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### WEATHER ALMANAC BY WAYNE ROOP

APRIL (Normals: 60°/44°, 3.51")			
	High	Low	Precip.
9	62°	37°	
10	60°	46°	
11	59°	42°	.61"
12	52°	38°	
13	54°	36°	
14	49°	42°	1.25"
15	48°	39°	.71"

## Three firms compete to be city engineer

### Cape May City Council interviews representatives from each

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - On Wednesday evening, Cape May City Council was expected to choose one of three firms to serve as the city engineer after interviewing representatives from each.

City council listened to presentations by Fralinger Engineering, Mott Associates LLC, and Schaeffer Nassar

Scheidegg, the three selected from a field of 12 candidates. Council members were given RFPs from a dozen engineering firms, and after two weeks were asked to narrow their choices down to five. After the input of council, the top three firms were asked to make a presentation.

The firm to be hired Wednesday evening was to be given a 14-month contract going until June 30, 2010. After that, the city engineer would be

given an annual contract. Mayor Edward Mahaney said this was a move away from the typical three-year contract.

"Whenever the city had a three-year contract it had bad experiences," he said.

Mahaney also explained to each candidate that the city engineer would not perform inspections of planning/zoning board projects. The planning and zoning boards have

their own engineer who reviews plans, and the process is more timely and less expensive, Mahaney said.

The first firm to give its presentation was Fralinger Engineering, Bridgeton, represented by Albert A. Fralinger Jr. and four of his associates. Fralinger said his family has been operating Fralinger Candy for 125 years, and has a location on the

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## Near \$24 mil budget passes in Lower Twp.

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP - Lower Township Council passed the township's nearly \$24 million budget after making an amendment to reduce the tax rate by two-tenths of a cent.

Council voted 5-0 to adopt the budget with a 1.6-cent tax rate increase to help pay for \$23,922,860.16 in appropriations for 2009. The difference between what was proposed and the amended amount was made by cutting \$90,715.02 in spending, including: \$51,500 in police salaries and wages, \$3,800 in Social Security payments, \$32,875 for debt service, and \$2,540 to the reserve for uncollected taxes.

Mayor Mike Beck said there would be more savings in the 2010 budget through cutting two police sergeant positions and an administrative position in public works, but contracts passed in December 2008 left this council without a lot of options. The current council was seated at the first meeting in January. Beck said council was taking action now in order to face anticipated budget problems in the future.

"We're not waiting to get wet. We're putting up the umbrella now," he said.

During public comment, resident Joe Winters said he would like to see

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David Nahan and Jennifer Kopp/Cape May Star and Wave

## 31st Cape May Jazz Fest

Harmonica player James Cotton rolls with it Saturday night at the Performing Arts Center at Lower Cape May Regional High School. The James Cotton Blues Band was a headliner at the 31st Cape May Jazz Fest. Behind him is guitarist/vocalist Slam Allen. Left, percussionist Mayra Casales on drums shares a happy moment with a Jazz Fest trumpeter during Sunday's jam session at Carney's. Below, Jazz Festival staff members Jodi Perry and Diane Mitchell join in the festivities during the same session. For more photos see pages A5, A14, A15.



## Lower still debates Ponderlodge

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP - Township residents are very much concerned what will hap-

pen with the former Ponderlodge Golf Course, now a wildlife habitat owned by the state.

Resident Joe Winters asked why the public seems to be in the dark so much of the time over the site. Mayor Mike Beck said he had spoken to state Sen. Jeff Van Drew since he spoke at a council meeting two weeks ago, and Van Drew asked the township to be patient a little longer. Beck said his under-

standing is that there is still a

Please see Ponderlodge, page A11

*Even if Stockton takes over, the state has to follow through with their plans. Right now it's just an overgrown golf course.*

-Councilman Wayne Mazurek

pen with the former Ponderlodge Golf Course, now a wildlife habitat owned by the state.

## With restaurant opening, owner on a roll

### Simply Sushi fills empty eatery niche in West Cape May

By JOHN ALVAREZ  
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY - For the past several years, Cape May has been known for its unique restaurant offerings. Whether

you are yen for anything from a slice of pizza to elegant dining, this area certainly has a wide variety of choices for any distinguished pallet.

Yet, when Jeff Nace looked around town, he noticed one

particular item didn't have a place of its own. There was no sushi.

"Cape May doesn't have any sushi bars," Nace said. "The one they did have closed. Everybody said how they

loved my sushi. So I figured, why not?"

With this attitude, Nace opened Simply Sushi on Feb. 19 at the corner of Perry Street and Park Boulevard in West Cape May.

Nace takes pride being a native in town, born and bred here in Cape May. "A sand-piper, as the tourists like to call us," he said with a grin.

Nace also takes pride in the fact that he has been eating sushi since 1977.

"I was introduced to sushi through a man named Hans Toft, who had some tuna fish in a vinegar and onion marinade. He said it was called sushi as he gave me some and I happened to like it. I started to eat it whenever I found it."

Then around 1980, Nace, like most people, held down several jobs, including being a commercial fisherman.

"I worked hard," he said. "I drove trucks and had other jobs. But I started out on a boat. I was dealing with fish all my life."

It was during this time Nace befriended a sushi chef who wanted to learn how to fish for tuna, a job which Nace

Please see Simply, page A11



Jennifer Kopp/Cape May Star and Wave

Simply Sushi opened in West Cape May on Feb. 19. Shown here during a ribbon cutting, from left, are Manager Amy Hufana, chef and owner Jeff Nace, West Cape May Mayor Pamela Kaithern, West Cape May Commissioner Peter Burke and apprentice chef Doree Bardes.

## WWII vet was a hometown hero

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY - A lot of people must have known the Purgatorio family. With 11 kids, you were bound to run into one now and again.

One of them, Francis A. Purgatorio, was remembered recently by his stepdaughter of 40 years, Sandra (Scott) Von Colln.

Von Colln recently provided the Star and Wave with a picture of decorations and awards Purgatorio received while an infantryman in World War II.

Purgatorio was born Feb. 27, 1923 in West Cape May. He grew up at 129 Eldredge with his 10 brothers and sisters. At 17, Purgatorio joined the army and was sent to Europe by way of the Mediterranean and Italy. Purgatorio and his unit, the 1st Armored Division, arrived at Naples on Oct. 28, 1943. They fought their way to Cassino and arrived in Anzio in January 1944. The

unit was trapped on the beaches of Anzio for 125 days, pinned down by enemy gunfire. Von Colln said her stepfather told her there was shooting seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

*"When he arrived in Cape May (after the war) he walked down the street with his duffle bag over his shoulder singing 'I'll never leave Cape May again!'"*

-Sandra Von Colln, stepdaughter to Francis A. Purgatorio

The enemy would often play loud music a lot to bother the Americans. It wasn't until May the 1st Armored Division was able to leave Anzio and head toward

Please see WWII, page A11