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WEATHER ALMANAC BY WAYNE ROOF

FEBRUARY (Normals: 43°/29°, 2.88")			
	High	Low	Precip.
12	59°	42°	
13	48°	37°	
14	47°	27°	
15	43°	31°	
16	41°	29°	
17	41°	26°	.07"
18	48°	30°	

Lower police aim to find missing kids faster with new program

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – The Lower Township Police Department has just signed up for a program to give it a better chance to locate missing children or the elderly.

According to Police Chief Edward Donohue, the "A Child Is Missing Alert Program" (ACIM) uses a three-pronged recovery approach – a telephone database, Geo mapping system,

and a satellite imagery system.

The program is by a Florida-based, non-profit organization. Donohue said the program, which is supported by Federal Appropriations and Law Enforcement Forfeiture Funds and donations, is free to law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve.

When an elderly person or a child has been reported missing, the local police department calls ACIM to provide information about the individual,

such as what they were wearing, when they were last seen and the location. ACIM technicians then pull up the location on a computerized satellite mapping system and a customized phone alert message is recorded and phoned to the area where the person was last seen.

The program is capable of placing 1,000 phone calls in 60 seconds and operates 24 hours a day, year round.

Call recipients, who can be anyone with a published phone number,

including businesses, would call the police with any information they have about the missing person. Answering machines record the calls so residents will receive the alerts when they arrive home.

The program is activated within moments after the police department contacts ACIM. Aerial views of the region where the individual is missing can identify the type of terrain, busi-

Please see Missing, page A2

Water hook-ups required

Lower Council mandates use of municipal water

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – A vote by Lower Township Council means mandatory municipal water hookups for Lower Township.

The first hookups are coming to Town Bank and Villas neighborhoods not already part of the municipal water system.

Lower Township Council voted 5-0 last Wednesday to require Lower Township homeowners to hook up to municipal water when it is available to them.

According to Mike DeMarcantonio, executive director of the Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority, there are 479 township residents not in the system who could hook up to the municipal water system immediately.

"Immediately" is a relative term. Before the vote, Mayor Mike Beck said residents would be given a year to get the permit to hook up. The permit would be good for a year, when the work could be done. Then residents have five years to pay the \$1,600 connection fee.

DeMarcantonio said there is assistance to homeowners with the connection and plumbers charges. He said

Please see Water hook-ups, page A2

'There's a kid somewhere in this town who's drinking water he probably shouldn't.'

–Mayor Mike Beck



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Meryl Nelson sits on steps in her Cape May home where she has displayed hook-rug art, including a portrait of her cat Django Reinhart. Nelson's work will be featured during the month of March at the Ocean City Arts Center. Below, "Gisele, Frick, Frack and Me," a portrait that depicts Nelson and her friends.

Cape May rug hooking artist keeps making the right mistakes

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

OCEAN CITY – Meryl Nelson has taken "hooking" – as they call hook rug art – all the way from Cape May to Nova Scotia.

In fact, it was in Prospect, Nova Scotia, that she first got the idea of making hook rugs.

She and husband Bill had been living in Cape May since 1972, and had sold their property on Jackson Street when they decided to rent a place in Nova Scotia for the summer. About their third summer there Nelson was looking at some rugs and bought a book and magazine on the topic. She then bought a kit but decided she didn't like the kit and flipped over the backing and drew her own design.

Nelson then met Gisele LeBlanc in Nova Scotia.

"We became very, very good friends and she is a good teacher," Nelson said.

Nelson bought an additional floor frame to use in Canada, where she also came across an ad for a rug camp at the Chalfonte Hotel, a half-mile from her home in Cape May. She signed up for a class taught by Kim Nixon, and it was the first time she worked with hand-dyed wool. There Nixon had some unusual advice for Nelson.

"She told me, 'You have more bad habits than anyone I've seen, but don't change anything. With your style it works for you,'" Nelson said.

"I want as much texture as I can manage," Nelson said of her style.

Nelson has a machine in her

Please see Rug, page A2



The nose knows: Cape May remembers Correia

By JOHN ALVAREZ
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – When a person is wearing a bright red clown nose made of foam, he will more likely than not elicit smiles from those around him. But on Feb. 20, a room full of red noses couldn't keep the tears from falling as resi-

dents of Cape May gathered to remember one of the city's most charming clowns.

On Jan. 29, August J. "Gus" Correia, passed away. Correia was an artist and high quality leather craftsman who ran his shop, "The Village Leathersmith" since 1980 either on the grounds of Historic Cold Spring Village or, for the

past few years, on Beach Avenue in Cape May.

If a person ventured into his shop, they were greeted by Correia's booming voice asking "What do you say, my friend?" This wasn't just a line to break the ice with potential customers. Correia viewed everyone he met as a friend along the road of life. Correia also had red clown noses at the ready to be sold to anyone who came into his shop with sad demeanor or a poor attitude.

"Just because they're having a bad day doesn't mean we all have to have one," Correia once said as he sold a red nose to a woman whose husband wasn't having fun on their vacation. And when he sold the nose, just like when he would sell anything in his shop, Correia smiled.

Because of this philosophy, Correia touched many people over the years. No where was this more apparent than last Friday, when a memorial gathering in honor of Correia was held at the Brown Lounge in Congress Hall. Many people from all walks of life recalled fondly the man who was highly active in all aspects of Cape May ranging from artists and musicians to local politicians, heads of business and local dignitaries.

Bob Steenrod, president of the Cape May Chamber of Commerce and a man never short for words, spoke simply but eloquently when reflecting on Correia.

"Gus was a real gentleman," Steenrod said. "He was truly Cape May."

Jay Schatz, owner of "The Abbey" bed and breakfast over on Columbia Avenue, recalled Correia's political aspirations.

"I supported Gus when he and

Please see Correia, page A7



John Alvarez/Cape May Star and Wave

Vicky Tryon and David Correia, brother of the late Gus Correia, listen to speakers at a memorial event for Gus, who passed away recently. The Brown Room was filled with red clown noses in honor of the friendly merchant, known for trying to fill the world with smiles – and red noses.

Mayor's Advisory Board to be created in Lower Township

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Lower Township council might not be certain about how big the board should be, but members introduced an ordinance last week to create a Mayor's Advisory Board.

The ordinance creates a nine-member board comprised of township residents to advise the mayor and council on long- and short-term planning for the township.

Councilman Wayne Mazurek said he was a little concerned about the number of members. He said the public could get the impression the board is too heavily weighted in one direction that could turn something positive into a negative. Mazurek said perhaps a larger board would be more inclusive.

Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare said he was concerned about increasing the size of the board to the point where it was unproductive, and Mayor Mike Beck said he believed a provision should be added

for the removal of members who were not fulfilling their obligation.

The draft ordinance highlights areas of concern to be addressed by the board, which include making recommendations on the goals the township should seek to accomplish over the next 10 years, the best methods for addressing concerns submitted by the mayor and council, the best method for addressing concerns submitted by residents and what steps or actions the township should take to accomplish these goals.

According to the draft ordinance, the Mayor's Advisory Board should represent a cross-section of volunteers from the township's various social and economic groups. The mayor will appoint five members, one of whom would serve as the chairman. The remaining four members of the MAB are to be appointed by the other council members. Appointments are for a two-year term, expiring

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