud Abrams School in Lower Township, holds a photograph of his grandfather Rich Davis in uniform during the 2013 Veterans Day remembrance ceremony held Monday in Cape May. Various ceremonies were held in the local area to remember those who served in America's armed forces. See more photos on page A12.

404th Civil Affairs Battalion holds practice exercise in Cape May

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The U.S. Army 404th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne) concluded a six-day training exercise on Friday with a meeting at Cape May City Hall as Maj. Ben Kenion shared data and findings his unit found in Cape May with city council.

About 25 soldiers from the 404th Alpha Team of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst were in on the exercise to get hands on experience and strengthen their data collecting skills in preparation for true operations and missions overseas.

During a Power Point pre-

sentation at the Nov. 4 city council meeting, Kenion said the Civil Affairs was started in 1877 by Gen. Winfield Scott as a way to mediate potential conflicts and create a cooperative relationship between civilians and the military when it is deployed. He said the Civil Affairs has nearly 13,000 soldiers in 30 states and Puerto Rico and makes up around 7 percent of the U.S. Army Reserves.

The Civil Affairs' duties are categorized in five different pillars: Populace and Resource Control, Foreign Humanitarian Assistance, Nation Assistance, Support to Civil Administration, and Civil Information



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Above, Sgt. Tony Schumacher and Maj. Ben Kenion, right in photo, brief the city on an exercise performed last week by the Army Reserve's 404th Civil Affairs Battalion.

Management, which is the primary focus of their training in Cape May. This task helps troops build a bond and overall understanding within the communities they operate through partnership and trust.

"Civil Affairs is a bridge between a commander and a country or a society that we're working with," Kenion said. "If we can work with them and we follow through on the things they need, they'll trust us more and they'll be more apt to work with us and solve the issues they have before they become violent issues."

Mayor Ed Mahaney said the Army approached him around three months ago ask-

ing to conduct their training in Cape May. The mayor said there were benefits to both the military and the city by allowing the training to occur.

"It gives us a true feeling that we're cooperating with the military who have given us the freedoms we enjoy every day in this city and it strengthens our relationship with the military," Mahaney said. "We're very proud to do this."

Mahaney said it also gave the city an opportunity to receive third party feedback regarding Cape May's culture, businesses, its master plan and other city planning

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Little changed in 2013 elections

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COUNTY – With the exception of a boost in minimum wage, it seemed to be an election of little change around the county on Nov. 5 with a large number of incumbents reclaiming their seats the following day.

The Star and Wave interviewed some of these reelected officials for a brief follow up and their personal views on the outcome of Tuesday's election. Sen. Jeff VanDrew (D-1st Dist.) was reelected, fending off a challenge in the GOP-leaning 1st District from

Republican Susan Adelizzi-Schmidt.

"I'm very humbled. My staff ran the numbers and it was the biggest margin I've ever won in the legislative race," Van Drew said.

According to the Cape May County Election Department website, Van Drew won by 4,332 votes over Adelizzi-Schmidt, receiving over 56 percent of the vote. One of Van Drew's two running mates, Assemblyman Nelson Albano (D-Cumberland), lost his seat to Republican Sam Fioocchi in the election. Albano ran into political trouble after a newspaper revealed that he

allegedly attempted to use his political position to get out of a traffic ticket.

"Nelson will not serve again, which is likely because of the traffic ticket incident. It was used in a negative campaign by opponents and in this case, negative campaigning worked," Van Drew said. "We still honor the work Nelson has done while he was in office..."

Van Drew's other running mate, Democratic Assemblyman Bob Andrzejczak was elected to his first full term. Van Drew

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Residents warn of multi-headed monster

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – A number of residents addressed Lower Township Council last week, thanking them for unspecified action regarding the executive director of the Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority.

At the same time, some warned of a two or three-headed monster operating at the LTMUA.

Bill Dunn is one of five current or former LTMUA employees being represented by attorney Michelle Douglass in a civil lawsuit, was terminated then rein-

stated on Monday. Dunn said although the LTMUA Board voted 5-0 last Friday to suspend Ecker while the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office is conducting an investigation, there still needs to be an investigation of the office supervisor and board secretary Emily Oberkofler.

The civil lawsuit, filed on behalf of five LTMUA employees, names Ecker, Oberkofler and LTMUA board chairman Nels Johnson as defendants.

Dunn claimed Jania Bailey, who also attended the meeting, was a target of an unjustified firing. Bailey is still listed as the MIS/Purchasing Agent on the LTMUA's website. Dunn also claimed a

"\$109,000 a year secretary" was planning to retire and attempting to set up her daughter for a job.

"She is neck deep in everything," Dunn said.

Bailey said she is now on a paid leave of absence. She said she had to have emergency surgery Aug. 20 and went on sick leave. She said during her absence management investigated her computer and found information they didn't like.

According to her mother, Susan Bailey, Ecker came to her daughter's house, knocked on the door, told her he wanted a letter of resigna-

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