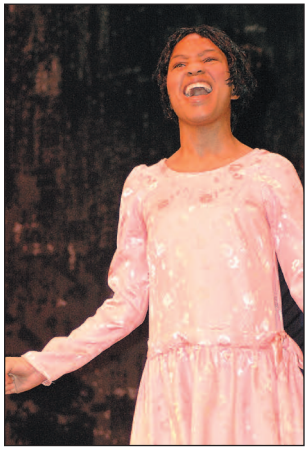


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MARCH TIDE TABLE

	LOW	HIGH		LOW	HIGH
	am	pm		am	pm
15	5:32	6:01	11:47	11:45	
16	6:26	6:53		12:35	
17	7:16	7:41	12:41	1:20	
18	8:04	8:28	1:34	2:05	
19	8:51	9:14	2:26	2:49	
20	9:38	10:01	3:18	3:33	
21	10:26	10:50	4:10	4:19	

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Group takes first steps in taking over Beach Theatre

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - The newly formed Beach Theatre Foundation has raised \$28,000 in pledges on their way to raising \$100,000 to operate the Beach Theatre for the next year.

Councilman David Kurkowski announced the pledges, which is the beginning of a two-month fund raising drive aimed at raising the \$100,000 required to keep the theater open through the summer. Kurkowski said leasing the theater also gives the foundation an extended period in which to achieve acquisition of the theater and the adjacent retail areas. The Franks Family Theaters own the approximately one-lock site and is asking in the

neighborhood of \$12 million.

"At this point, the plan is to acquire the theater through the private sector so that it does not cost the taxpayers a single dollar," Kurkowski said.

He said the effort to acquire the theater is not an official act of the city, but at some point Cape May City Council may choose to facilitate the process.

Deputy Mayor Niels Favre said the city council may eventually look at the whole area from a zoning perspective.

The foundation has selected marketing and advertising executive Steve Jackson as its first president. A Cape May homeowner, Jackson managed the Anheuser-

Busch account at DDB Worldwide for over 20 years. He was associated with familiar Budweiser and Bud Light ads campaigns, featuring Spuds MacKenzie, frogs, ants

"This is a movie house as all movie houses can be - it's a memory house."

- Steve Jackson Beach Theatre Foundation president.

and Clydesdales, and spawning catch phrases like, "Gimmie A Light," "Yes, I am," and "Whassup?"

He manages the Busch Entertainment theme park business for Anheuser-Busch, developing campaigns to

bring tourists to Sea World, Busch Gardens and Discovery Cove. He is currently a member of the Government Relations Committee of the American Association of Advertising Agencies in Washington D.C.

Jackson's grandmother became a Cape May resident in 1939, and he has been a longtime visitor to Cape May. His parents bought a home in Cape May in 1968 and he and his sister continue to use the home on and off during the year.

