

BUSINESS

Electricity test

From our wire services

Atlantic City Electric asked all of its customers to conserve energy from 2 to 3 p.m. today as part of a test event required by PJM, the grid operator for New Jersey and beyond. The power supply in the region is expected to be sufficient to meet demand.

Levinson to talk

Matthew Levinson, chairman of the state Casino Control Commission, will discuss the industry at a Greater Atlantic City Public Relations Council luncheon at noon Wednesday in the Bayview Room of the Golden Nugget Casino Hotel. The cost is \$35 for members, \$45 for non-members, \$5 more at door; reserve by email to patvitkow.vitt001@aol.com.

Mass. gambling

Wynn Resorts and Massachusetts gambling regulators finalized a license for a proposed \$1.6 billion resort casino across from Boston, but the casino company says it's not yet prepared to campaign against a looming threat: November's ballot question to repeal the state's casino law. MGM Resorts and Penn National Gaming, who have also won state gambling licenses, have pumped at least \$1.7 million toward defeating the ballot question.

Consumer prices fall

U.S. consumer prices edged down 0.2 percent in August, the first monthly drop since the spring of 2013, as gasoline, airline tickets and clothing prices all fell. Over the past 12 months, overall prices are up a modest 1.7 percent.

Kohl's to hire

Kohl's Corp. plans to hire more than 67,000 seasonal workers nationwide for the holiday shopping season, which the company said is a 15 percent increase over last year. It expects to hire an average of 50 associates per store, up 25 percent from a year ago.

Testosterone label

A panel of Food and Drug Administration advisers voted 20-1 that prescribing language on blockbuster testosterone treatments should be revised to make clear they have not been shown to reverse common aging issues like low libido, fatigue and muscle loss. The labeling would limit the drugs' FDA-approved indication to men who have abnormally low hormone levels due to disease or injury.

Coupon acquisition

Coupon firm Valpak announced that Bill Reichert has acquired its primary Atlantic County franchise. Reichert already owned a franchise including Burlington, Camden and Gloucester counties.

Euro lenders pay

Investors have bought billions of euros in German treasury notes that pay negative interest — meaning the purchasers agreed to pay a fee for the privilege of lending the German government their money. The negative yield is a sign the 18-country eurozone is struggling to maintain a weak recovery.

Fed signals plan to keep key rate at record low

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve signaled Wednesday that it plans to keep a key interest rate at a record low because a broad range of U.S. economic measures remain subpar.

The Fed said it intends to keep its benchmark rate near zero as long as inflation remains under control, until it sees consistent gains in wage growth, long-term unemployment and other gauges of the job market.

The central bank retained language signaling its plans to keep short-term rates low "for a considerable time" after it ends its monthly bond purchases after its next meeting in October.

"In the Fed's mind, the economy still has work to do, but it's improving," said Mike Arone, an investment strategist with State Street Global Advisors.

The Fed did raise its estimate of what its benchmark interest rate should be at the end of 2015. The median short-term interest rate supported by Fed policymakers at the end of 2015 is now 1.38 percent, up from 1.13 percent at its June meeting. This suggested pressure from some Fed officials for a faster rate increase than the Fed's statement implied.

The Fed also expects slower growth this year and next than in its last projections issued in June. It

predicts that the economy will grow about 2.1 percent this year, down from its June forecast of roughly 2.2 percent. That reduction likely reflects the sharp contraction in the first quarter of this year. The economy has rebounded solidly since then.

Stock prices rose after the Fed issued a statement at 2 p.m. Eastern time after a two-day policy meeting, and the Dow Jones industrial average closed up about 25 points to a record high.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note edged up to 2.62 percent from 2.59 percent late Tuesday.

In its statement, the Fed said it will make another \$10 billion cut in

the pace of its Treasury and mortgage bond purchases, which have been intended to keep long-term borrowing rates low.

It also clarified the process by which it will eventually unwind its low-rate policies. The Fed said it would first increase its key short-term rate before it stops reinvesting its bond holdings, which have driven the Fed's balance sheet to a record of nearly \$4.5 trillion.

On the eve of the Fed's meeting this week, the financial world had been on high alert for whether the Fed would reiterate that it expects to keep its key short-term rate near zero for a "considerable time" after the bond buying ends.

Just Opened

New business on the block

Cape Bank opens new office in Hammonton

Business: Cape Bank's Hammonton Commercial Lending Office

Location: 129 N. White Horse Pike, Hammonton

PETRINI

Owner: Cape Bancorp

Employees: 25

Phone: 609-465-5600

Cape Bank has opened a new commercial lending office in Hammonton.

The bank's executives will join the office's commercial lending team and customers for a ribbon cutting and dedication at 5:30 p.m. today.

The new office is part of Cape Bank's effort to expand its commercial lending capabilities and services throughout South Jersey, and provide local businesses with a range of flexible and competitive commercial banking and loan products.

The Hammonton Commercial Lending Office is supervised by Louis L. Petrini, senior vice president, regional manager — commercial lending. A native of Buena Vista Township, Petrini has 30 years of retail and commercial lending experience in South Jersey. He will be joined in Hammonton by three vice presidents, commercial relationship officers: Craig DeGenova, Greg Fuller and Brett Lawrence.

"As a longtime South Jersey native, Lou understands the market, our industry and the current economic environment," Michael D. Devlin, president and CEO of Cape Bank, said in a statement.

Petrini said the new office primarily covers the Atlantic County territory and Cumberland County. It replaces an office in Atlantic City that covered the eastern part of the county, and now will accommodate the expansion of other departments.

"We're looking to expand into the western part of Atlantic County and also pick up Cumberland at the same time," Petrini said.

