



Better Newspaper Contest 2011 Editorial Awards

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Better Newspaper Contest 2011

**D1: Responsible Journalism -
Public Service, Lloyd P. Burns
Memorial Award**

NJPA Awards

D1: Responsible Journalism – Public Service – Lloyd P. Burns Memorial Award

Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

Daily Record

“2011 Election
Coverage”

Staff

ELECTION 2011 24TH DISTRICT

In the 24th, a crowded Assembly race

Staff Report

Six candidates are vying for two Assembly seats in New Jersey's 24th Legislative District, with two Democrats and two independents trying to unseat Republican incumbents Alison Little McHose and Gary Chiusano.

Democrat Edwin Selby faces Republican incumbent Steven Oroho in the race for Senate.

On Pages A4 and A5 are excerpts from the candidates' responses to 12 questions posed by the Daily Record. For the complete transcript, visit www.daily-record.com/election preview.

Election coverage this week

Today: 24th District
Monday: 25th District
Tuesday: 26th District
Wednesday: 27th District
Thursday: Morris County Freeholder

Steven V. Oroho,
Republican incumbent
Candidate for state Senate, 24th District



Steven V. Oroho

Review Commission, of which I am a member, in streamlining government bureaucracy.

Voters are fed up with political gridlock. Specify when you voted against the recommendation of your party's leaders — and why.

My first disagreement came when I did not support the Governor's original nominee for the State Department of Children and Families because of some highly questionable associations which became known during a background check.

See OROHO, Page A4

Edwin Selby,
Democrat
Candidate for state Senate, 24th District



Edwin Selby

fully fund our schools, as required by law. I would work to see that the natural resources, and beauty of our region are protected, while at the same time developing employment in the region that builds from those natural resources.

What are your specific legislative priorities for the coming term?

My goals as a state Senator will be to:
• Reduce property taxes by restoring the millionaires tax.

See SELBY, Page A5

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D1: Responsible Journalism - Public Service – Lloyd P. Burns Memorial Award

Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

City passed over in schools plan



Gov. Chris Christie ticks off points during an address in Trenton yesterday as he announces the 10 schools that will be built this year by the state Schools Development Authority.

Christie announces only 10 state-funded building projects in poor districts

By Meir Rinde
STAFF WRITER

TRENTON — Gov. Chris Christie has effectively canceled the much-delayed plan to renovate or replace Trenton Central High School, announcing that the state agency responsible for building schools in poor districts will start only 10 new projects this year, none of them in Mercer County.

Three years ago, the agency gave initial approval to 51 school projects, including the \$150 million TCHS construction, the Hoebling School and the Early Childhood Center in Trenton. But Christie suspended work on the projects after he took office last year, and he said yesterday that the state agency responsible for such projects — the Schools Development Authority (SDA) — would undertake a much smaller roster of projects in the future.

Projects that did not top the list for “need and efficiency” according to new SDA criteria will not be reconsidered for construction until future years, Christie said.

“Those projects will continue to be prioritized and reviewed by SDA. If and when they make it up on the priority list, they’ll be approved,” he said during a news conference. “And if they don’t, they won’t. It’s going to be done on the merits.”

This latest postponement was met with anger and disappointment by Trenton
SEE SCHOOLS, PAGE A08

The Times

“City Passed Over in Schools Plan”

“Residents, Officials Stage Protest Urging Repairs to TCHS”

“TCHS Desperate for Repair Funding”

“SDA Chief Sees Decay for Himself:

State Executive Tours Crumbling TCHS”

“SDA Chief on the Defensive in Hearing”

Meir Rinde

Matt Fair

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D1: Responsible Journalism - Public Service – Lloyd P. Burns Memorial Award

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

The News of Cumberland County

“Tombstone Lettering
Needs Changing”
“‘Screaming Eagle’ Again”

**Man who fought with Vietnam vet won't give up
Tombstone lettering needs changing**

By Greg Adomaitis
gadamaitis@njpress.com

FAIRFIELD TWP. — When Samuel Boyd Jr. was killed in 1965 by a Claymore land mine, his new friend from New Jersey was on patrol with him.

When Arthur Corley got the chance in 2002 to visit Boyd's tombstone, he saw a problem.

"Samuel fought for the 101st Airborne Division. He loved the 101," Corley said.

