



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave
Above, the Flicka and the Dyrsten are two often-seen commercial fishing boats, docked near Lund's Fisheries.

Fishing

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people know the fisheries are well managed," he said.

DiDomenico said it's crucial the commercial fishing industry flourish in years to come so jobs remain available for future generations of

fishermen. In 2009 (the last year the data was available), there were 2,500 fishermen in New Jersey's commercial fleet while the state's seafood processors and wholesalers employed 1,500 people.

"In Cape May County, commercial fishing is one of the

few businesses that offers full-time employment year round," he said. "It's an industry that has been in Cape May for a very long time and has become a tradition among many families. There's families that have been a part of it for generations."

Change

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cation would have to agree to any changes made to the funding formula.

He said (perhaps referring to the concerns expressed by Beck) in the roughly two years he has been working to alter the formula, he has never been contacted by a board of education member or Lower Township official, nor have they attended any of Cape May's meetings on the topic. He said the city would

rather not go to court, but he doesn't feel city taxpayers should continue to pay \$6.6 million annually to send 64 students to the district.

"The courts are seeing what made sense in the 1970s does not make sense this year," he said. "I think in the future, common sense will prevail."

Harry Sundstrom Jr., the Cape May representative on the regional board of education, said he reviewed the feasibility study the night prior to the July 2 meeting.

Sundstrom said he was concerned with the number of times the study referred to sending Cape May students to another district, such as Middle Township.

Deputy Mayor William Murray reiterated council's preference to keep the students at the Lower Cape May Regional School.

"You're preaching to the choir. No one is advocating the removal of children from Lower Cape May," he told Sundstrom.

Water

Continued from page A1

sion of the solar electric fields was addressed at the meeting. Currently fields are located on the Lower Cape Regional High School property and the

LTMUA headquarters property.

"Are we going to talk to the township or school?" said Johnson.

"I estimate that we could use an additional 175 Kilowatts here. I have been told that if we apply for less than 250 kilowatts we will probably be successful," Ecker said. "It is just an add on."

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Dog attack case not yet resolved

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - A pit bull mix that in March allegedly attacked a smaller dog being walked by its owner could be declared a potentially dangerous dog by the municipal court judge.

A trial began June 26 relating to charges against Washington Street resident, whose dog was involved in the incident at 830 Washington Street.

At the trial in municipal court, the judge heard from three people, including two Cape May City police officers, who gave testimony regarding the attack. Cape May Prosecutor Marian Ragusa said Wisneski's 12-year old pit bull mix named Chino is potentially dangerous. On March 20 around 10 p.m., Marie Stone of 829 Washington was walking her Basset Griffon Vendeen named Sheryl, which she said weighs around 30 pounds and is nearly two-years-old.

Stone testified that as she walked toward her home, she noticed a shadow up ahead and soon realized it was another person walking their dog. Stone said she suddenly heard someone yell, "Grab your dog! Grab your dog!"

She said she did not have enough time to pick up Sheryl, so she threw herself on top of her dog in the flowerbed beside her in order to protect it. Stone testified that she did not see the attacking dog initially as she was facing the opposite way, but soon realized the pit bull was double the size of Sheryl.

Stone said as a result of the attack her dog suffered five puncture wounds and several scratches on its rear end. Stone said Sheryl did not suffer any major injuries or torn muscles, however, the veterinary bill came to \$168.50 for antibiotics, medication and treatment of the wounds.

Stone said she remained on the ground with her dog until help arrived to help separate the animals. She said a number of neighbors came out of their homes to assist. Police Officer Joseph Walker testified that he arrived on scene just a few minutes after receiving the call because of the close proximity to the police station. He said when he exited his patrol car he could describe the scene in a word - "chaos."

"There were just bodies surrounding and laying over top of the animals trying to separate them," he said. Walker said he could see the pit bull from the neck area to its hindquarters but did not see the other dog as there were too many people surrounding the animals. He said he reacted immediately and grabbed the dog by its

collar and pulled it backward. He said Chino did not bark or growl as he pulled the animal away.

