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Find out what that means in Life, B1



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Panel urges international flights

Tourism leaders see growth in direct access for visitors from U.K., Canada

By **ANJALEE KHEMLANI**
Staff Writer

Catering to international visitors by adding direct flights from abroad to Atlantic City International Airport could increase tourism and business for the region, those gathered for the Jersey Shorecast conference were told Friday.



SIEG

to get to the destination that they are having their convention in,” said Larry Sieg, vice president of marketing with for Atlantic City Convention & Visitors Authority. Sieg was among the panelists Friday morning during the fifth annual conference at the Stockton Seaview Hotel and Golf Club in Galloway Township, which addressed marketing campaigns for Atlantic, Cape

May and Ocean counties to attract tourists to the region as it recovers from Hurricane Sandy. Sieg said the need for international visitors to fly into Philadelphia and make additional arrangements to get to Atlantic City can make reaching the resort seem impossible. “It is a perception we struggle with on a

□ See **Tourism**, A5

COMING SUNDAY

The Jersey Shore has come a long way since Hurricane Sandy struck last fall.

Boardwalks are back, businesses are open. And millions are being spent in marketing as the state tries to dispel the nationwide belief that the Jersey Shore as a tourist attraction was destroyed.

Memorial Day is just two weeks away, and the cry from the Jersey Shore is clear: We Are Back.

Read our report on Sunday’s front page of The Press of Atlantic City.



Where’d Bert go?

Sheraton moves Miss America host’s statue



Staff photo by Michael Ein

Vincent Greco, left, of Gloucester Township, and Bob Friedlander, of Galloway Township, work in a park near an empty pedestal where a statue of Bert Parks once stood outside the Sheraton Atlantic City Convention Center Hotel.

By **JENNIFER BOGDAN**
Staff Writer

Bert Parks had stood guard in front of the Sheraton Atlantic City Convention Center Hotel for more than 14 years without incident.

Arms outstretched and holding one of Miss America’s iconic crowns, the life-sized bronze likeness of the man known as Mr. Miss America was ready to provide a “crowning moment” to any traveler curious enough to see whether she ... or he, for that matter ... might fit under the sparkling crown.

That was, until earlier this year when Bert disappeared from his perch in the tea garden outside the hotel. With news that the pageant would return to its birthplace in



Find all your Miss America coverage at **missamerica.pressofac.com**

Video: The Press asks — who was Bert Parks? **bit.ly/pressparks**

Photos: View our Bert Parks gallery at: **bit.ly/pressparkspics**

September, his disappearance sparked concern as people began to wonder where the

□ See **Statue**, A5



Staff photo by Edward Lea

Meghan Ceci, executive assistant to the general manager of the Sheraton, stands with the Parks statue, which the hotel moved inside after it was damaged.

Casino win takes 12% fall in April

■ Revel sees a 40 percent drop in revenue for the month, while Atlantic Club posts a 37 percent gain.

By **DONALD WITTKOWSKI**
Staff Writer

Atlantic City’s 12 casinos are looking for a recovery in their gambling revenue this spring following a dismal winter. So far, they haven’t gotten it.

April’s gambling revenue came in at \$228.5 million, compared with \$259.9 million last year, according to figures released Friday by the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement. Slots revenue fell 14 percent, to \$161.7 million, while winnings from table games were down 6 percent, to \$66.8 million.

The gambling industry struggled through the winter, suffering three straight months of double-digit revenue declines blamed on

the lingering effects of Hurricane Sandy and competition from casinos in surrounding states. April’s figures suggest there is no early-spring rebound on its way.

The results also represented a huge disappointment for Revel, the \$2.4 billion megaresort that has been mired near the bottom of Atlantic City gambling revenue since it opened in April 2012. Revel’s revenue this April plunged 40 percent, to just \$8 million, compared to a year ago.

“Although our April gaming revenues were disappointing, we are launching new initiatives that will drive future growth and

□ See **Casinos**, A11

Charts of casino earnings on A11

Ocean County wants record of overdoses

■ The prosecutor says the reports from local police will help identify areas of heroin distribution.

By **DONNA WEAVER**
Staff Writer

Ocean County Prosecutor Joseph Coronato has directed the county’s police departments to report every drug overdose in an effort to stem a rise in heroin abuse by tracking the drug’s damaging effects.

The directive, which takes effect this month, follows the prosecutor labeling heroin use a “crisis” facing the county shortly after he took office in April. One

state legislator says it is a move other counties should follow.

Nine Ocean County residents died within eight days last month due to heroin overdoses. So far, 42 people have died this year from drug overdoses. That’s up from the typical 50 deaths in an entire year, authorities have said.

In response, Coronato is asking police to alert his

□ See **Heroin**, A4

Fisherman’s body found

Port Norris fisherman Joshua Catlett’s body was found Thursday in southern Delaware and identified Friday, State Police said. Catlett, 24, had been missing and presumed dead since April 4. **C1**

Benghazi memos altered

Political considerations influenced talking points the U.N. ambassador used five days after the deadly assault in Libya, with State officials asking that references to terror be deleted, department emails show. **A3**

Crowd seeks ‘justice for April’ at Kauffman vigil

By **LYNDA COHEN**
Staff Writer

LINWOOD — April Kauffman’s daughter is done being quiet.

A year after the local radio personality and veterans advocate was fatally shot in her Linwood home, more than 100 people gathered Friday on the bike path down the block to remember her and let her still-free killer know justice will be served.

Video: Watch vigil footage at: **bit.ly/pressvigil**

Photos: View our gallery at: **bit.ly/presskauffmanpics**

“I’m coming out of hiding and making sure this person pays,” said Kauffman’s only

□ See **April**, A4



Daughter Kimberly Pack, of Linwood, hugs a friend Friday during a vigil in memory of her mother, radio host and veterans advocate April Kauffman.

Staff photo by Ben Foglietto