

Cape May Star and Wave

160TH YEAR NO. 21 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2014 50¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Page B1



CAL TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sports



Car crashes into Millman Center

Lower's newly renovated community center damaged

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township's newly renovated Millman Community Center suffered damage May 14 when a car crashed into the building.

Lower Township police and Villas Volunteer Fire Department responded to a report of the crash at about 5:45 a.m. at

209 Bayshore Road. According to Assistant Fire Chief, Bryan Harron, one person was trapped in the car by debris that had fallen from the building. He said the driver was extricated from the car after the roof was cut from the vehicle.

The driver, Kyle R. Crager-Hofferica, 31, of Villas, was transported to Cape Regional Medical Center for treatment

of injuries to the head and face, according to the accident report. The car was traveling north on Bayshore Road when the driver failed to maintain a lane, crossed the centerline, hit a curb, ran off the road and struck the Millman Center.

Crager-Hofferica was issued a summons for driving with a suspended license, careless driving and failure to wear

a seatbelt, according to the report. The car entered the Millman Center through the east wall and became lodged in the wall on the north side.

The Millman Center reopened in November after undergoing a top-to-bottom renovation. The small meeting room was damaged but the large banquet room was spared.



Robert Newkirk/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
Driver Kyle R. Crager-Hofferica, 31, of Villas, left the road and struck the building at about 5:45 a.m. May 14.

Lower urges LCMR board to approve referendum

Mayor says school board seats not based on taxes

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township Council voted unanimously Monday to urge the Lower Cape May Regional Board of Education to place a referendum question on the November ballot in order to ask voters whether the school-funding formula should be modified.

Cape May maintains it is paying too much to educate its students in the Lower Cape May Regional School District, and is requesting the ballot question. Lower Township is in agreement, but only with polling voters on the issue.

Cape May requested a change in the school-funding formula to return the district to its original per-pupil tax allocation. In a resolution, Cape May requested the regional district authorize a referendum to modify the tax-allocation method to one based completely on pupil enrollment so that the issue can be submitted to voters in Cape May, West Cape May and Lower Township.

Lower Township has many more voters than the other two members of the regional district.

Lower Township Mayor Beck said the funding formula was devised by the state and is fair and equitable, based on property values. There have been suggestions of other ways to save money, including a K-12 regional district, he said.

An alternative would be for schools to be funded through the county, with each resident

See LCMR, Page A2

She's off to see the wizard



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
Scarlett Egan, 18 months, of Delran, walks the yellow brick road to Oz during the Cape May Garden Club Flower Show on May 16. The show's theme this year was 'Magical Garden of Children's Stories.' See story, more photos on Page A7.

Seasonal-job outlook mixed in Cape May

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Employers of seasonal workers are sending mixed signals about the demand for employees this year.

Denise Beckson, director of human resources and water park operations for Morey's Piers, stated in an email that the company expects to hire about 1,500 seasonal associates for 2014, slightly fewer than last year.

"The job market has been tough this year," she stated. "We did not get as many local applicants as we have the past several years."

Morey's hires J-1 SWT (summer, work, travel) students

representing about 30 different countries, Beckson said. The countries represented this year are consistent with the past couple of years: Russia, Ukraine, China, Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania and Malaysia, to name a few, she stated.

Curtis Bashaw, co-founder and co-managing partner of Cape Resorts Group, said he has 500 employees and will double staff to 1,000 for the summer.

"Of those, about 400 will be people from the U.S. and about 100 will be J-1 visas," he said.

Cape Resorts Group properties include Congress Hall, the Virginia Hotel, the Beach Shack, the Sandpiper Beach Club and the Star. Restau-

rants include the Ebbit Room, the Rusty Nail and Blue Pig Tavern.

Bashaw said he believes the summer season will be strong. Cape Resorts Group is hiring a few more workers than last year, many of whom are hired through referrals, he said.

"We anticipate a little growth in some of our restaurants," Bashaw said.

He said Beach Plum Farm, which grows food for Cape Resorts restaurants and offers tours, has increased its hiring over last year.

"We're assuming it's going to be a pretty strong summer," Bashaw said. "The hotels feel like they will be full."

He said the affect of Hurri-

cane Sandy last year was less on room occupancy and more in auxiliary businesses such as restaurants and retail. Bashaw said there may have been a slight decrease in the number of visitors last year.

Bashaw said the current unrest in Ukraine has not affected their J-1 workers, since not many have originated from that region.

Larry Hirsch, of the Montreal Beach Resort and Harry's Ocean Grille and Bar, told the Star and Wave he was approaching the season with "caution and optimism."

"I think the season has started on a positive note," he said.

See Jobs outlook, Page A3

Economy drives older workers into limited seasonal-job pool

By KRISTEN KELLEHER
Sentinel staff

OCEAN CITY — A still-recovering economy affects Ocean City's seasonal industries in different ways, although the area's summer employment prospects remain competitive with increasing online applications and high rates of returning staff.

Joann Cioeta, Ocean City Human Resources Director, said the economy's gains in the last few years have not decreased the applications the city receives for seasonal

jobs. In Ocean City's case, online applications for summer employment.

This year, the city opened its applications, both online and on paper, for seasonal jobs March 1.

"We were getting phone calls the week before, 'When are the jobs getting posted?'" Cioeta said. "We are getting applications at a very fast clip."

The economy "hasn't gotten that much better," Cioeta said, and its downturn and slow recovery prompted

See Economy, Page A3



WASHINGTON INN

Catch the delicious breath of Spring!
Serving Dinner Daily from 5pm

THE WINE BAR *Five for Friday*
Best Oysters in Town!



801 WASHINGTON STREET + 609-884-5697 + WWW.WASHINGTONINN.COM