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JULY 2010 TIDE TABLE				
	HIGH	LOW		
	am	pm	am	pm
7/1		12:07	5:50	5:52
7/2	12:13	12:50	6:26	6:38
7/3	12:54	1:35	7:03	7:30
7/4	1:39	2:23	7:43	8:28
7/5	2:29	3:15	8:27	9:28
7/6	3:26	4:10	9:16	10:29
7/7	4:27	5:04	10:10	11:27
Last Quarter		7/4		
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1st Quarter		7/18		
Full Moon		7/25		
Apogee		7/1,28		
Perigee		7/13		

Another \$3 million needed for Convention Hall

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – In what might be perceived as a good news/bad news scenario, the city presented a need for another \$3.15 million to complete the Convention Hall project as designed. That would be the bad news.

On the good news side, Municipal Auditor Leon Costello said the effect would be a one-cent increase on the tax rate, or \$55 a year on a \$550,000 home.

'Now is the time to build a building. Now is the time to get the most bang for the buck.'

–City Manager Bruce MacLeod

Costello said he actually took a more conservative approach, over-estimating the need at \$3.5 million. A combination of debt planning, bond sales, CRDA grants and other funding sources would result in a penny per \$100 of assessed value being added to

the tax rate.

Costello said the city now cannot spend more than \$10.5 million on Convention Hall, which is the amount approved by voters in November 2008. He said after considering the available funding, the city would have

to bond another \$1.1 million to build the project as designed, which has a larger footprint, requiring the demolition of the Solarium, and would be constructed 24 feet closer to Beach Avenue.

Costello said the city did very well in its 2008 bond

sale, saving the city money, and he recommended splitting the next bond sale into two portions: the \$11.6 needed for Convention Hall in 2013, and the \$6 million for the city's other capital needs in 2014.

"The 2010 plan would require a one-cent tax increase even though we are borrowing more money," Costello said.

Costello called the once-cent increase a worst-case

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No consensus now on scaling down Convention Hall

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The three council members being sworn in at noon today were unanimous in their opinion to scale down the Convention Hall project during the campaign, but two of the three say they are not sure that is the right decision to make.

Councilman-elect Jack Wichterman did not attend the public town hall meeting June 24, but received all the information in closed session meetings. He later spoke to Councilman-elect Bill Murray to get his take on the public reaction.

"I've spoken to Bill Murray and I will talk to other people," Wichterman said.

Wichterman said he was vocal in his opposition for the size of the project a couple years ago and he still hasn't changed his mind.

"I haven't changed my opinion, but think it's been a series of mismanagement from architect to everybody involved. We've designed a place we can't afford," he said. "What the people authorized was \$10.5 million and the architect and engineer designed a \$13 million project."

Wichterman clarified that statement, saying the city would have to go for new bonds to pay for the project and it would be a new opportunity for residents to get petitions to stop it.

"Meanwhile the bidders have to agree to extend the bids – 60 days is Aug. 3," he said. "It will take a long time to get this through."

Wichterman said the project has already gone to bid twice.

Wichterman said if what happened with the mall revitalization project was what could happen if the new Convention Hall bonds went to referendum again, it could be defeated. He said people were not given all the information on the project up front, including the requirement to move the hall feet

Please see No Consensus, page A2



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Hands Across the Sand

Residents and visitors protested offshore oil drilling by staging a Hands Across the Sand event. **More photos page A10.**

Fishing Creek School gets new roof

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS – The 1888 Fishing Creek School building got a new roof recently, as work crew members removed asphalt shingles and the old cedar shake shingles below, applying a new cedar shake roof.

Mike Trainor of Trainor Roofing said it was a three-day project, beginning with ripping off the old roof and putting back "royals" (24-inch sections) of cedar.

"They bought the top grade cedar. Anything cheaper wouldn't last nearly as long," Trainor said.

Trainor said they were trying to put back everything to its original state and materials, including crown molding and soffit. He said the only problem was replacing original wood.

They don't make true lumber anymore," Trainor said.

For example, a 1x6 (one inch six inches) board is actually 3/4 inch

by 5 1/2 inches.

"All the wood they used when this was built was true," he said. "You

He said all the rafters and joists were cedar as well.

"It's better wood. It holds a nail better," Trainor said.

Trainor said he does a lot of work in Stone Harbor and Cape May, and he likes working on the historic houses.

"It's more satisfying when you finish and see what you did," he said.

Trainor said it was good to see the project being completed now. He said construction materials have increased 5 to 15 percent a year over the last four years while the cost of labor hasn't changed. He said shingle prices have already jumped since the BP oil crisis in the Gulf of Mexico.

The roofers also had to take down the bell and were going to put it back in working order.

"They'll be able to ring the school bell again," Trainor said.



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

The 1888 Fishing Creek School got a new roof last week. Trainor Roofing tore off an asphalt roof and an old cedar shingle roof before putting on a new, high quality cedar

can't get lumber like that anymore."

Trainor said it was also good wood. He said they used all the original 1x3 lath strips, which still supported the weight of his roofers.

No criminal culpability in dismissed informant procedure cases in Lower

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Lower Township Police Department Chief Edward Donohue issued a statement saying there was no criminal culpability in cases dismissed by the Cape May County Prosecutor.

The cases, which might number up to 30, involved Det. Christopher Lambert and alleged improper documentation of the use of confidential informants.

"Not all the cases were dis-

missed," Township Solicitor Anthony Monzo said. "Several were, several more were expected to be, maybe up to 30."

Monzo confirmed the issue was improper documentation regarding confidential informants, but said the files were still at the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office and had not been turned over to the township for administrative review.

"There is a procedure the police are required to follow that I have been told it has not been followed,"

Monzo said.

Donohue said Lambert had been placed on patrol duty pending a disciplinary hearing. The prosecutor's office has assigned a detective to work part-time with the LTPD while the issue is being investigated. Donohue said his department is fully cooperating with the prosecutor's office, but believes it is just a breakdown of proper record keeping procedure. Donohue said he likewise was not advised of the

Please see Cases, page A2



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Reba Fox Messina turns 100

CAPE MAY – Reba Fox Messina of Fishing Creek Road turned 100 years old on June 25. Reba was born in Weston W.V., on June 25, 1910, into a family of glass blowers. She moved to Foxes Corner on Fishing Creek Road as a child and was raised on the Fox Farm with her many cousins. Reba has had an exciting life. She was a dancer in the Shubert Folies in Philadelphia in the 1920s, and was married to William E Lawson II, and later Chico Messina of the "Nocturnes," both famous in the 40s. She had four children: William E Lawson III, Lewis Lawson (deceased), Joseph Messina, and Cynthia (Cissy) Messina McCausland. She attributes her longevity to drinking that great well water from Cape May and staying away from doctors most of her life. She loved singing, horse races, and M&Ms. A gala birthday party/family reunion was held at the VFW in Cape May on Saturday, June 26.

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