

Cape May Star and Wave



160TH YEAR NO. 24 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2014 50¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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ESCAPE THE CAPE TRIATHLON HELD IN LOWER TWP.

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All signs point to a busy summer at the shore

By KRISTEN KELLEHER
Cape May Star and Wave

Optimistic outlook may lead to more hiring, experts say

CAPE MAY COUNTY — A strong Memorial Day weekend, advanced lodging and rental bookings, and new events in Atlantic and Cape May counties could indicate a strong summer season.

More bodies on local beaches could also benefit Atlantic and Cape May counties' unemployed populations, as a busy season could inspire local businesses to hire additional seasonal staff.

In June 2013, the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development reported Atlantic County's 2012 average unemployment rate was 13.5 percent, far above the state average of 9.5 percent the same year.

The 2012 rate of 13.5 percent was a five-year high for Atlantic County. The county's five-year low occurred in 2007, with a 5.9 percent average unemployment rate.

In Cape May County, the 2012 annual average unemployment rate was 13.4 percent, slightly better than Atlantic County but still far worse than the state average.

The 2012 annual average was also a five-year high for Cape May County. The county's low also occurred in 2007, with a 6.6 percent annual average unemployment rate.

The largest industry, based on a 2011 average, was leisure

and hospitality. At the time, it constituted 33.2 percent of total county employment.

In Atlantic County, the largest industry, based on a 2011 average, was also leisure and hospitality. The industry constituted 41.7 percent of total county employment for the same year.

Joe Kelly, president of the Greater Atlantic City Chamber, said county businesses anticipate a strong summer this year.

"We have within Atlantic City a number of both new venues and events," Kelly said.

"Any time we do something new, that creates employment opportunities. I think the fact that we're doing more events, and those events are free and on the beach, is going to create larger crowds. Those translate into employment opportunities."

Kelly said he heard businesses' seasonal hiring is steady,

if not slightly increased, from levels in the past few years.

He said he saw improvements in the economy, but added it was less of an issue than the marketplace in terms of regional hiring.

Seasonal work is still competitive, but the competition for the jobs has remained stable, Kelly said.

"We're seeing within the casinos a diversifying of their products, whether it be restaurants, entertainment," Kelly

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Police issue two warrants in Artisans Alcove theft

Three members of the group yet to be identified

CAPE MAY — Cape May County Prosecutor Robert Taylor and Cape May Police Chief Robert Sheehan have reported the issuance of two arrest warrants in regards to a theft last month from Artisans Alcove Estate Jewelers.

The subjects identified are Robert Weathers, 53, of Gwenn Oak, Md., and Robin Nelson, 50, of Baltimore.

Both suspects are being charged with second-degree theft of jewelry valued at about \$100,000.

Five suspects entered the store at about 4 p.m. May 8. According to Cape May police, three of the suspects distracted Artisans Alcove manager Patricia Rapsa while two others opened an unlocked jewelry case and removed trays containing 30 diamond engagement rings. The suspects were clearly captured on high-definition video, which was disseminated to numerous media outlets and law-enforcement agencies.

The Cape May City Police Detective Division, the Cape May County Prosecutors Office and the Baltimore County Police Department continue to investigate the incident, and expect to issue additional warrants.

Highly trained, ready within minutes

Personnel put the 'guard' in Coast Guard

By KRISTEN KELLEHER
Cape May Star and Wave

ATLANTIC CITY — The U.S. Coast Guard trains year-round to respond to emergencies, sometimes within just minutes of receiving a call.

U.S. Coast Guard Station Atlantic City receives about 75 percent of its search-and-rescue calls in the summer.

Between October 2013 and the end of May, Station Atlantic City responded to 18 search-and-rescue cases and expected to receive 50 to 60 additional calls from June through September, according to Petty Officer Chris Fonesca.

To keep waters safe, active-duty Coast Guard personnel prepare around the area's seasonality by opening and training out of additional satellite stations.

Station Atlantic City has a smaller satellite station in Ocean City.

Station Cape May has two

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Kristen Kelleher/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
U.S. Coast Guard personnel train recently at Station Atlantic City. The station expects to receive between 50 and 60 distress calls from June through September, so members train year-round to be ready to answer the calls.

Obama honors WWII veteran from Cape May

By JOHN COOKE
Special to the Star and Wave

Harry Kulkowitz is more than a hero, he is an icon.

Kulkowitz, 90, is part of the "Greatest Generation" that fought during the D-Day battles of Normandy and Utah Beach in France. He is one of the local faces of that celebrated group.

At the 70th anniversary commemoration of D-Day this past weekend, Kulkowitz was singled out and mentioned in the prepared remarks of President Barack Obama in Normandy.

As the president recounted

the details of the invasion of Normandy in 1944, he spoke about the personal sacrifices of the soldiers involved.

"Think of Harry Kulkowitz, the Jewish son of Russian immigrants who fudged his age at enlistment so he could join his friends in the fight," Obama said, gesturing to Kulkowitz behind him.

Kulkowitz was born in New York in 1924. To join the Army in 1941, when the U.S. entered the war, Kulkowitz had to lie on his enlistment papers because he was not yet 18.

"Don't worry, Harry, the statute of limitations has expired," Obama reassured him.

Obama went on to recount:

"Harry came ashore at Utah Beach on D-Day. And now that he's come back, we said he could have anything he wants for lunch today — he helped liberate this coast, after all. But this humble hero said a hamburger would do fine. And what's more American than that?"

Kulkowitz's father was a tailor in New York City. His mother, Sophia, died while he was fighting in Europe.

He originally signed up to be a photographer and then became a radio intercept operator. As a radio operator, he was trained to listen to Nazi

codes and messages.

Kulkowitz landed on Utah Beach on June 6, 1944, as a 20-year-old with the 114th Signal Company, seasick, frightened and, as he said, not knowing "what the hell" was going on.

After landing, he went on through the whole European campaign, eventually finishing in 1945 in Germany.

Sixty years later, Kulkowitz was welcomed with open arms in the small villages of France. The mayor of Houseville honored him with a special medal and accolades at a public

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Courtesy of U.S. Army
President Barack Obama speaks last weekend in Normandy, France, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the D-Day invasion. In attendance was Harry Kulkowitz, 90, of Cape May.



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