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NOV. TIDE TABLE					
HIGH		LOW			
am	pm	am	pm		
11/6	1:29	1:42	7:02	8:03	
11/7	2:28	2:39	8:08	8:51	
11/8	3:22	3:34	9:10	9:37	
11/9	4:11	4:25	10:07	10:21	
11/10	4:57	5:15	11:01	11:06	
11/11	5:43	6:04	11:52	11:51	
11/12	6:29	6:51		12:43	
1st Quarter				11/5	
Full Moon				11/13	
Last Quarter				11/19	
New Moon				11/27	

Country takes 'giant step' forward

By ERIC AVEDESIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – Voters in Cape May County turned out in record numbers on Tuesday, casting ballots for president, United States senator, Congress and county and local offices.

Turnout this year was considerably high in Cape May County, with 46,052 or 70 percent of registered voters participating.

The atmosphere at Atkinson's Restaurant and Tavern was celebratory as Cape May County Democrats watched the election results pour in from across the country Tuesday night, cheering when Illinois Sen. Barack Obama won state after state towards his presidential victory.

County Democratic Chairman Jim Pickering lauded Obama's performance.

"We're making history in America tonight. It wasn't too many years ago that a great man said he had a dream that some day a man would be judged by the content of his character and not the color of his skin. Tonight I think we're

happy to say we're taking a giant step forward in that regard," Pickering said. "We're going to wake up in three months and Barack Obama is going to be president and all will be well with the world."

Even though Obama won the presidency, in Cape May County, Republican Sen. John McCain beat Obama 24,591 to 20,510.

Pickering said registered Democrats in the past have constantly been outnumbered 5-1 by registered Republicans. For the first time, the numbers shrunk to a 2-1 majority, favoring Republicans, Pickering said, indicating an increase in registered Democrats.

"We've made great strides and we're going to keep moving," Pickering said.

Democratic Sen. Frank Lautenberg was re-elected in New Jersey, but his Republican challenger Dick Zimmer won in Cape May County with 21,324 votes to Lautenberg's 18,014.

Democrat David Kurkowski lost against incumbent Republican Congressman Frank LoBiondo. In Cape May County, LoBiondo

received 27,647 to 13,167.

Kurkowski, a Cape May city councilman, thanked supporters after calling and congratulating LoBiondo.

"It's really been my honor to be the candidate for Congress this year and run this race. We did come up

short. What a year to be running as a Democratic candidate. I'm so proud to have been on the ticket with Barack Obama. Let's get used to saying President Barack Obama," Kurkowski said to applause.

Kurkowski called the presi-

dential contest the "leading race" in the election and one with the greatest importance for the country.

"I love this district and the people who need our help. We have to think of the people

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Jennifer Kopp/Cape May Star and Wave

Not only was the turn-out for the polls at a record high, many came with children allowing them to be part of the historic moment and hoping to teach the importance of voting.

Voters approve Convention Hall

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Two-thirds of Cape May voters turned out to voice their opinion on a new Convention Hall project, Nov. 4, and two-thirds of those who came out said "Yes" to the question authorizing the funding.

Voters in Cape May, where there was no municipal election, were faced with the choice of approving a \$10.5 million bond ordinance for the Convention Hall project, or rejecting it. Voters approved the bond ordinance 818-421, with the measure passing in every district.

"The vote was roughly 2-1 in every district," Mayor Edward Mahaney said.

Speaking on behalf of the city council, Mahaney said the entire council was grateful for the total show of confidence the voters showed Tuesday. He promised the new Convention Hall would be constructed in an effective and efficient manner to meet

the needs of the residents and visitors of Cape May.

Mahaney said the city would waste no time, contacting the architect as early as Wednesday to begin the development of the construction plans.

"We will also begin pursuing permits and other related approvals," Mahaney said.

Mahaney said the city would also start the process of seeking grants and low interest loans for the project. He said the city had been preparing for the grant application process, but needed to have an approved project in place.

The Convention Hall project was started in the previous term under Mayor Jerry Inderwies. A bond ordinance for the \$10.5 million needed for the project was passed by city council, but was rescinded in the wake of a referendum petition drive started to put the funding up for a vote. The new council, which was

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Beck, Lare win in Lower

First Independent elected mayor in township

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Independent candidate Mike Beck said he used his summer off as a teacher to go around the township meeting people and campaigning for mayor, and for his running mate Kevin Lare.

Beck said he biked around the Erma section of the township, and he believes the effort paid off. Beck received 43 percent of the vote and beat Republican Councilman Glenn Douglass and Democrat Harvey Roach, who received 34 percent of the vote and 22 percent, respectively.

Lare also won the council-at-large position with 3,709 votes (40 percent), outpacing Republican incumbent Robert Nolan (3,364 votes) and Democratic challenger Peter Smith.

The five-member council now has two Independents, two Republicans (Douglass and Thomas Conrad) and one Democrat (Wayne Mazurek).

