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# CAPE MAY COUNTY HERALD

June 1, 2022

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Published every Wednesday. 1508 Route 47, Rio Grande, NJ 08242

Vol. 56 No. 22

## Q&A With 2nd Congressional District Candidates

By ALEC HANSEN

COURT HOUSE – With the upcoming June 7 primary election, the Herald asked each of the candidates for the Second Congressional District seat a set of questions regarding their motivations for running and their stances on important issues.

Answers from the candidates – Republicans Jeff Van Drew, Sean Pignatelli, and John Barker and Democrats Tim Alexander and Carolyn Rush – are below.

**Q: Why do you believe that your experience qualifies you to represent New Jersey's Second District in Congress? What unique perspective or ability**

**sets you apart from other candidates?**

**Alexander (D):** When I was 19 years old, I was on a career path to becoming a police officer. One day, after arranging my father's funeral arrangements, I was shot at, assaulted, and charged with a crime I did not commit.

Later, the officer would claim a case of mistaken identity. After clearing my name, I no longer wanted to be a police officer, but my grandfather convinced me that change is always best made from within.

Since then, I have been an agent of change my entire adult life. First, as a law enforcement officer, I am proud to say that I had a significant hand in rewriting the department's policies. I retired after 27 years as a captain of detectives but continued my public service as a prosecutor before I switched gears to become a civil rights attorney. My career and past experiences have taught me

how to analyze problems from every angle and develop realistic, practical solutions and instilled in me the determination necessary to realize those solutions.

**Barker (R):** Well, my best quality is that I am not a far-right Democrat. What I am bringing to the table is actual business experience, middle-class perspective, and conservative values. President (Donald) Trump proved that someone that understands business (and is not a wacky Democrat) can get things done in Washington.

However, I think that my most unique perspective is that, unlike the incumbent congressman, U.S. Rep. Jeff Van Drew, I am not a lifelong Democrat.

Van Drew has voted with crazy Nancy Pelosi 89.7% of the time. He has supported the left's agenda as a Democrat in the New Jersey State Assembly, as a Democrat in the New Jersey State Senate, and as a Democrat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Also, unlike Van Drew (well, according to The Press of Atlantic City, Newark Star-Ledger, and others), I did not hire a convicted felon and well-known "ballot harvester" to work for my campaign.

Please read up on Craig Calloway, the former president of the Atlantic City Council. Calloway has been tied to fraudulent election practices for many years. Like I said, it has been in all the papers, even the Cape May County Herald.

**Pignatelli (R):** My experience comes from being a father, union carpenter, political action member, nonprofit owner, and business owner. I am a part of the middle class, and our middle class deserves restoration. Inflation has crippled many families across our nation, and we must act to help all families nationwide.

**Rush (D):** Having raised five children and having had a successful 35-year career in engineering have allowed me to cultivate a valuable set of personal and professional skills. My clear-eyed

analytic and collaborative problem-solving skills make me ideally qualified to play a productive role in Congress.

During my three and a half decades as an engineer, I have honed my problem-solving skills. As a manager, I honed my people skills. With a knack for explaining things, I encourage better listening and comprehension from my audiences by breaking complex issues into basic elements and helping people understand all sides of interrelated issues.

When I get to D.C., I will look for common ground.

(Page A14 Please)



Provided  
JEFF VAN DREW



Provided  
CAROLYN RUSH



Provided  
SEAN PIGNATELLI



Provided  
TIM ALEXANDER



Provided  
JOHN BARKER

See related story on page A15

### CMCo Commissioner Actions

## Board Hires Donohue to Fight Ocean Wind Project; Lauds Speed on 48 Years of Service

In this article, the Cape May County Board of County Commissioners...

- Hired attorney Michael Donohue to oppose the Ocean Wind 1 offshore turbine project.
- Lauded Greg Speed on his retirement after 48 years of serving the needs of those with mental health problems.
- Named a county EMS coordinator and three deputies.
- Reappointed Fishing Loan Committee members.
- Renewed its lease for \$1 a year with the Forgotten Warriors Museum at the County Airport.

- OK'd change to Farmland Preservation Plan.
- Appointed and reappointed CBRNE/HAZMAT task force members.
- Reappointed Dozier to MHADA Board

By AL CAMPBELL

CREST HAVEN - Cape May County commissioners hired retired Superior Court Judge Michael J. Donohue to oppose Ocean Wind 1's offshore wind turbine project.

That project proposes to bring its electric cables onshore under an Ocean City beach.

The professional services agreement, retroac-

tive to Jan. 1, 2022, took place May 24 when the board, absent Commissioner Jeffrey Pierson, passed a resolution hiring Donohue, the county's former acting administrator. Donohue is with the law firm of Blaney, Donohue & Weinberg, P.C. Donohue also chairs the Cape May County Republican organization.

The board believes Ocean Wind's proposal "is of the greatest urgency and the outcome will likely have lasting and potentially negative impacts on the county and its constituent municipalities for decades to come."

The wind turbine project drew the board's ire

(Page A13 Please)

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(Page A22 Please)

## County Touts Post-Covid Tourism Recovery

By VINCE CONTI

CREST HAVEN - The first page of Cape May County's report on tourism and recovery begins, "Welcome back, it's been a long two years."

The thrust of the county's May 25 tourism conference was on the robust rebound the county has experienced after the shock of the pandemic.

Tourism Director Diane Wieland reminded the audience at the county administration building that the losses from Covid were both sudden and large. While the county did better than many other areas of the state, there was a very real decline in tourism industry revenue of 21.1%, equating to \$1.5 billion of lost visitor spending. As Wieland put it, "Seven years of growth was lost in one year."

The good news was that almost all those losses were regained more quickly than anyone expected. Wieland has seen a 96% recovery rate, the best such recovery in the state. The benchmark for recovery is the record tourism year in 2019. In 2021, tourism revenue topped \$6.6 billion, leaving the county just shy of the 2019 records. The 10.3 million visitors who traveled to Cape May

(Page A12 Please)



File Photo

Visitors walk the Wildwood Boardwalk in summer 2020.

See related story on page A12

**DO THE SHORE** Plan your dining and entertainment fun with family and friends!  
Page A23

**HEALTH & WELLNESS**  
Stay healthy with tips from local pros!  
Page A36

**WEEKLY FEATURES**

Business	A16	Real Estate	A47
Celebrations	A18	Religion	A17
Classifieds	A42	Spout Off	A18
DoTheShore	A23	Tide Chart/	A34
Obituaries	A49	Fishing Line	
Opinion	A50	What's Cooking	A17

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