



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Page B1



GUADAGNO VISITS WOMAN BUSINESS CONFERENCE

Page A3



Poetry, music help teen cope with pain

Father's addiction constant source of trauma for LCMR student, family

By JOHN ALVAREZ
Special to the Star and Wave

ERMA — At first it was an assignment to write a poem, but it became so much more.

It started with these lines:
The deepest pain lies within your soul

Tormenting, and knocking at your mind
Saying "let me go"

"It was a slam poem. I got really moved by watching slam poetry on YouTube," said Hannah Avery, a senior at Lower Cape May Region-

al High School who is much wiser than her 18 years on Earth. "Slam poetry" is a type of competition in which people read their poems without props, costumes or music and are judged and scored by how the poems' content moves people.

What you had before wasn't enough
So you went in again, it was such a rush

The rush slowed down and now you're mad
Beating on mommy, I thought you were my dad?

The poem is called "Daddy



Dearest" and it is about Avery's father, who is a drug addict.

"There is an epidemic in Cape May County," she said as she was getting ready for a choir concert at LCMR. "It is basically every-

where. It's bad seeing my dad go through it and other people go through it. I just wanted to say, to tell them, to tell him, "This is what your children go through when you go through addiction, when you do drugs."

Family is supposed to love and conquer all
But instead you had a different plan

Avery is the youngest of three children in what can be described as an all-too-common, modern-day representation of the nuclear



AVERY

family.
"It is so complicated," she said. "My mom has a son, who is my older brother but from a different dad. I have an older sister from my dad but with a different mother. There are also children from my stepdad. I have so many that sprout out from here. And I am the baby of the family."

You beat my brother, whom is not your blood

See Poetry, music, Page A2

City's summer concert series midweek trip to bygone era

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — "Something tells me I'm into something good" sings Peter Noone, the Herman of Herman's Hermits. The lyric may reflect the lineup of shows scheduled for Cape May's Convention Hall this summer.

Herman's Hermits will pay a return visit to the hall but a number of acts that have not previously played in Cape May are on the schedule including Arlo Guthrie and Aaron Neville.

All but one show is scheduled for Wednesday nights rather than Monday nights as in past seasons. Wednesday night concerts take Cape May out of competition with Monday shows in other beach towns, according to Cape May Marketing Director Laurie Taylor.

The schedule:
— July 5: Herman's Hermits starring Peter Noone

— July 12: Tommy James and the Shondells
— July 19: Arlo Guthrie with special guest Sarah Lee Guthrie

— July 26: Jay and the Americans
— July 31: Martha Reeves and the Vandellas
— Aug. 9: Aaron Neville

— Aug. 16: Felix Cavaliere's Rascals
— Aug. 23: Mary Wilson of the Supremes.

All shows begin at 8 p.m. and tickets are \$42. The city's new administration hired booking agents to select and negotiate with the artists, something in the past that was done by the mayor, city manager and city solicitor. Taylor said the booking agents studied past shows in Convention Hall.

"Both are familiar with Cape May and our demographic," she said.

The city also worked with a confidential committee in choosing the summer's entertainment, Taylor said.

She said a number of audience members combine the concert with dinner in a local restaurant. Taylor said the city would request the artists conduct a free meet and greet after the show.

Herman's Hermit's, fronted by Noone, had a string of hit singles during the mid-1960s "British Invasion," including "Mrs. Brown, You've Got A Lovely Daughter," "I'm Henry VIII, I Am," "Silhouettes," "Can't You Hear My Heartbeat" and "There's A Kind of Hush." Herman's Hermits sold more than 60 million recordings.

Tommy James and the Shondells first hit the record charts in 1966 with "Hanky Panky." More hits followed, such as "I Think We're Alone Now," "Getting' Together" and "Mony Mony." As music went psychedelic, so did James with

See Concert, Page A4



Werner Tedesco/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Coming in like a lion

A squall line roared toward Sunset Beach on March 1, bringing a little rain and gusty winds with it. Temperatures varied from late-spring-like warmth to the teens over the weekend. Hopefully we can look forward to the lamb March 31.

Kids get STEAM'ed up about science, technology

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Years ago, schools held science fairs. But time has marched on and technology has advanced to the point where kindergarten students use computers.

Cape May City Elementary School held a Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) Festival Feb. 23 that included everything from robots to face painting.

At one table, students created a slimy substance called Gak by mixing water, borax and glue. Other students explored principles of force and motion by creat-

ing marshmallow shooters. Some displays depicted clean energy sources. Many students tried their hand at operating VEX robots.

While all this action was taking place in the gymnasium, the Cape May Board of Education held its monthly meeting in the library. Superintendent Victoria Zeleznak said STEAM projects were starting in first and second grades.

First-grade teacher Melanie Flickinger said critical thinking was an aim of the curriculum.

First-grade teacher Stephanie Neuman said she read first-graders a version

See STEAM, Page A2



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
Alyssa Ferrante, 10, with her study of ospreys at the Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math Festival on Feb. 23.

Sheriff, ICE agreement limited to jail inmates

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Some expressed concern with an agreement between the Cape May County Sheriff's Office and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) during the Feb. 28 county Board of Chosen Freeholders meeting.

Citing a possible "slippery slope" that could lead to increased enforcement and deportation of undocumented aliens, some asked freeholders to reject a resolution favoring the agreement.

But Cape May County Sheriff Gary Schaffer said the agreement with ICE does not call for county law enforcement agencies to search for and deport undocumented aliens.

"I don't want families getting upset thinking we're going to snatch them out in the middle of the night. We're not doing that," Schaffer said. "Families, calm down. We're not hunting you."

Schaffer signed an agreement with ICE last October as part of the 287(g) program, which allows local law enforcement entities to enter into a partnership with ICE to receive training as immigration agents.

Schaffer said he has selected three county corrections officers to attend ICE training in April. Of the three officers, one has intelligence train-

See Sheriff, Page A4



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