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OF EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP

Two new chain restaurants under construction in EHT

By JORDAN WOMPIERSKI
Staff Writer

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP – When hunger sets in, local residents will soon have a few new choices on where to go and what to eat to satisfy that craving.

A Golden Corral and a Chick-fil-A restaurant are both on the way as part of a recent surge in construction projects in the township. While original plans for the establishments were set in motion back in 2007, it wasn't until recently that visible progress was made on the sites, located by the Shore Mall and on the Black Horse Pike, respectively. Now, passersby can see the backhoes, dump trucks and dirt piles indicating new businesses and a

recovering local economy.

Golden Corral, which offers buffet-style dining, will occupy a stand-alone building in the Shore Mall parking lot and is expected to be completed in early 2011, said franchise owner Jenane Bartholomew. The building will be 10,500 square feet when completed, although right now only foundation work is under way, according to township construction official Pat Naticchio.

Bartholomew said Golden Corral will be a great fit for Egg Harbor Township.

"We feel that with the way the economy is, everybody's looking for value and a great product, and that's why we decided to take on the project. See **CONSTRUCTION** on Page 17

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Clients are rolling in for 17-year-old web designer

By JORDAN WOMPIERSKI
Staff Writer

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP – When Joshua Davidson couldn't find a job in the computer field two years ago, he decided to create one himself.

Davidson, a 17-year-old senior at Egg Harbor Township High School, now runs a thriving web design and development business out of his home. Davidson's company, Chop

Dawg Studios, LLC has worked with nearly 50 local and regional businesses to design eye-catching, crisp, and colorful websites.

"When I was 16, nobody would hire me, and I had filled out over 200 applications at different businesses," Davidson said. "I was like, 'I'm good at web designing and I know I can talk to people, so maybe I should start designing websites for businesses in this area because web design is basically the future of marketing.'"

Davidson went door-to-door for more than a month looking for his first client, which he eventually found in the Egg Harbor Township pet boutique It's a Doggie Dog World.

Now, it's the other way around, as businesses are constantly seeking out Davidson to work for them. His professional-looking websites have an appearance that rivals even the most recognizable national companies and the quality he puts into his work has paid dividends.

"One client tells another, and those two clients tell two others, and it kind of started a chain reaction," he explained.

Davidson said he taught himself to design websites over the course of a few years and that skill is now something he can use to be successful.

"Truthfully I just had too much free time," he said of his origins in the industry. "I used to be online all the time and I slowly picked things up over time. It didn't happen overnight,

it took a few years."

Davidson's business sense is just as keen as his computer skills. He has trademarked his logo and gives out Chop Dawg Studios T-shirts promoting his business.

"For whatever reason, our clients love it," Davidson said of the Chop Dawg moniker, which stems from a combination of Chop Shop and Top Dawg. "It just stuck in everyone's mind and left an impression. We really

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try to brand ourselves so people are familiar with our logo."

Although he says "we," Davidson means "he." Davidson is the only official employee of Chop Dawg, although friend and co-founder Kegan Gilbert occasionally still helps out.

Davidson downplayed the fact that he manages to run a legitimate business by himself while still attending high school and also working week-ends at a restaurant.

"What I'm doing is not difficult," Davidson said. "I'm not going outside and doing hard labor."

However, he admitted the business does cut into his personal time.

"Lack of sleep," Davidson said when asked how he finds the time to work on the web pages. "I'm able to survive on four to five hours. The hardest part is finding time to do my own stuff."

Davidson has so little free time because the clients just keep calling. First, they came from around the area, but now he is getting calls from places like Virginia, Arizona, and Canada. He said he gets contacted four to five times a day for his services, which can run anywhere from \$100 for a simple web page to a few thousand dollars for a large and complex site like he recently designed for a New Jersey school. Davidson said he offers potential clients a free design mockup and a price estimate so they can decide whether or not to

move forward.

"I try to learn about their business first, maybe research some competitors, and then I do the mockup," Davidson said. "I design around what the client wants, like if they're trying to deliver a certain message."

Davidson also offers the option of a special package where he will maintain the page after he builds it.

"It's a win-win situation," he said. "A lot of clients don't have the time or the resources to update it themselves."

Davidson said he also offers other services that tie in to his web designs.

"I go beyond just the web designing aspect into print and photography," he said. "I've taken pictures, I've done business cards which matched

the website, and created different publications. I make it all match to the website."

Davidson said while his age was originally a disadvantage, he now uses it in his favor.

"A lot of people put me down at first, especially since I was 16 at the time, but the nice thing about being young is I know all the trends right now on the Internet," he said. "Being 17 and running a business, I think I've really learned how to use that to my advantage. The thing that separates me is I'm able to create something that people will remember with a unique and youthful look that gives a modern feeling."

To learn more about Davidson and Chop Dawg Studios, see www.chopdawgstudios.com.



Jordan Wompierski

The new student representatives to the Board of Education for the 2010-2011 school year are seniors Ryan Grossman and Tope Agabalugun, both 17.

New EHTHS student reps speak to school board

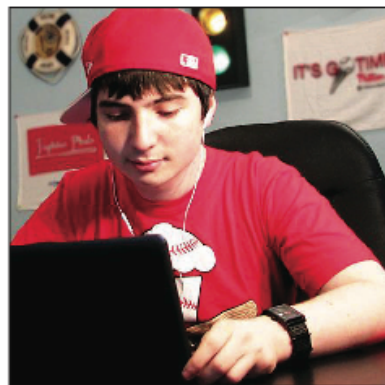
Ryan Grossman, 17, and Tope Agabalugun, 17, began their terms as Egg Harbor Township High School's student representatives at the Sept. 14 Board of Education meeting.

They introduced themselves and spoke about the successful start to the school year.

"It's been a very smooth opening. Everything seemed to go really well," said Grossman. "Honestly, it's the nicest and cleanest I've ever seen the school."

Agabalugun talked about some of the achievements the school's students have earned in just the short few weeks school has been in session. He talked about a strong start to the sports season and praised fellow student Alexander Bui, who performed on the television show "America's Got Talent" over the summer.

"He played excellently," Agabalugun said of Bui. "He made Egg Harbor Township proud and showed the talent we have within our community."



Submitted

Josh Davidson, 17, owns and runs Chop Dawg Studios, LLC, a web design and development business.