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JANUARY TIDE TABLE

(eastern daylight time)

	LOW		HIGH	
	am	pm	am	pm
11	1:16	1:14	7:11	7:22
12	2:09	2:10	8:12	8:09
13	3:03	3:11	9:14	8:59
14	3:56	4:10	10:11	9:50
15	4:47	5:05	11:04	10:41
16	5:36	5:56	11:52	11:30
17	6:21	6:42		12:37

Environmental Master Plan recommended

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Charlotte Todd, speaking on behalf of the Cape May Environmental Commission, told city council the commission would like to see a committee formed to create an Environmental Master Plan.

Using global warming as a springboard for the commis-

sion's recommendation, Tuesday, Todd said there needs to be a voluntary education campaign to get people to save energy. She said the commission is starting a campaign targeting residents, businesses and visitors in Cape May asking them all to use energy wisely. Todd asked city council to create an ordinance to encourage the use of alternate energy sources.

"Cape May needs to build on its green identity in the long term," she said.

Todd also asked city council to appoint four members to a committee to begin working on an Environmental Master Plan. Todd suggested there be one member each from the Environmental Commission, the Planning Board, the Zoning Board of Adjustments and the Historic Preservation Commission. Deputy Mayor

Niels Favre recommended expanding the commission's recommendation to include a member of the Tourism Commission and some one from the city's finance department.

On Tuesday evening, Mayor Jerry Inderwies brought the recommendation to the attention of the Planning Board and nominated Councilwoman Linda Steenrod as the Planning

Board representative to the new committee.

During the city council meeting, Todd introduced Paul Gallagher from the Atlantic City Utilities Authority, who said Atlantic City has realized cost savings by using alternative energy sources where possible. Gallagher said the city saved \$415,000 in the first year

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An El Niño winter?

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

MOUNT HOLLY - The unseasonably warm winter experienced by people in the eastern region of the United States has left people wondering if winter will ever arrive, or if fall will just turn into spring.

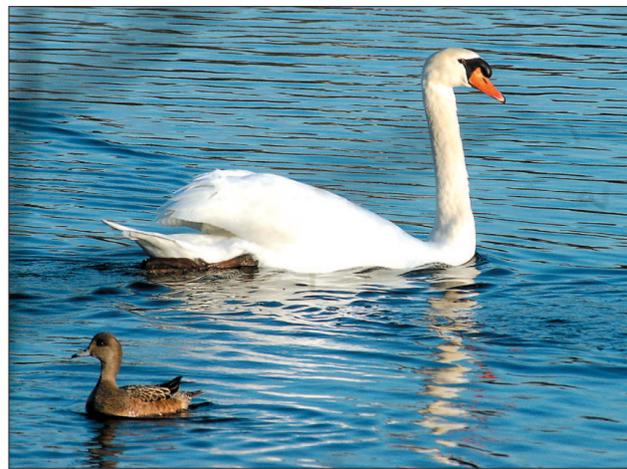
But according to Anthony Gigi, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service working out of

Mount Holly, the weather tends to balance out.

"If we don't get (cold weather) in winter we get it in the spring," Gigi said.

Gigi said there is no guarantee the weather would balance out, but during what are considered El Niño winters, out of the four months between December and March,

Please see **Winter**, Page A2



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Both man and beast enjoyed the warm weather last Saturday when temperatures reached 75 degrees. Above, a swan and friend take a swim on Lake Lily. Top, Wyeth Freeney, 7, and Matthew O'Conner, 6, play with a puppy belonging to the Star and Wave's own R.E. Heinly. Right, a couple enjoys the afternoon sun at the Cove in Cape May.



Bill S-7 opponents say no to being state's 'guinea pig'

By MARY RUDLOFF
Cape May Star and Wave

UPPER TOWNSHIP - School administrators, board members and residents from all over the county made their opinions about Senate Bill S-7 clear last week. It won't work, they said, and they don't want Cape May County to be the state's "guinea pig" county that proves it. Upper Township schools hosted a county meeting on Jan. 4. The topic was Bill S-7, a pilot program for a single countywide school district.

School officials from nearly every district in the county showed up, speaking out against the Senate bill, which would cede control of all of the school districts to a governor-appointed county "superintendent" and a politically-appointed county school board.

The measure, proposed as a

10-year pilot program, gives all control to the newly formed county board. All of the school districts in the selected county are merged into one and any home rule for towns ceases to exist.

The public came out to tell state and county officials they do not want Cape May County to be the test case.

State Sen. Nicholas Asselta and county Freeholders Ralph Bakley and Gerald Thornton agreed with the crowd of about 75 people, in opposing Cape May County as the test district.

Bakley, who also has 40 years experience on school boards, opposed the bill for Cape May or any other county.

The strong position he and Thornton took against Bill S-7 was reassuring to many attending, as it is the County Board of Chosen Freeholders that would have to apply to

have the county in the pilot program.

"There is no way the Cape May County Freeholders will vote to apply for this program," Thornton said, to applause.

Only one county will be chosen, but with guidelines set up at the state level, only eight counties are eligible to apply, including Cape May and Atlantic counties.

