



House of the week

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The Spinners bring mighty sound to area

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164th YEAR NO. 32 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2018 \$1.00

Pot grower seeks dispensary site in Lower

Evergreen Curative plans 30-acre farm in Dennis Twp., anticipates 160 full-time jobs

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State 'allowing money to fuel addiction,' legalization opponents claim.
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By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — A medical marijuana company is seeking locations to open a dispensary in Cape May County.

Dennis Township resident Emmett Vandergriff, an owner of Evergreen Curative LLC, approached Lower Township Council on Monday for a letter from

council endorsing his company to operate a dispensary at the county airport.

He said his company is a New Jersey-based medical marijuana organization. He said as of Aug. 1, the state would accept applications for six more medicinal marijuana licenses.

The license will permit a company to cultivate, manufacture and dispense at multiple sites, Vandergriff said.

He said Evergreen Curative anticipated creating 160 full-time jobs in a cultivation facility.

"We plan to build between five to six 15,000-square-foot greenhouses on a 30-acre farming parcel," Vandergriff said.

Greenhouses would be located in Dennis Township, he said.

"We look to be hiring veterans, minorities, women

and local community-based residents and managerial, cultivation and administrative positions with salaries ranging from \$30,000 to \$100,000 per year with benefits," he said.

He said significant construction work would be directed to local contractors. Evergreen Curative will pay 7 percent sales tax.

Vandergriff said Gov. Phil Murphy is expected to

sign a bill legalizing recreational use of marijuana and that medicinal-marijuana producers will have "first crack" at the legal market, which would carry a sales tax of 14 percent, projected to rise to 25 percent, Vandergriff said.

He said Evergreen Curative has secured a partner, Sea Hunter Capital Man-

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Edward O'Neill/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Giddyup for the Cape May Baby Parade

Elaina, 22 months, of Tuckerton, rides in on her horse to take part in the 86th annual Cape May Baby Parade on Aug. 3. See more photos on Page B7.

House hopefuls discuss political division in U.S.

Grossman sees 'two Americas'; Van Drew blames the president

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

State Sen. Jeff Van Drew, a Democrat representing New Jersey's First Legislative District, and Somers Point-based attorney Seth Grossman, a Republican, are both running for the Second Congressional District seat in the Nov. 6 election.

The incumbent, Rep. Frank LoBiondo, is not running for re-election and is retiring after serving 12 terms.

The Cape May Star and Wave interviewed both candidates about the current political climate and campaigning in New Jersey's largest district.

Both candidates agree there is a polarization between Republicans and Democrats and that civil discourse has become too hyper-partisan.

"What I'm finding out from this campaign is you really do have two Ameri-

cas out there," Grossman said. "What seems normal and reasonable to Trump America is causing hysteria among Hillary Clinton Democrats. The most pressing issue to Hillary Democrats is 'so what' to Trump Republicans."

Van Drew said Trump remains a constant topic of discussion and heated arguments with voters.

"Some people love him to death, some people hate him to death," Van Drew said. "It's an interesting thing. If you're just doing retail campaigning, people will go on a tirade about Trump and then the next person will say it's about time we had somebody who actually spoke his mind and wasn't always politically correct and they'll go on a tirade. That is different from what I've seen in my years of campaigning, to see that split be so strong and polar-

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West Cape offering restaurant liquor license

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — The borough is offering a liquor license for a restaurant to the highest bidder with a minimum bid of \$400,000.

A voter referendum in 2008 approved the sale of two licenses, one for a liquor store and one for a restaurant. The revenue from the sale of the licenses was to be used for tax relief.

One license was sold in 2011 to Sunset Liquors for \$615,000, resulting in a tax savings of \$50,000 for

property owners in the 2013 tax year.

When Sunset Liquors opened in 2012, it ended 128 years of the borough being a dry town.

The restaurant license was offered with a minimum bid of \$475,000 last year but no bids were received, according to Mayor Carol Sabo. A requirement of the restaurant license includes limiting the hours of sale of alcohol to between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday during sum-

mer.

The license also requires food to be served with the alcohol. That requirement was placed on the license to prevent a location from becoming a bar, according to borough commissioners.

Sabo said the license does not have to be sold to an existing restaurant but could be sold to a party with a plan to open a restaurant. While this is the final liquor license available in West Cape May, she said the borough would consider the possibility of a micro-brewery.

"I'm hopeful someone will purchase the license. I think it has benefit to the community in terms of what that kind of establishment could offer and bring us some income over the long term and not just short-term benefit," she said.

The borough clerk is accepting sealed bids until 3 p.m. Aug. 30 with a bid opening set for 11 a.m. Sept. 13 at Borough Hall.

If Borough Commission accepts the highest bid, it would pass a resolution to issue the liquor license at its meeting Sept. 26.

Cape May elementary loses little in state aid

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's elementary school will lose \$9,444 this year following Gov. Phil Murphy signing into law a phase-out of state adjustment for a number of districts. The change sends more money to districts where state aid has not kept up with increasing enrollment.

Cape May City Elementary School Business Administrator John Thomas said to compensate for the funding loss, the Board of Education adjusted a line item in its budget, its tuition to the county Special Services School District.

"Traditionally, I overestimate that because when I make the budget. I'm not sure exactly what their tuition rate will be," he said. "Also, sometimes we put in a contingency of tuition for an additional student."

Thomas said the school lost about \$13,000 in adjustment aid last year.

"It's close to \$22,000 in the first two years," he said.

Cape May City Elementary School's total adjustment aid for this year is \$249,000, Thomas said. He acknowledged other school districts in the county were placed in more dire circumstances by the state adjustment aid cut.

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