"My opponents ran a nice campaign," Beck said after it was clear he would win, Tuesday. "I know they ran for the betterment of Lower Township."

Beck said he was very pleased with the voter turnout, and he believes his campaign had something to do with that.

"The people came out. I think we offered something different, something where people had trust in us where we could have something for

them. I think they saw the difference in us and were there for us, and I can promise you we will not let them down."

Beck said his call now is for everyone to come together and try to make sure they operate the township as economically as possible, maintain the quality of life, and solve some of the problems the township faces, such as MUA issues.

"And one of the projects we have looked forward to is open government – to get people involved in government," he said.

Beck said at the end of his term he will be able to say it was a success if everyone is given the opportunity to become involved.

"That is one of our chief goals," he said. "They are just going to have to sit back and

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Liquor license sale approved

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – Voters in the borough approved three ballot questions allowing the sale of two liquor licenses in the borough and the establishment of a fund for tax relief from the proceeds of the sale.

Municipal Question 1 asked voters to approve the sale of a Class C (consumption) license, which the board of commissioners said would be offered to a new or existing restaurant. The measure passed 295-179, with 62.24 percent in favor of the measure.

Municipal Question 2 asked voters if they would approve

the sale of a Class D (distribution) license, which would allow the establishment of a retail store for alcoholic beverages in the borough. This question passed 286-185, or 60.72 percent of the voters voting yes.

The third question asked voters if they wanted the proceeds from the sale of the two licenses, perhaps \$1.3 million, to go into a dedicated fund to save the taxpayers money on the municipal tax rate for eight to 10 years. This question was approved 358-114, or 75.85 percent of the voters indicating they approved of the proposed tax relief fund.

"This is really good news," Mayor Pam Kaithern said.

"The people of West Cape May have shown they understand the opportunity we had to maintain autonomy of the town...of our town," she said.

Kaithern called the sale of the licenses a "solid source of revenue" for the town to help sustain it over a decade, and to work on changing the state funding resources so government doesn't depend exclusively on tax dollars.

"It's huge," Kaithern said of the vote. "This buys us time to do that."

The board of commissioners held three public meetings on the liquor license issue, with fewer than 50 people in attendance at each

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Ocean House now Beach Shack Plans to demolish Coachman's scrapped

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The owners of Coachman's Motor Inn have apparently scrapped plans to demolish the beachfront hotel, and instead, plan to renovate the property and reopen in next spring.

The owners, Cape Resorts Group, originally sought to demolish the Coachman's and construct a new three-story, 54-unit condotel and a 190-seat restaurant to replace the Rusty Nail. The project, which was scheduled to begin this fall, was expected to take 12 to 16 months to complete. But that project has been put on hold.

According to Suzanne Meyers at the Weill Public

Relations firm, tightening capital markets played a role in the decision to renovate the existing structure and operate it as The Beach Shack, a "comfortable vacation hotel," and promote it as an alternative to owning a second home at the shore.

Meyers said The Beach Shack would "embody the luxury and distinctive style of all Cape Resorts Group properties," but with a slightly more casual environment. Other Cape Resorts Properties include the Inn at 22 Jackson, The Star, Congress Hall and The Virginia Hotel.

The renovation project would include:

- Repainting all 65 rooms and suites and upgrading with luxury bedding, new

carpet, rugs and blinds, flat-screen TV's, and thematic accent pieces including retro lamps.

- Upgrading all public spaces.

- Restoring the Rusty Nail, including French doors opening to outdoor seating.

- Upgrading landscaping and outdoor lighting.

Sandy Montano, the senior project manager for the Ocean House project, said there is no site plan required as this is a simple renovation, not a reconstruction.

She said the group would be applying to extend its permits under the Permit Extension Act of 2008, and would reconsider developing the project at a later date.

Whale's Tale turns 35!



Jennifer Kopp/Cape May Star and Wave

Pictured from left to right are Steve Haas, Karan Packer, Misty Bratton, Sue Hobbs, Brenda Kole and Hilary Pritchard with "Maddy" – Bratton's English Staffordshire Terrier and shop mascot.

By JENNIFER KOPP
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The Whale's Tale is turning 35 this month and shoppers can help the store celebrate and support the community non-profits as well.

The celebration starts Friday, Nov. 7, and continues all month long with "Fabulous Fridays!" This Friday, 20 percent of sales will benefit Cape May Film Society's Young Filmmakers Program.

"We're always thankful for the support Chuck and Hilary Pritchard have given to our young filmmakers over the years,"

said Ed Henry, President of the Cape May Film Society. "From opening their home to students years ago to continued support for our effort to reach students and at-risk youth throughout the region, the Pritchards have been a constant, driving influence."

Whale's Tale owner Hilary Pritchard said, "We've survived over the years, and now it's time to give back. We believe in the non-profit groups that serve this community," says Hilary Pritchard. "From the arts to nature, animal welfare to the

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