At the meeting, Assemblymen Jeff Van Drew and Nelson Albano did not rule out Cape May County as a possible test county, but said they knew it would be unlikely. Both voted for a version of the bill when it passed in the state General Assembly in early December.

Van Drew said he supported the bill because he saw it as a means to work to improve an education system that needs significant change.

"We voted for it being per-

missive legislation. It had overwhelming support, especially in the Assembly," Van Drew said. "It was a choice to become part of the process and work to change the process. We did the best we could."

Albano noted he was hearing the opposition to the bill "loud and clear, and it is our job to carry that message back to Trenton."

Asselta was outspoken in his opposition to the Senate bill, which came up for a vote last month and failed 21 to 18. He said scheduling of a new vote, slated for this week, was a sign the bill's sponsors had lined up enough votes to pass it.

Asselta said some of the bill's failings are that it strips away local input into districts, it will not save money and it puts the control over and decisions about education in the county into the

political arena, rather than an educational one.

"This program would impact Cape May County schools in a negative way. The freeholders will have to decide to apply for this pilot program or not," Asselta said. "I asked one question and the bill's sponsors couldn't answer it. I asked if they could prove this would save tax dollars and lower taxes."

Asselta went on to list what he said are many of the negatives in the bill, including the stripping of local authority, the absence of residents voting on school budgets, loss of control in each community of school property and turning education into a politically based institution while creating a new level of government.

Van Drew said Bill S-7 was an improvement over a previous bill, which would have mandated this type of pro-

gram for some counties.

"The reason for this bill is that people in the state of New Jersey have had it with property taxes. But we have to do something intelligent that protects the education of our children," Van Drew said.

"I am not throwing this issue on the freeholders. It is permissive legislation. It won't happen unless you want this to happen. Believe me, I do not see Cape May County freeholders wanting to do this, not in my wildest dreams."

Albano said one of the greatest losses would be loss of local school board input or control.

"Who knows better what goes on in schools than the people of that town? To lose that kind of input in the schools your children attend would be a great loss,"

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Charges dropped in car dispute

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - A Cape May woman said she received the "best Christmas present ever" after she was cleared of theft charges filed by a former boyfriend.

The Cape May County Prosecutor's cleared Janine Kreh of Lafayette Avenue in Cape May of all charges related to a dispute she had with David Vigil of North Cape May. Vigil alleged Kreh unlawfully removed his 1994 Lincoln Mark IV from his home while he was away, getting the keys and title from his landlord. According to Kreh, the title was in her name and it was Vigil who absconded with the keys and title.

Vigil called the police in Lower Township, and had

Kreh charged in Middle Township and the city of Cape May.

In all, Kreh was charged with two counts of theft by unlawful taking, and one count each of receiving stolen property, forgery, and falsifying or tampering with records.

The Middle Township and Cape May cases were referred to the county prosecutor's office where the cases were merged. However, the prosecutor's office determined there was no cause to proceed with the charges. A document issued by that office informed Kreh:

"Any superior court dates which have been scheduled on this matter have been cancelled and may be ignored. All records should be adjusted accordingly including the withdrawing of any warrants pertaining to these charges."

"It's the best Christmas present ever," Kreh said.

Charges of receiving stolen property were also dropped against Kreh's current boyfriend Paul Profit.

According to Kreh, Vigil was a friend who she began dating. She said he wanted her to have a safe car, and offered her his Lincoln if she would pay for the parts to get it fixed.

"He tried to get me to sell my car to put more money into the car," Kreh said. "Then the day it passed inspection he wanted it back."

In June, Vigil had to go to state prison in Camden County for resisting arrest and eluding police while operating a motor vehicle. According to Kreh, Vigil took possession of the car a day before he had to go to prison and he gave the title to his

landlord to hold his room. He told Kreh to keep the car registered and insured. However, she took the license plates and turned them in.

When the unregistered/unlicensed car became a problem for the landlord, Kreh came and got the car.

Vigil was released from prison in October, and he immediately filed a civil suit to get the car back. Days later he began filing criminal charges saying Kreh had stolen the car and forged documents to get the title in her name.

Kreh said she had to go to the police stations in Middle Township and Cape May, where she was fingerprinted. Between October and December, the police visited her house 11 times as differ

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Got blood? The Red Cross needs yours

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - The Red Cross is saying blood supply levels are now far below critical in the Penn-Jersey Region and is calling for healthy individuals to consider making a donation to restore the blood supply.

According to Maria Mulville, who is a coordinator for the blood bank at Our Lady Star of the Sea School on Friday, Jan. 12, said Red Cross representatives have said the regional blood supply is at the lowest level in recent history - to the point where patient treatments are being jeopardized.

"Typically the reserves are very low at this time of the year because people don't donate during the holidays," Mulville said. "People get very busy and the reserves get low."

For this reason, Mulville said, the school schedules its blood bank in early January. According to Kristy Kane, a spokesperson with the Penn-Jersey Region, January is also National Blood Donor Month.

Kane said they often experience a drop in blood donations

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