



Fifteen Caper Tigers celebrated for college commitment

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House of the week

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168th YEAR NO. 22 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2022 \$1.00

No surprise: County strong on tourism, but ...

Report: Lack of affordable housing, transportation, education for seasonal workers

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — A study commissioned by Cape May County shows it is strong on tourism but weak on providing affordable housing, transportation and jobs with an educational component for seasonal workers.

County Economic Development Program Coordinator Joe Molineaux said during a presentation June 1 that a task force was

formed in April 2020 — after the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the county the previous month.

The task force submitted a reopening and recovery plan to the state, resulting in specialized tourism marketing. He said work began in fall 2020 to have a recovery and resiliency plan created for the county with the assistance of South Jersey Economic Development District Executive Director Louis Joyce.

A contract was awarded to Econsult Solutions (ESI), which

produced a 100-page report following six months of work. Joyce said the goal was to create plans for resiliency so that if another pandemic were to occur, contingency plans would be in place.

“The planning during the recovery period has given some insight into how this county’s local economies responded to that kind of disruption,” he said.

The study also identified underlying weaknesses in the current systems that support the existing economies, Joyce said.

He said ESI worked with the community and focus groups, interviewing business owners and county and local officials.

Corrine Beasley, a director at ESI, said Cape May County has an aging and declining population that does not follow state trends.

Summer employment in the county totaled 56,500 in 2019, dropping to 46,300 in 2020 and recovering to 58,400 in 2021, according to the report.

Looking at higher education, the top five associate degree

programs in the county in 2019 to 2020 were liberal arts and sciences-general studies and humanities: 36 percent; health professionals: 20 percent; business management and marketing: 18 percent; homeland security, law enforcement and firefighting: 5 percent; and culinary, entertainment and personal services: 3 percent.

ESI Senior Vice President Gina Lavery said 79 percent

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Cannabis sales top \$24 million for first month

Averaging \$2 million per month for each licensed N.J. dispensary

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

TRENTON — The first month of recreational cannabis sales in New Jersey got off the ground, taking in \$24 million from 12 licensed dispensaries representing 212,000 transactions.

The state’s Cannabis Regulatory Commission (CRC) approved the first 11 conditional licenses for recreational cannabis retail locations May 24.

CRC Executive Director Jeff Brown said there was opportunity for much growth in the cannabis market. He said long lines were in place at dispensaries during the first week of recreational sales.

“While this \$24 million number sounds big, it does underlie the fact that there is a tremendous amount of opportunity still in this market for new businesses to come in and serve this market and be successful,” Brown said.

The CRC began accepting license applications Dec. 15, 2021, for cultivators, manufacturers and testing laboratories and on March 15, 2022, for retailers. Brown said the commission has received more than 1,000 total applications with over half receiving an initial determination and review.

The commission put out a request for applications in 2019 with a requirement of alternative treatment centers (ATC) selling only medical cannabis during their first year of operation. The CRC approved removing the one-year requirement and allowing ATCs, when they meet the commitments in their application and expansion standards, to be permitted to apply to expand into recreational cannabis sales.

The CRC approved a second cultivation location site for Columbia Care and Garden State Dispensary. Columbia Care is located in Vineland. Neither appli-

cant will exceed the state maximum limit of 150,000 square feet of growing space.

Approved applications for 46 conditional licenses included 22 cultivator licenses, 13 manufacturer licenses and 11 retail applications, none of which are in West Cape May or Lower Township, where

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West Cape dispensary hoping to open 4/20

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — While 11 marijuana retail stores are operating elsewhere in the state, it may take until next spring for one local cannabis retailer to open for business in the borough.

Dave Christian, of Shorehouse Canna, has secured a location on Sunset Boulevard and hopes to have a grand opening on 4/20/2023, a date of significance. The date, 4.20, refers to April 20, which is considered a marijuana holiday, originally based on a group of California teens who smoked cannabis every afternoon at 4:20. A soft opening could occur in March, he said.

Christian said Shorehouse Canna has applied to the state Cannabis Regulatory Commission (CRC) for an annual license as opposed to a conditional license. So far, the CRC has issued 11 conditional retail licenses.

A conditional license gives applicants more time to get property or municipal approval before acquiring an annual license, which allows applicants to begin operations after passing inspec-

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Strawberries and sunshine

Above, Kaitlyn Flynn sells fresh strawberries from the Rea’s Farm booth June 4 at the West Cape May Strawberry Festival. At right, Cape May Technical High School students Anna Zuzulock and Javier Gutierrez dish out strawberry shortcake as a fundraiser for their school prom.



Borough extends historic district

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — Borough Commission approved an extension of West Cape May’s historic district along North Broadway, an area comprised of 10 properties in the 700 and 800 blocks.

In addition, a home at 300 Sixth Ave., one of the oldest in the borough, was designated as a historic site. It was the home of William J. Moore, one of West Cape May’s most prominent African American residents. Moore is thought to be the first Black tennis professional in America and founder of an elementary school and junior high school for Black children.

On May 25, Tom Douglass, of 406 Broadway, said the borough’s Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) was interested in Colonial and Victorian homes. He said his home did not fit either category and should not be included in the historic district.

Douglass said his parents purchased the house in 1944 and changed its appearance by enclosing a porch in 1953. When he purchased the house 22 years ago, he did some remodeling, he said.

The siding and windows

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Three mayors declare June as Pride Month

By RACHEL SHUBIN
Special to the Star and Wave

NORTH CAPE MAY — Three local municipalities officially recognized and declared June as Pride Month during a kickoff event hosted by Equality Cape May on June 1 at Boat Drinks at the Cape May-Lewes Ferry.

Cape May Mayor Zack Mullock, West Cape May Mayor Carol Sabo and Lower Township Mayor Frank Sippel all read proclamations officially recognizing June as Pride Month in each town.

“We’d like to thank Boat Drinks for hosting us tonight, for being so supportive and generous,” Equality Cape May founder Ann McCabe said. “They couldn’t have been nicer in receiving us and are

donating some of the drink proceeds. Also thank you to the local businesses who made auction and gift baskets for the event.”

Equality Cape May organizes events and gatherings to support local LGBTQ+ people and foster an environment of inclusivity for all.

“I want to say a very special thank you to our volunteers,” McCabe said. “We’ve been meeting for many months and working

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Rachel Shubin/Special Cape May Mayor Zack Mullock reads a proclamation naming June Pride Month in the city during an event June 1 at Boat Drinks.



NAILED IT. Rusty Nail

The Rusty Nail is back! Our famed surfer bar and restaurant is back open for the 2022 season. Stop by for breakfast, lunch and dinner—as well as delicious cocktails and the coldest draft beer in Cape May (as verified by Exit Zero Magazine).

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