Boyd's tombstone at Beverly National Cemetery, Burlington County, states he was a member of the 101st Infantry Division.

It should read "101 ABN Div" instead of INF and there is nothing Corley, nor the sole survivor of that Claymore explosion, can do about it.

For regulations, only immediate family members or next of kin can request a change.

Scouring the Internet, traveling to Newark, flipping through phonebooks and speaking with officials at every level hasn't helped.

The Veterans Administration (VA) informed Corley of the family rule. As did a representative from Congressman Frank Lofredo's office.

"As far as I knew, a notification would have went to his mom, Mary Boyd," Corley said.

He has never been able to locate a Mary Boyd, nor any immediate family members.

"He's got to have cousins, aunts, somebody," said Corley.



Boyd, a Newark native, met Corley, who hailed from Newport. The two volunteered for the service and met in Vietnam during the spring of 1965.

"Where you from in the world?" he asked Private Boyd, who arrived with a batch of replacements for the 17th Cavalry Regiment.

Corley said replacements were a liability when in combat and weren't given too much attention.

Still, he asked anyway.

(See **TOMBSTONE**, Page A-1)



Arthur Corley, at left, is trying to get the lettering on Samuel Boyd Jr.'s tombstone changed from "inf." to "airborne, the unit they both served in, in Vietnam.

Greg Adomaitis

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D1: Responsible Journalism - Public Service – Lloyd P. Burns Memorial Award

Third Place, Daily Over 45,000

Education in Elizabeth: A study in politics

Investigation finds school board pressures workers to fill campaign coffers

By Ted Sherman
STAR-LEDGER STAFF

Patti Gallante, a teacher now retired from the Elizabeth public school system, said only one thing about her job ever scared her: the school board.

Through e-mails and political mailings to her home, Gallante said she would constantly get solicitations from members of the city's board of education, asking for money. There were dinners, cocktail events, testimonials and tables of tickets to be bought and sold. It was

a nonstop stream of beseechings.

To Gallante — worried, as many teachers were, about promotions and prime school assignments — the implied threat was clear. "You buy the \$125 ticket because you are scared," she said.

The Elizabeth Board of Education, with more than 23,000 students and a \$402 million budget largely subsidized by Trenton and another \$20.5 million in federal aid, is one of the New Jersey's largest and, to some, a top urban school district.

But a four-month investigation by The Star-Ledger, drawing on interviews, lawsuits and internal documents, shows it can also be a relentless political machine fueled by nepotism, patronage, money and favors, using its nearly 4,000 employees as a ready-made fundraising base.

Internal documents show friends and relatives of board members scattered through the payroll.

Teachers and other employees, who kick in tens of thousands of dollars in donations, say they feel pressured by

supervisors and board members to buy tickets to fundraisers. They say they are reminded that attending campaign events is in their best career interest.

Testimonial dinners are held to honor the superintendent and president of the board of education — not to raise money for scholarships or education, but to funnel more into campaign coffers.

Campaign finance records also show lucrative contracts go to vendors who support the board at election time.

Questions about the board's

activities are aimed for the most part at its leadership, with few members singled out individually. All nine members of the board were contacted for comment for this story. The two who responded denied there was any political agenda.

"I have no idea what a political machine does," said recently named school board president Marie L. Munn. "We hope to educate our children and give them the best education possible."

According to Munn, there is no pressure for anyone to contribute.

SEE BOARD, PAGE 10

The Star-Ledger

"Education in Elizabeth:
A Study in Politics"

"Elizabeth Schools' Secret Payoffs"

"Taxpayers Buy Lunch
for School Officials' Kids"

"School Board Head Forks over \$2,682"

"Elizabeth to Verify Free-Lunch"

"Three Arrested"

"Elizabeth Probe Takes"

Ted Sherman


NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

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Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

TOXIC LANDSCAPE: EDGEWATER WATERFRONT

A new threat to long-sought river cleanup



Apartment would sit atop pollution

By **SCOTT FALLON**
STAFF WRITER

A developer wants to build apartments and a banquet hall in Edgewater on a pier that sits above a highly contaminated section of the Hudson River where coal tar and a cocktail of other pollutants continually seep from a Superfund site next door.

