



INSIDE

Home Improvement Guide

Spring Brides



OUTDOORS

Turn your garden into a bee haven, **A16**  
 Nature Center annual Plant Sale underway, **A16**  
**CAPE MAY**  
 Cape man brings entertainment to town, **A5**

WEATHER ALMANAC BY WAYNE ROOP

MARCH			
(Normals: 51°/35°, 4.28")			
	High	Low	Precip.
12	50°	38°	
13	42°	34°	.01"
14	48°	34°	.06"
15	43°	37°	.25"
16	48°	41°	.02"
17	54°	32°	.02"
18	55°	29°	

## Two dead and four still missing

### One rescued after fishing vessel Lady Mary sinks off Cape May coast

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

CAPE MAY – Two crew members were dead and four still missing on Wednesday after the fishing vessel Lady Mary sank about 75 miles off the coast of Cape May Tuesday.

The boat owner Royal "Fuzzy" Smith Sr. lost two sons, Royal Jr., 42, also known as "Bobo," and Timothy, 37. Smith's brother, Tarzon "Bernie" Smith, who captained the Lady Mary, was among the four missing, which included Frankie Credle, Frank Reyes and William Torres.

On Wednesday, Smith said he believed the Coast Guard was continuing its search, but he didn't hold out much hope. "You always go to the last hope, but it's been too long already," he said.

The U.S. Coast Guard reported the 71-foot scallop boat sank around 5 a.m. Tuesday, but they did not receive an alert from the boat's 406 MHz Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon until around 7:30 a.m. Three of the boat's seven crew members were pulled from the water about an hour later.

Of the three, only Jose Luis Ariese survived. Of the three, only Jose Luis Ariese survived. Of the three, only Jose Luis Ariese survived. Of the three, only Jose Luis Ariese survived.

Please see Fishing, page A2

*'You always go to the last hope, but it's been too long already.'*

–Royal "Fuzzy" Smith Sr.  
 Lady Mary owner



Royal "Fuzzy" Smith Sr., center, is surrounded by family members as he speaks to a fisherman. Smith owned the Lady Mary which sank Tuesday 75 miles off the coast of Cape May. Two of his sons are dead and his brother, who captained the scallop boat, is missing.

Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

## Singer Songwriter Cape May showcase packs a musical punch

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

CAPE MAY – The Singer Songwriter Cape May showcase is ready to begin this weekend with about 125 acts booked.

According to producer John Harris the event is not a music festival in the sense of the Cape May Jazz Festival, but a music conference and showcase. "All the music is new. These aren't established artists who've played the

same thing for years, over and over again," Harris said. "During the day it's music education and at night you can blow off some steam."

Harris said he was asked to design the event by Patrick Logue from Congress Hall – a new event for Cape May. He scheduled the first Singer Songwriter Cape May last year, which went off without a lot of publicity. The event this year is attracting a little more attention despite the low level of promotion – drawing 125 singer-song-

writers to perform at a dozen locations around the city (for a schedule go to [www.sscapemay.com](http://www.sscapemay.com)).

"It's all over the town. We can only schedule as many people as we have slots for and not everyone submitted could be selected. We had another batch (of artists) that was as big or bigger who did not get selected," Harris said.

Harris is counting on the uniqueness of this musical event to carry it into the future.

"Most people are used to the Jazz Festival. Here most of the performances are free except for the Congress Hall Ballroom on Saturday. There is a \$10 admission to a conference with Chris Barron, former lead singer of Spin Doctors, who will be joined by Brendan Brown, lead singer from Wheatus, and Phil Cody. "The event will sell out several hotels," Harris said. "It's still a new

Please see Singer, page A5



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave  
 It's friendly competition as Chris Nagle from Cabanas smiles with Billy and Tina Moran, of Villas, from the amateur division. At right, Beverly and John Morgan dish up chili.

