Artisans Alcove robbed of $95,000

A group of five works to steal diamond rings, police say

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — A group of five suspects purported to steal diamond rings from the Artisans Alcove on May 6.

According to Cape May police Chief Mike Garecht, shortly before 4 p.m. on May 6, police arrived at the Artisans Alcove on Delsea Drive after it had been reported that a robbery had occurred.

A white male suspect, approximately 30 to 40 years old, was observed entering the store and removing trays containing 30 engagement rings. The suspects were clearly captured on high-definition video, which has been disseminated to numerous media outlets.

Artisans Alcove owner William Scott said he left the store earlier to attend his daughter’s softball game. When he returned, a couple entered the store. Scott showed the store security video showing a well-dressed couple, entering the store. Minutes later, these three individuals, two men and one woman, entered, he said.

Video shows the couple entering the store, blocking the man’s view of the couple, police said.

After the couple that had entered the store earlier told Raps they would continue to work, the man turned and looked back to the main counter and opened the front door, police said. The female suspect followed him, state police said.

Police believe the male suspect was attempting to distract security personnel by pretending they weren’t together,” Scott said.

He said the couple that had entered the store earlier told Raps they would continue to work, and the man walked back to the main counter and opened the front door. The woman accompanied him, police said.

See Robbery, Page A2

Better year for tourism anticipated countywide

Growth seen last year expected to continue

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CREST HAVEN — County Freeholder Director Gerald Thornton summed up the economy of this peninsula in one short sentence: Tourism is the lifeblood of Cape May County.

He also acknowledged the commercial fishing industry and most recently, the opening and operation of the historic Center Cape May, which Thornton said generates $169 million per year in revenue to the county.

The county Department of Tourism said the impact of tourists on the industry may be much greater.

“Cape May County is looked upon as a safe and very friendly place to relax,” said County Freeholder Marie Hayes. “As a statistic, this year 113 species of birds were identified from Cape Island and 50 percent are of the ‘rare’ variety,” she said.

In addition, Cape May is a breeding site for numerous species. The Seaside Sparrows, based on Cape Island, tallied 113 species. The team consisted of Laura Jacobs, Emelia Oleson, Debbie McGuire and Helen Hargath.

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“This year’s season is anticipated to be very favorable,” said Director Gerald Thornton. “Tourism in Cape May County topped $5.5 billion in 2013, creating 25,000 direct jobs, and the outlook for this year is favorable. Rentals and reservations are up, and after a slow start from a cold, snowy and awful season, we’re looking for a great season. Rentals and reservations are up, and after a slow start from a cold, snowy and awful season, we’re looking for a great season. Rentals and reservations are up, and after a slow start from a cold, snowy and awful season, we’re looking for a great season. Rentals and reservations are up, and after a slow start from a cold, snowy and awful season, we’re looking for a great season.

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See Tourism, page A2

Cape May wants more representation on LCMR school board

City Council asks legislators to intervene on behalf of district

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city made a request to the state Senate and House of Representatives to allow Cape May arrangements on the Lower Township Cape May Regional School Board of Education.

In addition, Cape May is requesting a change in the school-funding formula to return the district to its former per-pupil tax allocation.

The cooperation of all parties would be necessary to increase Cape May’s representation on the regional school board.

“Cape May’s hope is to be a part of the regional decision-making process rather than a regional district,” Van Drew said.

See Representation, Page A3

By DEBORAH McGUIRE
Special to the Cape May Star and Wave

The World Series of Birding featured more than 70 teams competing May 10 in New Jersey to count as many bird species as they could in a 24-hour period by identifying them by sight or sound. The Seaside Sparrows, based on Cape Island, tallied 113 species. The team consisted of Laura Jacobs, Emelia Oleson, Bob Hall and David Schratz.