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AUGUST TIDE TABLE

	HIGH	LOW
	am	pm
23	4:16	9:51
24	5:18	10:51
25	6:12	11:47
26	7:00	12:38
27	7:45	1:28
28	8:29	2:17
29	9:12	3:06

## Convention Hall: A new design with an old twist

By **LESLIE TRULUCK**  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

CAPE MAY – Of two design plans for Convention Hall presented to the revitalization subcommittee by Kimmel-Bogrette Architecture on Aug. 15, the committee decided to compromise both with a symmetrical facade of the first plan combined with the interior floor plan of the second.

“We tried to capture the spirit of the original but it is not a carbon copy,” Architect Martin Kimmel said.

Kimmel said the new design differs from the original because the 1917 building had “Old West-style fake parapets that stuck up along the streetscape while the new proposal has copper roofs to make it more durable and substantial for the location and to look more aesthetically pleasing.”

The proposed design is similar to the 1917 model in by establishing a large central arched entrance with the flag pole in the center with two symmetrical higher points to each side, by maintaining a two story street elevation, awnings, and ornamental style, Kimmel said.

“The proposed design tries to capture that original gingerbread ornament in a slightly more modern way that would require less maintenance and continue to look good over time,” Kimmel said.

Kimmel was provided with several photos of Convention Hall as it appeared when opened in 1917.

“We were asked to maintain all of the current uses in an enhanced form plus provide more of a magnet location for the city,” Kimmel said.

Kimmel proposed an 8,700 square foot hall floor space with plans that could “absorb” the solarium site with a 22,820 square foot building.

“Cape May could use the space for South Jersey regional or county scale functions,” Kimmel said.

The one-story convention hall plan would cost \$ 6.7 mil

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Corzine in Cape May





By **LESLIE TRULUCK**  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

CAPE MAY – Governor Jon S. Corzine (D) spoke to a welcoming crowd of nearly 100 union leaders at the Region 9 United Automotive Workers (UAW) Leadership Conference held at the Grand Hotel Tuesday.

Among issues Corzine promoted were the Employee Free Choice Act, a federal law which would ensure that workers can freely decide to join together in unions to negotiate for better wages and benefits, income-based property tax relief, and paid family leave.

Region 9 Director Joseph Ashton introduced the governor praising him as “a man of conviction and courage.”

Governor Corzine began his speech showing his appreciation for the condolences and support he received in the months after his car accident.

Corzine regularly attends UAW functions and he hailed their efforts.

“I am proud of what UAW does, you are an extraordinary organization with extraordinary challenges,” Corzine said.

“The auto industry feels a little bit like running the state of New Jersey, we have challenges with pensions, health benefits and making sure we make investments move forward. I know that UAW has had to deal with many of the same kinds of things we’ve had to deal with. You have done it the right way, you’ve fought courage.”

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## Dr. Ed Mahaney named ‘Citizen of the Year’ by TPA

By **LESLIE TRULUCK**  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

CAPE MAY – The annual meeting of the Taxpayers Association of Cape May, Inc. (TPA) began with the recognition of the 2007 Citizen of the Year Award to Dr. Edward Mahaney, former mayor of the City of Cape May and city councilman.

TPA Board President Kathleen Wyatt described the “personal sacrifice” and distinguishing commitment Mahaney provided in leading the city through the 1998 drinking water crisis caused by the saltwater intrusion of wells. The crisis was resolved by employing the reverse osmosis saltwater desalination plant the city continues to use today.

Wyatt praised Mahaney’s contributions to the community, which include serving as a member of the Regional Board of Freeholders, Cape May City Council, and the Historic Preservation Committee.

“I don’t look for recognition,” Mahaney said and though he agreed Wyatt’s accolades were accurate, his first priority is successfully “getting the job done.”

“While I worked hard I couldn’t have done it without the help of Tom Phelan, Bob Elwell, Jerry Gaffney and Jerry Inderwies,” he said.

“Every week in Cape May there is a controversy,” Mahaney said, “it’s a great city but there is disagreement often. If we had not come together back then, we would not have had enough drinking water. We invited public input and I vividly remember everyone’s involvement.”