The proposal to put a third story on the pier at 115 River Road has prompted concern among several residents and environmentalists that the project may disrupt future cleanup efforts at the Quanta Resources Superfund site.

But an Environmental Protection Agency official said recently that any plans to build near Quanta would have to wait until all the remedial work on land and in the river is complete – a process that will take at least

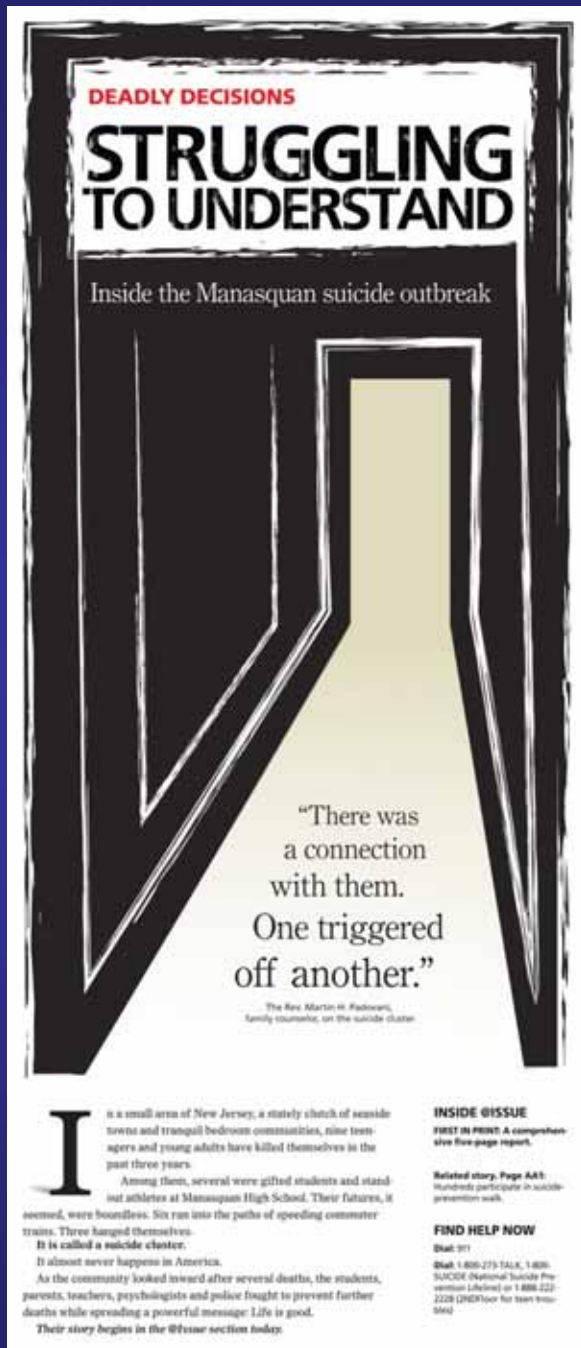
What's next
The Edgewater Board of Adjustment is scheduled to hear the proposed expansion plans for 115 River Road at its meeting tonight at 7 in Borough Hall, 916 River Road.

See **TOXIC** Page A-6

The Record (Bergen County)

“Toxic Landscape”

Staff



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First Place, Daily Over 45,000

Asbury Park Press

“Struggling to Understand”

Shannon P. Mullen

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION



Better Newspaper Contest 2011

D2: Responsible Journalism - Editorial Comment

NJPA Awards

THE NEWS
EDITORIAL

Don't discourage public comment

Let's remember why public comment periods are part of government meetings. We want the public to feel confident that it can ask questions, offer opinions and hold leaders accountable.

We often complain in this space that more residents don't attend their local and county meetings to take part in this process.

It's for these reasons that we are concerned about this week's exchange between Bridgeton City Council President Bill Spence and former councilman Nick Salvatore.

Attending as a member of the public, Salvatore came to Tuesday's meeting with questions about the controversial sale of a bank property to a church. He wanted to know why the city allowed this deal to go through.

Given Bridgeton's need for ratables, the loss of \$23,000 in tax revenue is significant. Just the same, it doesn't appear the city could have stopped this deal. Had the zoning board blocked it, the matter would have simply ended up in court, costing us even more money.

Here's the problem. Salvatore's persistent questioning eventually pushed Spence to warn that he would have the sergeant at arms escort him from the meeting room if he didn't stop.

