

LINWOOD HOMICIDE

Radio talk host
killed in home

Worker finds activist shot in her bedroom

By STEVEN LEMONGELLO
and WALLACE McKELVEY
Staff Writers

LINWOOD — Neighbors were shocked Thursday to learn of the fatal shooting of April Kauffman, a local radio talk show host, businesswoman and community volunteer found dead in her Linwood home.

Police discovered the body of Kauffman, 47, at about 11:30 a.m. Thursday after a 911 call from a worker who had found her shot in her bedroom, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel said in a release.

No arrests have been made in the shooting, Housel said.

Kauffman hosted until February a weekly talk show on radio station WOND-AM 1400, where she advocated for numerous causes, particularly the Atlantic County Toys for Kids Program and various veterans issues.

She held a Thanksgiving dinner each year for about 50 recruits from the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center Cape May in her Linwood home, said Bill Butler, commander of American Legion Post 352 in Somers Point.

Last year, Kauffman was one of the key organizers of a petition to allow veterans to use Shore Medical Center for health care instead of traveling to a Department of Veterans Affairs hospital in Wilmington, Del.

She also received the governor's Jefferson Award, which is given for outstanding community service, just a few days before her death.

Kauffman owned and operated two Northfield businesses: Cherry Caterers and Artistic Salon.

Her husband, James Kauffman, is a practicing endocrinologist in Linwood. Records from 2011 list James Kauffman as the owner of their Woodstock Avenue home. It is unknown how many people lived in the large home at the end of the cul-de-sac.

"She's a dear friend of mine, I can't believe it," said a distraught Jo Carney, of Linwood, as she at-

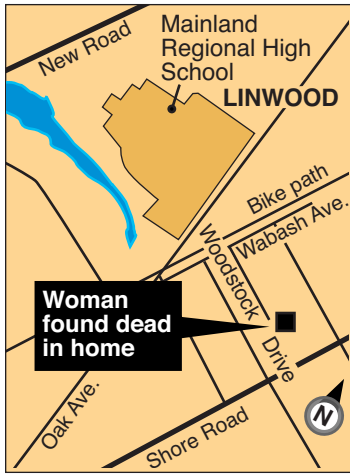
□ See Homicide, A12

An online outpouring

The news of April Kauffman's death spread quickly through social media, where friends praised the work she did. A12



April Kauffman, right, was part of the group that helped injured Iraq War veteran Kevin Snow, second from right, of Egg Harbor Township, and his wife, Adrienne, in March. At left is N.J. Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class LeVar Curry, Atlantic County county chairman for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.



Press graphic by Krishna Mathias



Staff photo by Vernon Ogrodnek
Police work near the scene of Thursday's homicide on Woodstock Drive in Linwood.

Kauffman fought hard for veterans

■ The Linwood woman was so heavily involved in her community, she received a governor's award for service.

By JENNIFER BOGDAN, WALLACE McKELVEY and ROB SPAHR
Staff Writers

Radio host and activist April Kauffman — a woman known throughout the region as a tireless advocate for veterans — was at the high point of her life.

Earlier this month, Kauffman, who was found fatally shot in her Linwood home Thursday, had been chosen from a crowd of 1,400 nominees for a governor's award for community service. And she had finally seen progress on her campaign to ensure that veterans would be able to seek medical care locally rather than traveling to a VA hospital in Wilmington, Del.

"Literally, yesterday, she was telling me that this was the absolute best time of her life. She said getting

the local medical care for veterans was her crowning achievement," said Donna Clementoni, a friend and fellow veterans advocate who had just finished writing an article on Kauffman's recent achievements she hoped to have published. "She was such a light in this world, and she did so much good. I'm just absolutely shocked that she's gone."

Kauffman, the wife of Egg Harbor Township-based endocri-

□ See Kauffman, A12

Cape May's \$10.5M hall to face first test

■ The new Convention Hall will host a prom Saturday before a May 26 grand-opening concert.

By RICHARD DEGENER
Staff Writer

CAPE MAY — The noise of contractors filled the air Thursday at the city's new Convention Hall, but Andre Houser had to imagine the din as violins, piano notes, woodwinds and horns.

Houser Audio, of Aston, Pa., is in charge of acoustics for the hall's May 26 grand-opening concert featuring Peter

Nero and the Philly Pops. The concert will test the \$10.5 million facility's ability to handle top-flight musical acts.

"So far, so good: Awesome. I'm going to do a couple more tests and that will tell me how this is going to work out. Acoustics mean so much," Houser said.

The new 20,000-square-foot building was packed with workers Thursday morning putting final touches on a project envisioned since 2008, when the old hall was condemned due to structural problems. Even the road outside, Beach Avenue, was quickly being paved for

the first event, the Lower Cape May Regional High School prom that kicks off Saturday night, two weeks before the Nero gala opening.

"The prom will give us an initial feedback on the functionality of the hall for all mechanical systems, traffic flow, operation of the catering kitchen, heating and cooling systems, and acoustics," Mayor Ed Mahaney said.

But the prom will feature a disc jockey, and the crowd will be high school students.

Peter Nero, a two-time Grammy

□ See Hall, A7



Staff photo by Dale Gerhard
Andre Houser, right, of Houser Audio, of Aston Pa., and George Muller, director of operations for Peter Nero in Philadelphia, check the acoustics Thursday inside the new Cape May Convention Hall.

Casino
revenue
off 10%
in April

By DONALD WITTKOWSKI
Staff Writer

ATLANTIC CITY — Revel's new, \$2.4 billion megaresort was not enough to propel Atlantic City's casino industry toward higher revenue in April.

Overall, the 12 casinos posted \$260.6 million in winnings from slot machines and table games, a 10 percent decline from the \$289.4 million earned in April a year ago, the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement reported Thursday. Slot revenue fell 9 percent to \$189.5 million, while table games were down 12 percent at \$71.1 million.

Revel, which opened April 2, generated just \$13.4 million in gambling revenue during its first month of operation, placing it eighth in the industry. Revel CEO Kevin DeSanctis explained that a limited number of hotel rooms and technology glitches hampered business during the start-up phase.

□ See Casinos, A8

Assembly
panel OKs
Internet
gambling

By DEREK HARPER
Staff Writer

TRENTON — The legalization of Internet wagers cleared the state Assembly's gambling committee Thursday morning, as lawmakers race to make New Jersey the first state that allows Internet betting.

"We want to take the lead," said Sen. Raymond Lesniak, D-Union, a sponsor of the Senate bill. "We don't want Nevada to take the lead."

Lesniak said the state has already lost out on about \$200 million because of Gov. Chris Christie's 2011 veto on Internet gambling.

"Our casinos are hurting," Lesniak said, pointing out that the resort's casinos have seen reduced revenue for 35 of the past 36 months.

Christie vetoed a similar bill last year over constitutional concerns, but a federal Justice Department opinion late last year seemed to pave the

□ See Online, A8

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