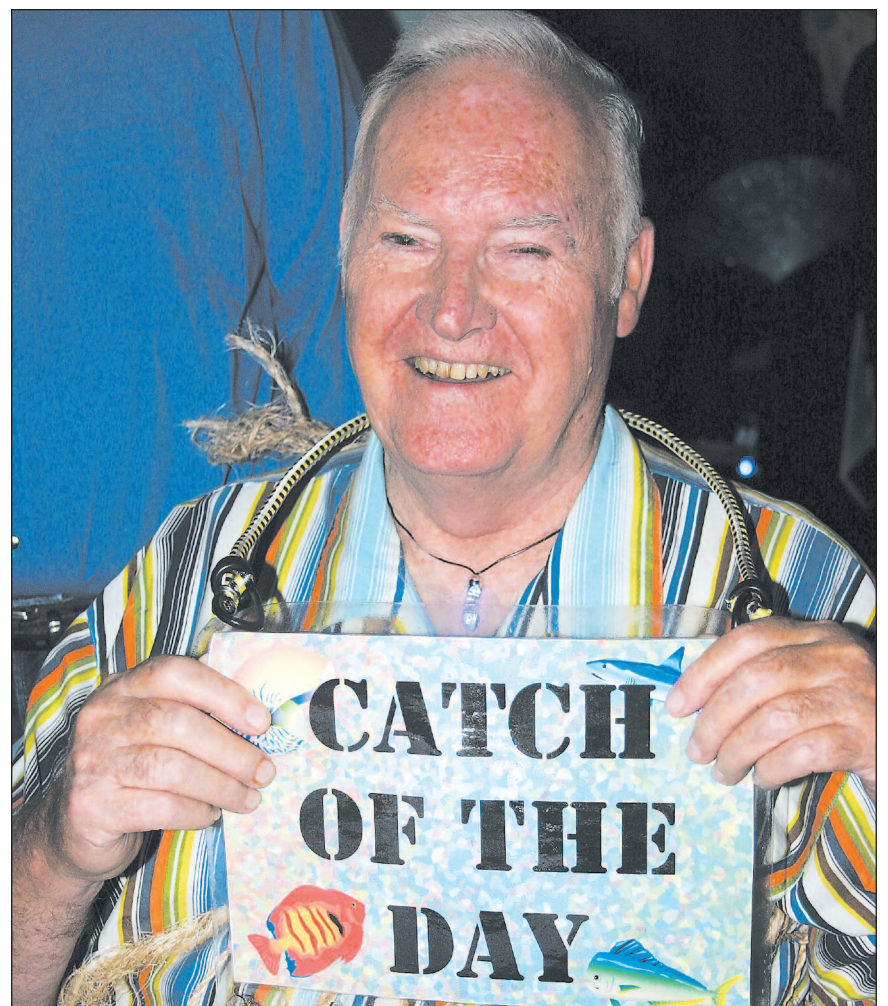
Jackson said he was happy to be announcing the foundation's intentions in the theater that became so familiar to him over his lifetime.

"I'm so happy to be in this place, right now, with people with such passion for this," Jackson said. "You are standing in such a historic building that has so many memories."

Jackson said hundreds of thousands of people, residents and tourists, have visited the Beach Theatre over the past 50 years. "People who have stopped here and seen some of the greatest films and had some of the greatest memories of being with friends, and girlfriends, husbands, wives, grandmothers taking grandchildren..." he said. "This is a movie house as all movie houses can be - it's a memory house."

Jackson reminisced about the theater and the lobby, which he said was a great room in and of itself. He said the foundation was hoping to uncover some of the murals

Please see Theatre, Page A2



The Center for Community Arts held the fundraiser "Aquamarine Madness" last Friday night at Congress Hall. Clockwise, from top left, Laura McPherson posing with "her date" Monsieur Lobster. McPherson won first prize for her costume. Bud Swain was "the catch of the evening" which included the sounds of Dr. Cheeko and a silent auction. At left, are Jody Swope and Sue Doyle.

Photos by Tina Giaimo

Public gets third presentation from 'vision' planner

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - The public was given its third presentation by the firm Rhodeside and Harwell, the professional planners hired to create a vision for a revitalized Cape May.

Deputy Mayor Niels Favre explained the nature of the presentation, saying Rhodeside and Harwell had been hired to create a "concept" for the revitalization effort. While the renderings on display around Convention Hall, Tuesday evening, depicted what areas of Cape May with added features and amenities, the illustrations were meant to be examples of what could be done. Favre

said the city decided to have Rhodeside and Harwell create a concept the city would hopefully adhere to 25 or 30 years down the road.

Based on input from previous meetings, Rhodeside and Harwell suggested a "Garden City" theme for Cape May, promoting it as "the Garden City in the Garden State." The planners showed how this theme could be created in five specific districts within Cape May, including the harbor area, the historic district, the beachfront, the residential areas, and the natural locations.

From each of those districts, the firm identified study areas as samples of what needed to be changed and what changes could be made in those areas. One

study area was the west end of Beach Avenue, known locally as "the Cove." The planners suggested a more distinct terminus and turn around point at the Cove, while maintaining the existing view of the ocean, dunes, and state park area.

Another same area included Convention Hall and the surrounding beachfront businesses. One suggestion was to create beach access where there are existing walkways between buildings - something that does not exist today. Rhodeside and Harwell suggested opening the backs of buildings for an ocean view.