Big mistake.

Salvatore — and every other citizen — has every right to come to a meeting and ask questions. The questioning may be abrasive, overbearing, uncomfortable and repetitive. Part of the job of any elected official is to stand up and take the heat. The comments and criticism may not be warranted, it could be hurtful, but it is the right of each citizen to have this opportunity.

Just ask members of Milville City Commission. They are taken to task at their meetings. The citizen watchdog group Milville First was formed out of frustration with how the commission ran the city. We haven't heard any reports of commissioners trying to stifle the criticism at meetings. Commissioners do their best to answer all questions, listen to criticism and maintain a professional tone.

The only time we can see any justification for removing a member of public from a meeting would be if that citizen made threats, became violent or even refused to allow other members of the public an opportunity to speak. Salvatore did none of these things.

Clearly, what happened Tuesday night has its roots in the last election. Spence and Salvatore, who originally ran together on James Begley's slate in 2006, found themselves on opposite sides in the 2010 race. All of that is history, however, and should not factor into how either side treats the other today.

Let's remember that Salvatore was a regular at council meetings prior to running for office. He was persistent and no doubt irritated some members of council at that time. His involvement eventually drove him to run for council. That's often how people decide to pursue public service.

Elected officials should do everything possible to encourage public participation — even from political adversaries.

D2: Responsible Journalism - Editorial Comment

Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

The News of Cumberland County

“Don't Discourage Public Comment”

“Is the Plan to Kill Bridgeton?”

“Learn from Story of Khalil Wallace”

Matt Gray

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

Human nature, but still no excuse

You don't have to be a football fan to understand what happened at Penn State. You only have to be human.

All big organizations — whether big universities, Fortune 500 companies, successful sports teams, or church dioceses — are “created equal,” if you will. That is, they’re all composed of the same elements:

People.

Human beings, with all their strengths and, sadly, with all their weaknesses.

And the bigger they are, it’s said, the harder they fall.

Wednesday night, in a startling 10 p.m.



Associated Press photo

Joe Paterno and his wife, Sue, greet student supporters outside their home last week, after Penn State trustees fired the coach.

news conference following several days of allegation and rumor, the board of trustees at Penn State University announced the immediate

dismissal of storied head football coach Joe Paterno

and university president Graham Spanier. The dismissal follows the grand jury indictment of a former assistant coach for alleged sex abuse of young boys in a case spanning at least 10 years. Jerry Sandusky — once heir-apparent to the aging Paterno, and someone who still had access to Penn State’s football complex — has been charged with molesting eight boys in 15 years. Some of the alleged abuse occurred at the university’s football facilities.

Since the indictment, Paterno — a hall-of-famer, the most successful Division I coach in college football history and one of the most successful in any sport — had come under harsh criticism from within and without the Happy Valley community for not taking more action in 2002 when a graduate assistant reported seeing Sandusky in the showers raping a 10-year-old boy. Paterno said he notified the athletic director and a university vice president, then got back to the business of winning college football games.

Because, really, that’s what this is all about. Business. Business as usual. Money.

College football in this country is a big money-maker, and not just in terms of ticket sales, product endorsements, and network TV deals. Sure, major universities with Division I teams like Penn State, Notre Dame and L.S.U. count on the big games for income, but even smaller schools — like Rowan as well as New Jersey’s county colleges — benefit financially from the good publicity that comes with a winning team, in every way from student recruitment, to alumni donations, to ongoing financial support from state legislatures.

It’s only human of Coach Paterno and President Spanier to have wanted to continue business as usual, to protect the image and the success of the university’s major meal ticket, even at the cost of further enabling a suspected child abuser. But it was wrong.

The trustees of Penn State did the right thing. Too bad that Paterno and Spanier did not.

D2: Responsible Journalism - Editorial Comment

Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

Gloucester County Times

“Human Nature but Still No Excuse”

“‘Feudal’ Attempt to Fix Schools”

“More Are Voting with Their Feet”

Mary Lee Donahue

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D2: Responsible Journalism - Editorial Comment

A special plea to Gov. Christie: Don't take away our future

Vineland is under attack. The successes that resulted from years of community-wide efforts to slowly rebuild our economically challenged city are now on the brink of collapse.