The office will handle all types of commercial lending.

Since Cape Bank is a preferred Small Business Administration lender, the new office will handle SBA loans, he said.

Cape Bank also has commercial lending offices in Cape May and Burlington counties and in Radnor, Pennsylvania.

Cape Bank is a full service institution with 15 branches and an extensive menu of deposit and lending options. Its holding company, Cape Bancorp, announced last week that it would acquire Vineland-based Colonial Bank FSB and its seven branches for about \$55 million.

Business Editor Kevin Post



Staff photo by Dale Gerhard Sept. 21, 2007
Antique and hot-rod cars will head to the Wildwoods Convention Center this weekend. The car show and auction helps keep tourism to the area going strong after Labor Day, even though it was not very successful its first year of 2007, pictured, due to the economic collapse.

Car show, auction keep Wildwood tourism going

By KEVIN POST

Business Editor

Gary McGhee started a classic car auction in 2007 in Wildwood to go with the city's long running classic car show on the Boardwalk.

The year the U.S. economy tanked was tough to start a business, but eventually the auction got into gear, he said.

Then a few years ago, the organization putting on the Boardwalk car show abandoned it.

That posed a challenge for the car auction, but in his other role as president of the Greater Wildwood Hotel/Motel Association, McGhee saw a bigger, more important problem for the Wildwoods tourism industry. Since the mid-1980s, the area's motels, restaurants and retailers had counted on the show to extend the season.

"We couldn't let all of that revenue go. The room nights alone would have been devastating to the town," he said. "These two events plus the monster truck races bring in millions of dollars to the Wildwoods."

So McGhee's Wildwood Motor Events LLC took on the car show as well, giving it all three events that help extend the season into the start of fall.

"We're tourism driven, so we're also about putting heads in beds and bringing people to the island," he said.

If you go

The Wildwood Boardwalk Classic Car Auction will take place at 6 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. Saturday in Wildwoods Convention Center. The Boardwalk Classic Car Show will be held 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Visit wildwoodmotorevents.com.

Monster truck fans will have to wait until next week, but the Wildwood Boardwalk Classic Car Auction and Show will run today through Saturday.

The auction gets started first with a preview of cars available inside Wildwoods Convention Center from 3 to 7 p.m. today.

McGhee said the auction of up to 200 cars is limited to classics 25 years and older. It will start at 6 p.m. Friday and resume at 10 a.m. Saturday, and will be conducted by world champion auctioneers Scott Adcock and sons Michael and Charlie.

McGhee said his ring men — who motivate bidders and make sure none are missed by the auctioneers — are also champions of competitions for that. "It's a show within a show. I've seen one guy take the shirt off his back trying to get another thousand dollars bid. You've just got to laugh."

The auction is free to spectators, and, of course, the

Boardwalk Classic Car Show is free as well.

Classic cars — McGhee said 600 are guaranteed — will load onto the Boardwalk from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Friday and again on Saturday, and remain exhibited there until 3:30 p.m. each day.

For the car owners, there is a get-together today at Fox Park in Wildwood, a car cruise tonight, and buffet dinner party Friday in the Starlight Ballroom of the Wildwoods Convention Center, he said.

Judges select the top 40 cars in the show, and then "those 40 owners themselves pick the best of show, who gets a 6-foot-tall trophy and \$500. It's fun to watch guys with little cars win," he said.

Classic cars are a very popular hobby, but also a substantial business segment.

IBISWorld estimates there are 9,500 classic car businesses in the U.S., employing 19,000 and with annual revenue of about \$8 billion.

Car lovers who want to join the trend can sign up at the auction to bid on a car, as long as they can demonstrate the ability to pay.

"Most folks who come at the 11th hour are bringing cash," McGhee said.

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Interest rates



The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 2.62 percent Wednesday. Yields affect rates on mortgages and other consumer loans.

PRIME FED RATE FUNDS

VEST 3.25 .13
6 MO AGO 3.25 .13
1 YR AGO 3.25 .13

TREASURIES	YEST	PVS	NET CHG	1YR AGO
3-month T-bill	.01	.0101
6-month T-bill	.04	.0403
52-wk T-bill	.12	.1211
2-year T-note	.57	.54	+.03	.38
5-year T-note	1.83	1.78	+.05	1.61
10-year T-note	2.62	2.59	+.03	2.85
30-year T-bond	3.37	3.36	+.01	3.83

BONDS	YEST	PVS	NET CHG	1YR AGO
Barclays LongT-Bldx	3.19	3.17	+.02	3.65
Bond Buyer Muni Idx	4.46	4.46	...	5.23
Barclays US Aggregate	2.38	2.39	-.01	2.54
Barclays US High Yield	5.78	5.73	+.05	6.18
Moody's AAA Corp Idx	4.22	4.21	+.01	4.72
Barclays CompT-Bldx	2.07	2.06	+.01	1.75
Barclays US Corp	3.09	3.09	...	3.49

Stocks of Local Interest

NAME	52-WK RANGE	△ CLOSE	YTD	1YR
	LO	HI	CLOSE	CHG %CHG %RTN
Bank of America	13.60	—	18.03	16.77 +.06 +0.4 +7.7 +15.6 0.20f
BoydGm	9.11	—	14.75	10.77 -1.2 -1.1 -4.4 -17.2 ...
Brown Forman Inc	65.46	—	95.29	90.56 -1.17 -1.3 +22.8 +36.6 1.16
Cape Bancorp	9.00	—	11.26	9.38 -1.10 -1.1 -7.7 +7.5 0.24
Comcast Corp A	43.20	—	57.49	57.09 -.14 -0.2 +9.9 +30.7 0.90
IGI Inc	1.80	—	7	