



Spirit grad Cohen drafted by Giants.

SPORTS, B1

Airshow returns to AC with different look

NICHOLAS HUBA Staff Writer ATLANTIC CITY — The skies over the resort were silent last year. But this year, the sound of jet engines will return. The city will have an airshow this year, but not one run by the Greater Atlantic City Chamber.

in 2025 either. So Visit Atlantic City, the city’s tourism marketing and convention bureau, decided to jump in and put on a show that will feature civilian acts Wednesday. A practice day is scheduled for Tuesday. Besides the airshow, the Visit Atlantic City Soar & Shore Festival will feature a full week of events. The airshow is estimated to cost nearly \$380,000 to produce. “Events like this drive visita-

tion,” said Gary Musich, CEO of Visit Atlantic City. “Any airshow is going to be better than no airshow. We are creating a new concept and building on it going forward.” The new airshow will have a different look and feel than past ones in the resort. Military performers like the Navy’s Blue Angels and the Air Force’s Thunderbirds have headlined previous shows. But over the past couple of years, those acts have switched their

performance schedules to week-end shows. Instead, performers at this year’s show will include Nathan Hammond’s Super Chipmunk, Third Strike Wingwalking, the Misty Blues Parachute Team, UH-1H Huey with Smokey Bear, Skip Stewart and an F4F Wildcat. “The Soar & Shore Festival airshow brings together the best of summer entertainment elements,” said Herb Gillen, president of the

company putting on the airshow. “Crowds will be treated to top-tier airshow performances by state-of-the-art aircraft in a festive atmosphere on a gorgeous beach, and all free of charge.”

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■ INSIDE: What to know about the Visit Atlantic City Soar & Shore Festival. A2

LIFEGUARDING A FAMILY BUSINESS



BILL BARLOW, STAFF WRITER

Wildwood Crest Beach Patrol Chief Bud Johnson has two grandchildren working as lifeguards this year, Olivia Reilly, left, and Cole Reilly, not pictured. He said they needed to qualify, and likely face more scrutiny than other guards.

Grandparents oversee grandchildren on Wildwood Crest Beach Patrol

BILL BARLOW Staff Writer WILDWOOD CREST — Third-year lifeguard Olivia Reilly tells a story about her first year on the stand, when a fellow guard mentioned that the Beach Patrol chief had a grandkid starting as a rookie. “I thought he was kidding with me,” Reilly said. “He had no idea it was me.” She didn’t let on that she knew Bud Johnson as Pop long before she called him Chief. Her brother, Cole Reilly, started with the Beach Patrol this year, as Johnson celebrates his 60th summer with the

organization. Johnson is not the only one making the Wildwood Crest Beach Patrol a family tradition. Lt. Ivars “Max” Bilkins is starting his 54th year on the lifeguard squad, and also has a grandchild on the stand. Everyone calls him Max, pronounced “Mox,” after an uncle who was killed in World War II. Giovanni Quisito just started as a lifeguard, and his sister, Juliana Quisito, is in a future-lifeguard program. At 14, she has two years before she can qualify as a lifeguard. Their father met Bilkins’ daughter

on the Crest beach while he was a lifeguard, Bilkins said. Bilkins and Johnson say family connections may have helped get their grandchildren interested in the Beach Patrol, but they still need to qualify to be considered for the job. That includes meeting state requirements for running and swimming, and being certified in CPR and advanced first aid. “Probably it’s a little bit harder for them,” Bilkins said.

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How to get a refreshing iced coffee on the beach.

LOCAL, A6



Third parties tend not to upset system.

360, C1

New Jersey amends proposed flood zone rules

BILL BARLOW Staff Writer The expected level of sea level rise by the end of the century that informed a sweeping proposal for new state rules seems to have improved by one foot. On Monday, officials with the state Department of Environmental Protection announced plans to amend the proposal for Resilient Environments and Landscapes coastal flood rules, which were first proposed last

year. Some in coastal communities pushed hard against the rules as soon as they were introduced, with Cape May County officials seeking to organize statewide opposition, arguing that if enacted as proposed, the rules could devastate local economies and hurt efforts to provide affordable housing. Len Desiderio, director of the Cape May County Board of Commissioners, did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the change Monday. In a briefing Monday morning, the DEP announced plans to substantially amend the proposal, with the intent of publishing the changes in the New Jersey Register on July 21.



LaTourette

Existing state and federal flood zones and construction codes look to flooding that has already happened. Enabled by a 2020 executive order from Gov. Phil Murphy, the REAL rules look ahead based on the expected sea levels of the future, setting new rules for construction in areas expected to be underwater by the end of the century, at least during high tides.

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How to barbecue on a budget.

LIVELY, D1

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