The planners talked about improving pedestrian crossings, pedestrian and bike safety, and improving plant-

ings all along Beach Avenue. One study area highlighted improvements at Pittsburgh Avenue, including an extended promenade and dune walkovers. The planners concept includes the elimination of beach access going through the dunes, and replacing them with walkovers.

Improvements to the harbor area include a new vision for the city's main gateway. Favre said the planners were asked to provide a more specific vision for the gateway. Rhodeside and Harwell provided a vision including two "beacons" built in niches in the small bridge at the city entrance. The beacons could be constructed with a stone base, glass panels and a copper top, suggesting lighthouse.

The concept also includes more visual and physical access to the harbor area.

The planners recommended using similar light posts, trash receptacles and bike racks throughout the town.

No cost has been calculated for the revitalization effort, since no materials have been decided upon or selected. The planners recommended natural materials, for example, bluestone pavers, but said stamped concrete could be used as an alternative.

The planners solicited written comments from the 70 or so people who attended the meeting, and will take their

input into consideration before they return in the May-June timeframe. Elliott Rhodeside said the firm would probably have to do some final editing after that meeting, when they are sure to receive more public input.

"But then we will be done some time in the summer," he said.

Once a concept is adopted by city council, the city will fund specific projects using work developed in the vision plans. Other engineering, architectural or landscaping firms would use design guidelines in the vision plans as a basis for doing more detailed

Something old and something new

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE - Assemblyman Nelson Albano said from one year to the next the county is seeing the same problems with no issue being resolved - particularly the matters of the Route 55 extension, Beesley's Point Bridge and traffic lights on the Garden State Parkway.

Albano was speaking at the 2007 Cape May County Transportation Conference held recently at the county administration building.

Albano expressed optimism on reopening the Beesley's Point Bridge, and he said he

and Assemblyman Jeff Van Drew are continuously reminding Assembly Speaker Joe Roberts about the major transportation matters affecting Cape May County.

However, State Sen. Nick Asselta said a more recent issue is the topic of privatizing the New Jersey Turnpike, the Garden State Parkway and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. He said Gov. Jon Corzine's budget has money in it to fund a feasibility study to see if privatization is something the state should consider.

"I and my colleagues don't believe it is good for New Jersey in the long run," Asselta said.

Asselta said it was not good

to have others, particularly foreign companies, running New Jersey facilities and infrastructure.

He said the power to fix and revise tolls on the turnpike and parkway would be put in private hands.

"A private concern would have the ability to raise tolls. There are many trucking companies for which this would be problematic," he said.

"Instead of leveraging and selling our major assets we should cut spending," Asselta said.

Van Drew addressed the Beesley's Point Bridge issue, saying, "This is the year we absolutely have to figure out what we have to do."

While Asselta said he favored short and long-term solutions to the problem, including building a new bridge, Van Drew said results of a \$200,000 study would be released in the spring, giving the legislators some direction. He predicted the report would say the bridge is relatively sound, but it would take \$12 million to \$20 million to repair. Albano said that could be a 15 to 24 month project, so temporary solutions are needed, because, as Van Drew pointed out, we live in a vulnerable area. Albano said the bridge needed to be opened and Route 55 extended to give people other

Please see County, Page A4

Man tries to snowball officer to avoid arrest

VILLAS - A man fleeing on foot from a Lower Township patrolman allegedly threw snow at a police officer in an attempt to avoid capture.

On Friday, March 9, Patrolman Kevin Lewis of the Lower Township Police Department was called to a home in the 100 block of Vermont Avenue, where he was met by a 25-year-old female victim. The victim said her estranged boyfriend had come to her home in violation of a temporary restraining order. The victim alleged Joseph Dicianno, 25, entered her home without permission, engaged in a verbal confrontation and then physically assaulted her.

Kevin Lewis located Dicianno hiding in the bathroom, and when he attempted to arrest him, Dicianno allegedly broke away and ran from the house. Lewis chased Dicianno on foot through several yards and over a fence. At one point Dicianno allegedly threw snow at Lewis, who was able to apprehend the suspect.

Dicianno was charged with contempt of court for violation of a temporary restraining order, harassment and resisting arrest. Dicianno was lodged in the Cape May County jail on \$10,000 cash bail.