## Chili Cookoff brings new flavor to Cabanas

CAPE MAY – The first annual Chili Cookoff at Cabanas by the Beach attracted 21 contestants, professionals and amateurs, who provided samples of chili as different as the cooks themselves – from a white bean chili to no bean chili, chili with sausage, chili with scallops, and chili served with Fritos corn chips.

The event, which was sponsored by the Greater Cape May Chamber of Commerce, attracted at least 125 guests who paid \$5 a head to sample chili. The money raised is to be used to support chamber activities.

Will Knapp of Cabanas, which hosted the event for the chamber, said he thought the event was very successful.

"And one thing we remarked on was it was great this early in the season to see a full house anywhere. It's nice to know there is a crowd paying attention to events in town," he said.



## For instilling the love of music in others, former teacher is honored with commissioned work

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

band music, including a piece commissioned in LaCorte's honor. "For everything she's done she

ERMA – A lot of people in Lower Township and the regional school district have been affected by Nan LaCorte, who until she retired in December 2008, was the music teacher at the Richard M. Teitelman School for 32 years.

On March 31, members of the Congress Street Brass Band, the high school music department, and members of the community will honor LaCorte with an evening of

*'For everything (Nan LaCorte) has done she deserves the recognition.'*

–John Drechen  
 LCMR band director

Please see Nan, page A2

## Auditions for 'You've Got Talent' April 1

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Auditions for the 2009 Lower Township You've Got Talent contest are scheduled for April 1 at 6 p.m. at the Lower Township Recreation Department, 2600 Bayshore Road, Villas, behind Township Hall.

The contest is open to residents of Lower Township, Cape May, West Cape May and Cape May Point. Organizers are looking for comedians, singers, jugglers, magicians, dancers, bands, pianists, musicians or any other wonderful talent you have.

All performances must be family friendly.

There are four age groups: Grades K-4, Grade 5-8, Grade 8-12, and Adults.

According to Eileen Kreiss at Township Hall, the deadline for applications is March 31, and the categories are filling up fast. Applications are available on line at [www.townshipoflower.org](http://www.townshipoflower.org). For more information call Eileen at 609-886-2005 ext. 132.

The Lower Township You've Got Talent contest will be held on Friday April 24 at 6 p.m. in the Lower Cape May High School auditorium. Admission \$1 and a donation of a canned food item to benefit a local food bank.

## Labrusciano, Geyer throw hats into WCM commissioner ring

### Ramsey Geyer joins Kaithern and Burke

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

WEST CAPE MAY – Mayor Pam Kaithern and Commission Peter Burke announced they would be joined by Ramsey Geyer in the 2009 campaign for borough commission.

Four candidates are vying for the three commissioner seats – incumbents Kaithern and Burke, Geyer, and Jim Labrusciano.

Geyer has lived in West Cape May just under four years, but he said he has been quietly involved, attending commission and

planning/zoning board meetings. "I like to be involved in my community," he said.

"I don't believe longevity makes a leader," he added. "You have to try to listen to all sides and make sure the borough takes that into consideration. You have to balance what the people want, the needs of the community, with the law."

Geyer said he has a lot of experience in operations, having worked in worldwide

Please see Geyer, page A5

### Jim Labrusciano is running against a slate

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

WEST CAPE MAY – While commission candidate Ramsey Geyer has joined a slate with incumbents Pam Kaithern and Peter Burke, Jim Labrusciano is striking out on his own – but not entirely.

Labrusciano, who has lived in West Cape May since 2001, said he has been encouraged to run for Borough Commission by the West Cape May Taxpayers Association and others. "People mentioned I would be a good candi-

date and I had to run when no one else was running," he said.

Two individuals who picked up petition packets did not return them.

Originally from Cumberland County, Labrusciano said he has lived at the shore since 1978. He and his wife Lenanne worked for casinos for over 20 years in the gaming tables aspect of the industry.

Although he enjoyed Cape May, he said, he "never thought in a million years we would

Please see Labrusciano, page A5