“Jerome Inderwies worked endlessly on this problem as superintendent of public works. We didn’t have Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulations for desalination in New Jersey then, and it was a great presentation of good planning and hard work,” Mahaney said.

“The desalination plant is probably one of the best things our city government accomplished and one of the most important things that ever happened in Cape May,” former mayor and council member Jerry Gaffney said.

Tom Phelan said Mahaney was an excellent contributor in collecting research, exploring funding options, gaining permits from the DEP, and working with council to form a plan.

Phelan agrees that it was “a whole council operation” and that they worked successfully going through the bidding process with contractors, working out funding, and eventually solving the problem.

The United States Geological Survey said the existing well would become salt-infested quickly.

“Ed and I went to Trenton and worked with the DEP assistant commissioners to get 17 permits as soon as possible,” Phelan said.

Council looked into water allocations from the DEP at the airport and expected a grant from the United States department of Agriculture.

“At that time we were contemplating buying water from Lower Township and it is ironic how today we might be in a position to sell water to Lower Township,” Gaffney said.

The plant on Elmira Street was projected for 25 years of usage and built to handle one million gallons per day with the possibility to double the capacity if need be, Phelan said.

“We don’t often find five elected officials that work so well together on a single project and it was very crucial to the city,” Gaffney said.

“I will remember this award, thank you,” Mahaney said.

## Aug. 12 is ‘Mickey Day’ in Lower

By **LESLIE TRULUCK**  
*Cape May Star and Wave*

LOWER TOWNSHIP – “My fondest memories aren’t of the scores, they are of the players,” said retiring Little League Coach Richard “Mickey” McPherson.

Lower Township Mayor Walt Craig declared Aug. 12 “Mickey Day” to honor Richard McPherson’s 29 years coaching Little League baseball. The date is appropriately shared with Little League awards day.

“Mickey remembers the kids who played with him and he taught them good sportsmanship” the Mayor said before presenting McPherson with a plaque at the Lower Township meeting Aug. 6.

“I loved every minute of it,” McPherson said, “I had really nice players, aside from their skills they are just nice kids. Some were very interesting and some were trying but I got a lot of pleasure out of coaching.”

“I will definitely miss it. I don’t know how I will react when next season rolls around because I’ve done it for so long now, but I felt it was time to let it go, and probably the best time because we finished with a 17-1 score this season,” he said.

“I coached a player who reached Triple A ball and others who played just for the love of the game who tried as hard as they could,” McPherson said.

McPherson’s son was his inspiration to begin coaching. In 1978 McPherson was watching his son play and saw that he didn’t get much time off the bench. He said there were no rules saying that he had to get field time.

“I knew he was a good ball player because I coached him in the backyard. I knew the previous coach John Carr was leaving so I asked Margie Dellas if I could be the coach the following year. She agreed and my son Eric turned out to be the catcher for Steve Worrell, who made it to the Triple A. My son hit over 500 the season of 1979-1980 while I was coaching,” McPherson said.

Little League Baseball played at Dellas Field until Cape May and Lower Township merged and built Mitnick Field in 1990.

“I didn’t tell my son they were going to have an affair at Mitnick field until days beforehand and he couldn’t come on such short notice,” McPherson said.

At the honoring on July 28 at Mitnick Field the Little League Board presented McPherson with a Phillies baseball bat and a Little League jacket to show appreciation for his contributions. The McPhersons’ son Eric was unable attend so he sent his father a letter describing his experience with his father coaching Little League. Mickey McPherson requested Cape May Star and Wave publish the letter.

“When my wife read it to me she got choked-up and I had tears too. He really impressed me and I had no idea he enjoyed his Little League days that much,”

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## Beach Theatre Foundation holding town meeting

CAPE MAY – The Beach Theatre Foundation will be holding a town meeting for the public and the media on Sunday, Aug. 26 at 4 p.m. at Congress Hall in Ballroom A.

The goal is to bring together all those who are interested in or curious about what is planned, where the foundation stands now and how it expects to accomplish the goal of saving and restoring the theatre.

There will be a brief presentation on the Beach Theatre Foundation’s vision of the future followed by an open question and answer session during which board president, Steve Jackson, will be happy to answer any questions.