Wisneski said Chino did have a leash on while she was walking him, but it detached during the scuffle. Walker testified that Chino did not have a leash on when he arrived. However, during the cross examination by Wisneski's attorney, Dan Kurkowski, Walker said the leash was readily available when the dogs were finally separated, so he assumed Wisneski did have a leash prior to the attack.

Walker said he directed Wisneski and Chino to her condominium after the attack. He said the dog had blood on his snout and mouth, but he could not determine whether it was blood from the other dog or its own.

Officer Kelly Walters said she escorted Stone and her dog back to their home. She said Stone had a minor laceration to her nose. Stone testified the wound was due to her own dog snapping at her during the attack and refused hospitalization as it was a minor cut. All those who testified said Chino did not attempt to attack anyone on scene and was only a threat to the smaller dog.

Wisneski told the Star and Wave her dog has never been a threat to people. She said the 12-year old pit bull mix is a rescue that was once used as a "bait dog." Baiting is the act of worrying or tormenting a chained or confined animal by setting game dogs upon it for sport. According to several reports from organizations such as the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), abusive dog owners often use pit bulls for baiting and fighting because of the brute strength and tenacity of the breed.

Ragusa hoped to call two other witnesses to the stand, Diana Lee and Linda Steenrod, regarding a prior incident involving Chino, which occurred in October 2012, also on Washington Street. The pit bull attacked and killed a shepherd puppy whose tether was tangled around a tree while its owners weren't home. Reports indicate Wisneski tied Chino up while she went to assist the puppy from being untangled, but the pit bull broke free and attacked. Steenrod told the Star and Wave following the attack that she had not been bitten by Chino when she came to separate the animals, but did sustain injury to her hand when she tried to pry the dog's mouth open and release the shepherd.

Kurkowski objected to

the witnesses, as no charges had been filed following the October incident, making it a prejudicial testimony. Presiding Judge Louis Belasco concurred, but told Ragusa she could file a motion to have the witnesses put on the stand as the trial develops. Some witnesses were unable to attend the start of the trial, which led to a continuance.

If Chino is declared a potentially dangerous dog, by state statute (4:19-24) the owner must obtain a potentially dangerous dog license from the municipality, with a municipal registration number and red identification tag. The owner must at his/her own expense have the registration number tattooed upon the dog in a prominent location, which is typically the ear. The statute requires a potentially dangerous dog to be impounded until the owner obtains the potentially dangerous dog license, municipal registration number and red identification tag.

The statute also requires the owner to display a sign on his or her premises warning that a potentially dangerous dog is on the premises and may be required to maintain liability insurance in an amount determined by the municipal court to cover any damage or injury caused by the potentially dangerous dog.

The final order of the statute requires the owner to immediately erect and maintain an enclosure for the animal on the property, where the potentially dangerous dog will be kept and maintained, which has sound sides, top and bottom to prevent the dog from escaping by climbing, jumping or digging and within a fence of at least six feet in height separated by at least three feet from the confined area. The statute says all potentially dangerous dogs must be confined in the enclosure or, if taken out of the enclosure, securely muzzled and restrained with a tether approved by the animal control officer and having a minimum tensile strength sufficiently in excess of that required to restrict the dog's movements to a radius of no more than three feet from the owner and under the direct supervision of the owner.

Kurkowski said Wisneski could not comply with the enclosure stipulation because she is not a homeowner and lives in a condominium. Belasco said he would still issue the stipulation because it was state law.

No date was set as to when the trial would continue.

TIDES
JULY 2013
Eastern Standard Time

	High	Low	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
10	10:13	10:17	4:00	3:47		
11	10:50	10:51	4:34	4:26		
12	11:28	11:26	5:08	5:07		
13		12:07	5:43	5:53		
14	12:05	12:52	6:21	6:45		
15	12:50	1:42	7:06	7:44		
16	1:44	2:40	7:57	8:49		
17	2:46	3:43	8:55	9:56		

Moon Phases
New Moon, July 8
First Quarter, July 15
Full Moon, July 22
Last Quarter, July 29
Apogee, July 6
Perigee, July 21

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