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TIDES

March 2011 Eastern Standard Time

High		Low	
A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
16 5:36	6:11	11:51	11:57
17 6:32	7:04	12:41	
18 7:24	7:53	12:54	1:29
19 8:14	8:42	1:49	2:16
20 9:03	9:30	2:41	3:02
21 9:52	10:20	3:34	3:49
22 10:42	11:10	4:27	4:38
23 11:35	5:22	5:29	
Moon Phases			
New Moon, March 4			
First Quarter, March 12			
Full Moon, March 19			
Last Quarter, March 26			
Apogee, March 6			
Perigee, March 19			

Get your Beach Tags for the 2011 Summer Season. Seasonal beach tags are \$15 until April 1, and go up to \$25 after that. Don't get caught without one!

## Cape May County GOP holds its first convention

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN  
Cape May Star and Wave

WILDWOOD – With the rap of a gavel, Michael Donohue convened the 2011 CapeGOP Convention at the Wildwoods Convention Center on March 9.

Donohue is chairman of the Cape May County Regular Republican Organization.

About 300 people, including 168 Republican committee members, gathered in the center, which resembled a national political convention, complete with placards depicting the names of the 16 municipalities where committee members sat.

*‘The only thing that stands between us and victory in November is us.’*

– Mike Donohue,  
CMCRRO chairman

At the front of the room were four voting machines where Republican committee people cast their votes for candidates. This is the first time local Republicans could cast votes in private. Before, the process was done openly as the party leaders – who often chose the same candi-

dates – looked on. Many Republicans felt this process intimidating and wanted a more democratic process.

“It was said that this convention could not happen. Take a look around you. It’s happening. Don’t believe them when they say we can’t take back the Senate and

Assembly seats,” Donohue said. “It’s already happening here tonight.”

Donohue said Republicans have the best shot of winning the November election and wresting control of the two First Legislative District seats, which are held by Democratic Sen. Jeff Van Drew and Assemblymen Nelson Albano and Matt Milam.

“I want you to imagine all of us gathered in November of election night. Imagine all of the returns coming in and imagine our candidates winning back the state Senate and Assembly seats,” Donohue told the crowd. “It

can be so. The only thing that stands between us and victory in November is us.

“If we do the hard work and commit ourselves to supporting these candidates, we cannot fail.”

The committee cast votes for two candidates for the freeholder board who will run in the November general election.

Amusement park owner Will Morey and Upper Township Committeewoman Kristine Gabor won nominations for Cape May County Freeholder.

Morey received 122 votes

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## County GOP pitches its state candidates

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN  
Cape May Star and Wave

WILDWOOD – When Cape May County Regular Republican Organization members gathered March 9 to choose Republican candidates for the state Senate and Assembly, a state redistricting process delayed the vote.

However, that didn’t stop the candidates from making their pitches to committee members.

County Chairman Michael Donohue said the state is adopting a new map for legislative districts. He said Republican members of the

and Thomas Greto, while Assembly candidates include Suzanne Walters, Samuel Flocchi Sr., and Peter Boyce.

Ferus, of Vineland, is a retired corrections officer and Republican State Committeeman for Cumberland County. He served as a New Jersey State Law Enforcement Officer for 25 years before retiring in 2008 and started a consulting firm.

“At the moment, I believe we don’t really have a lot of representation from the First Legislative District in that statehouse. We have a governor but we don’t have a sena-

*‘We have a governor but we don’t have a senator, we don’t have assemblymen and I’m a little fed up with that.’*

– Troy Ferus, seeking GOP nomination for state senator from First District

state redistricting committee contacted all county GOP chairmen and requested all voting for state candidates be postponed until the redistricting was completed.

Donohue said although voting for the state candidates would not occur during the convention, GOP candidates for the state Senate and Assembly addressed the convention.

Republican candidates for Senate for the First Legislative District include David DeWeese, Troy Ferus

tor, we don’t have assemblymen and I’m a little fed up with that,” Ferus said.

Ferus was the president of a union that represented 7,000 state law enforcement officers. He said unions are currently a “hot topic,” but he settled a contract with the state.

“I was a union guy. I worked for labor, I worked for the working man, but I also settled a contract with the state. That was unheard

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Photo by Ricardo Barros

Above, left to right, county GOP freeholder candidates Will Morey and Kristine Gabor on the platform at the CapeGOP convention held in Wildwood, March 9, with Cape May County Regular Republican Organization Chairman Mike Donohue and Cape May County Sheriff Gary Schaffer.



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

## ‘Me and My Girl’ at Lower Cape May Regional

British Broadway hit ‘Me and My Girl’ starts tomorrow at Lower Cape May Regional High School. See page 10 for more photos and show info.

## Latest bids for new Convention Hall construction project are rejected

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – City council members returned to the City Hall meeting room after a closed session meeting yesterday, and publicly announced that all the current bids for the City Convention Hall project have been rejected.

Council unanimously approved a resolution to reject the bids, which took effect immediately. Of the six bids received on March 8, only one was below the cost estimate and appropriation of funds for the project. That Benjamin R. Harvey Company, Inc., bid

\$6,984,000. The next lowest bid was \$8,899,000.

According to City Manager Bruce MacLeod, the remaining five bids would have exceeded the \$10.5 million bond ordinance set forth for the project. The reason for the Harvey Company withdrawing their bid was due to a mistake in its calculation of the bid amount.

The resolution to reject the bids states, “It has been determined that the error was just to an unintentional mistake made in good faith, and that the City is not prejudiced other than by its loss of the bargain, thus constituting grounds for allowing a withdrawal of the bid by Harvey.”

MacLeod said the city would re-advertise for the receipt of bids and restart the bidding process for the project by the end of the month. He said the city would begin receiving bids between April 15 and 30.

Mayor Edward Mahaney said that council was in total agreement that the new Convention Hall be operational by Memorial Day of 2012. He said the city can still re-bid the project and be finished with construction in a timely manner.

“This is a minor setback,” Mahaney said. “We are all very disappointed in it.”

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