

Cape May Star and Wave

161ST YEAR NO. 21 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2015 75¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK
Real Estate Resource



MCDONOUGH NAMED TEACHER OF THE YEAR

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Board rules wineries may hold special events

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — The Cape May County Agricultural Development Board (CADB) ruled Monday in favor of allowing wineries on preserved farmland to hold special events such as weddings and birthday parties.

Willow Creek Winery in West Cape May and Cape May Winery in Cold

Spring are located on preserved farmland.

The board ruled events such as bridal showers, reunions and funerals are permitted uses. Wineries will be limited to serving alcoholic beverages produced at their locations.

The CADB held a meeting March 30 to receive comments from interested parties on what should constitute a special occasion even for purposes of the Right-to-Farm Act. At issue was

wineries that wanted the freedom to host events that could include political fundraisers, business meetings and art exhibits.

Last year, the state approved establishing a pilot program permitting special occasion events to be conducted on preserved farmland at wineries provided the gross income generated by the winery from all special occasion events conducted for the calendar year accounts for less than

50 percent of the annual gross income of the winery.

In addition, the special occasion event must use the agricultural output of the winery to the maximum extent practicable to promote agricultural tourism and advance the agricultural or horticultural output of the winery.

The Borough of West Cape May and Willow Creek Winery are involved in litigation over the matter.

Willow Creek Winery Farm Director and Winemaker Kevin Celli said it was a matter of doing whatever they can to get people to their community and the farm to sample their agricultural product.

"The economic impact of these events and activities is just tremendous," he said. "We're very pleased with the outcome and glad to see the county is so supportive of agriculture in the Garden State."

Wineries, breweries future of tourism

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — County tourism figures set records last year and experts are predicting another banner year for 2015.

The county held its annual tourism conference May 13, with agri-tourism and new marketing to northern Canada in the forefront. The event drew a small audience.

According to county Freeholder Director Gerald Thornton, Cape May County is second in the state in generating tourist dollars, one step behind Atlantic County. He said Cape May County generated almost \$5.8 billion of tourism revenue last year, up 5.2 percent from 2013.

Thornton said he was anticipating

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County ranks near bottom in economic, life indicators

By DEBORAH MCGUIRE
Special to the Star and Wave

When it comes down to northern versus southern New Jersey, sometimes it can be more than Phillies or Yankees, hoagie or sub, Eagles or Giants. Sometimes it can come down to affluence or poverty, feast or famine, survival or economic surrender.

Sitting on the cusp of a new summer season, Cape May County officials, along with many Cape May County business leaders, hope this year will bring sunny days and millions of tourists with open pocketbooks to our sandy shores. But for the 96,305 people who live here, however, life is not always a sea of dollar signs that affords them a job or a living wage.

In a recent report made public by Stockton University's William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy, six of New Jersey's eight south-

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Frank Scott/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities hosted an Armed Forces Day event May 16 at Fire Control Tower 23 on Sunset Boulevard in Lower Township. The event was attended by veterans, some from World War II, and dignitaries. Above, bugler Mark Van Duzen plays Taps.

Lower marks Armed Forces Day



Cape May historian and author Robert Heinly, of the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities, addresses the crowd during the Armed Forces Day celebration in Lower Township. At right, state Sen. Jeff Van Drew delivers a speech.



Review finds overall care falls short at Crest Haven

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Crest Haven Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, a county-operated facility, received significantly below-average ratings overall, for health inspections and quality measures, an above-average rating for staffing from the federally operated Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The agency reviews nursing homes in this state and across the nation and offers the results of inspections at medicare.gov/nursinghomecompare/search.html.

An inspection notes the facility failed to thoroughly investigate an injury of unknown origin. The inspection recommended policies be developed "that prevent mistreatment, neglect or abuse of residents or theft of resident property."

"During a tour of the facility on 2/4/15 at approximately 10 a.m. the nurse told the surveyor that Resident #7 walked with a walker and recently suffered a fractured toe. At that time, the surveyor observed the resident seated in an activity. During a review of the medical record, the surveyor observed an Interdisciplinary Progress Note dated 10/31/14 and timed 7:30 a.m., referring to a nurse being called into the shower room to assess Resident #7's right foot. The note indicated that the foot was swollen and bruised along the top of the toes and the cause of the injury was unknown. The surveyor reviewed the X-ray report dated 10/31/14 which identified the resident had a metatarsal with mild displacement. The report also stated there was soft-tissue swelling. The surveyor asked for the investigation of the fracture of Resident #7's right foot.

"The investigation included two statements from staff; one from the Certified Nurse Aide who first reported seeing the bruise in the shower room on 10/31/14 at

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A.C. sore spot in otherwise rosy economic outlook

By KRISTEN KELLEHER
Sentinel staff

ATLANTIC CITY — Atlantic City may have a different kind of summer from other southern New Jersey shore towns.

The prognosis for the 2015 summer was strong for the southern New Jersey shore during the Jersey Shorecast on Friday, May 15, at Stockton University's Carnegie Center in Atlantic City.

The Jersey Shorecast, now in its seventh year, is a panel discussion on the shore's upcoming tourist and business seasons.

Friday's panelists included Lori Peppenella, director of destination marketing for the Long Beach Island region for the Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce; Brian Tyrrell, Stockton University associate professor of Hospitality and Tourism Management Studies; Diane Wieland, director of the Cape

May County Department of Tourism; Michael Busler, Stockton University associate professor of Business Studies; Joseph Kelly, president of the Greater Atlantic City Chamber; and Oliver Cooke, Stockton University association professor of economics.

Busler said the local economy remained "in really dire straits," but added that what was happening in Atlantic City differs from the outlook for the rest of the shore towns.

Excluding Atlantic City, more

people are working this year than last year, Busler said.

Gasoline is also relatively inexpensive this summer, which Busler said would affect area day-trippers.

At this time last year, Busler said gas was about \$3.50 per gallon. Now it is about \$2.60.

He also said many of the business owners he talked to said last year they saw a 4 percent or 5 percent in-

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