

LCMR to stage 'The Drowsy Chaperone' March 17-20



Jen Sessa/LOWER CAPE MAY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

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Jen Sessa/LOWER CAPE MAY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Quinn Dougherty portrays Latin-lover Aldolpho in Lower Cape May Regional High School's production of 'The Drowsy Chaperone.'

new director, Jen Sessa, the acting teacher at the high school. As her first year as director, Sessa expressed some obvious fears since she has not been involved in a production of this scale for some time.

The vocal director is Sandra Beane-Fox, the choreographer is Kelly Kennedy and the pit orchestra conductor is Kaleb Magnusson. Sessa said without the skills and perseverance of the students, the job of directing would be more difficult and definitely not as fun.

Richard Wilde serves as Man in Chair, the narrator of the show and a Broadway fanatic seeking to cure his sadness. Allison Sekela and Tyler Dodd play Janet Van de Graff and Robert Martin, respectively, as the star-crossed lovers who must work out their relationship's needs and wants.

Pamela Beane-Fox appears as The Drowsy Chaperone, Janet's alcoholic chaperone who must keep her away from her fiancé. George, Robert's best man and wedding worry-wart, is played by Evan Smilyk.

Amanda Chiaro plays Mrs. Tottendale, the hostess of the wedding, and her loyal employee Underling is played by Stanley Ziemba. Quinn Dougherty plays Latin-lover Aldolpho, producer Mr. Feldzieg is played by Ryan Hastings and his bubbly and air-headed accomplice Kitty is played by Sarah Portewig. Gangster #1 is Evan Warburton, while Gangster #2 is Aaron Agostini. Trix, the aviatrix, is Brittany O'Connor and the superintendent is Owen O'Brien.

The reporters are Kaitlin Poling, Maggie Paulus and Caitlin Joyce. The Prin-

cipal Dancers are Mary Drechen, Victoria Weigand, Ella Souder, Kayla Marcucci, Nautikka Genz, Layla Freeman and Bailey DeWeese.

The company consists of Brennah Alderfer, Katharine Beane-Fox, Nicholas Chase, Haley Christopher, Colleen Daly, Deanna DeLuca, Amanda Durbin, Carlie Eckel, Samantha Gilbert, Jacob Harkin, Naima Harris, Joshua Hedum, Kelly Henderson, Michael Hughes, Cassidy Jones, Kai-

tlyn Jones, Hannah Kelleher, Emery Kronemeyer, Olivia Maxlowe, Cassidy McFadden, Lillia Mitchum, Cat Moutlon, Robert Murphy, Lexi Murray, Brianne Nicholas, Andrea Paolino, Erin Piesczko, Lindsey Purvis, Eva Reichle, Amanda Rosenzweig, Maggie Roth, Sarah Stefanick, Jeramie Torres, Savannah Tozer, Destiny West, Caitlin Wiseman and Tianna Wolf.

General admission tickets are \$12; free for students and senior citizens.

ERMA — Lower Cape May Regional High School is set to present Bob Martin and Don McKellar's "The Drowsy Chaperone" as its spring musical at 7 p.m. March 17-19 and 2 p.m. March 20 in the Paul W. Schmidtchen Theatre.

This production offers a 1920s musical set among the backdrop of a contemporary comedy. The narrator, simply named Man in Chair, transports the audience to a 1928 Broadway theater full of laughter, music and gimmicks from the "golden age" of musicals, as they watch the love story of celebrity Janet Van de Graff and Robert Martin. The comedy ensues as the chaperone of Janet and the best man, George, try to no avail to keep the lovers away from each other on their wedding day.

This year, LCMR has a

Vouchers motel no problem in Lower

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that. It's civil liberties etcetera, etcetera," he said.

The former owner of the Sweet Briar Motel, Ange Raimo, was arrested in 2008 during a traffic stop for possession of heroin and attempt to distribute heroin. He was additionally charged with two counts of promoting prostitution.

Lower Township police were called to the Sweet Briar Motel 154 times in 2005, 129 times in 2006 and 91 times in 2007.

Discussion at the county mayors luncheon two weeks ago centered on a solution, focusing on the creation of a place for the homeless rather than motels, Beck said.

"The whole system is controlled at social services and the information is unavailable," Beck said.

He said the vast majority of people who seek placement are there legitimately and are not causing problems. Beck said the bulk of the problems are not in Lower Township at this time.

Township Council passed a resolution March 7 urging the Department of Human Services to approve a memorandum of understanding between the county and the Atlantic City Rescue Mission for emergency housing.

The resolution stated the rescue mission has expressed an interest in providing service to Cape May County's homeless population, noting the organization currently has memorandums of understanding with Cumberland, Ocean and Atlantic counties to accept vouchers to house, train and counsel the homeless.

"Whereas there exists a memorandum of understanding which currently

remains in the hands of the Department of Human Services and is yet to be approved, all the while the homeless population of Cape May County continues to be placed in local motels with no on-site job training or counseling ..." stated the resolution.

It noted Atlantic City Rescue Mission worked with more than 50 agen-

cies to provide job training, drug, alcohol and spiritual counseling, life skills training and provide safe and secure temporary housing for those in need.

Beck questioned if homeless people would get on a bus to Atlantic City.

"You need to have something that's in the area and in some point in time hopefully that will occur,"

he said.

Councilman Erik Simonsen said the Jersey Shore Motel, the former Sweet Briar, was under 24-hour surveillance. He said owner Fabio Pawlus installed his own camera system which the police department can also access.

Councilman Tom Conrad said Pawlus has rules for the motel that he enforces.



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Safety

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Plans call for Lower Township to be a tenant in the building, occupying about 55 percent of the structure. Last year, Township Council approved turning over the township's public safety building to the county, which will in turn reconstruct the World War II-era structure and lease Lower Township half the building for a police station. The cost of renovating the building was estimated at \$4 million.

The renovations will involve modernization of the building with a future merging of county dispatch with county emergency management dispatch.