We wish that were hyperbole. But, sadly, it isn't. A series of money-saving initiatives from Gov. Chris Christie over the past year

OUR VIEW

threatens the long-term economic viability of Cumberland County, with Vineland at the epicenter. His proposals are an attack on our jobs, our economic infrastructure and our children's educational opportunities.

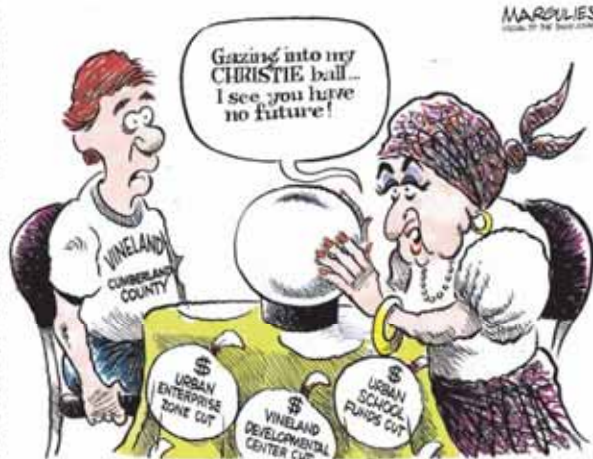
Decisions that will be made in Trenton over the next few weeks will have decades-long ramifications for our community. We already are one of the poorest counties in one of the richest states. We already struggle with one of New Jersey's highest unemployment rates. Ten percent of the state's poorest urban school districts are within our small county's borders.

What Christie is doing is more than unfair. It's frightening. That's why we are taking the extraordinary step of publishing this front-page editorial today.

Now is the time for Vinelanders and their neighbors to stand their ground and tell Gov. Christie he's gone too far. And now is the time for Christie to step back, take a deep breath and rethink how he's leading our community in a race to the bottom.

Going too far

There are three key areas where Christie is try-



MAROLLES
Illustration by the artist

SPEAK UP

If you agree with this editorial, call Gov. Chris Christie.
 Phone: 609-292-6000
 Email: Go online to www.state.nj.us/governor/
 contact and send an email.

Jersey's poorest cities. Sales taxes are reduced for purchases in the zones as a way to entice people to do their shopping there.

Most importantly, some of the money raised through these sales taxes is kept in the cities instead of going to the economic black hole known as the state treasury. Over the years, local officials have used those dollars wisely as the counterpoise of their efforts to kick-start our economy. UEZ funds have fueled the downtown revitalization of Vineland and Millville, spurred many employers to move to our industrial parks, and attracted businesses ranging from the Union Labor Crossing shopping center in Millville to the new Lordis MarketPlace in downtown Vineland.

These are the places that employ you or your neighbors. Those are the businesses you go to when you're seeking a sponsor for your Little League team.

Not all UEZs in New Jersey have used their money wisely, which is a key reason Christie wants to keep the tax revenue they generate — estimated at \$94 million statewide next year — and use it to balance the state's budget. But Vineland has been a model for how the money should operate and has one of the best track records of all UEZs in the state.

Christie is throwing out the baby with the bathwater.

Please FUTURE on All

What Christie is doing is more than unfair; it's frightening

ing to cut too deeply into the institutions that are our community's economic backbone.

■ Eliminating the core benefit of the state's Urban Enterprise Zone program by no longer allowing Vineland, Millville and Bridgeton to keep millions of dollars raised through sales taxes and reinvest that money at the local level.

■ Taking away money that should be used to educate students in poor urban schools.

■ Closing the Vineland Developmental Center, which employs more than 1,200 people.

Before we discuss the

details of why each of these plans is misguided and detrimental, however, let's take a minute to discuss the larger picture of what Christie is doing.

When Christie became governor in January 2010, he inherited the nuclear of all messes. Years of loosey legislaing had left our state in financial ruins, exacerbated by the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. Budget deficits were in the billions of dollars, workers' pension funds were grossly underfunded.

Christie was a breath of fresh air at the eleventh hour. He ushered in a much-needed era of shared

sacrifice and economic responsibility. He took courageous steps, such as cutting the tax rebates we all love getting in the mail every year, because we just couldn't afford to do business as usual. And he cut funding to municipalities and schools, because they needed to get the message that the days of reckless spending were over.

Perhaps most importantly, he became the No. 1 advocate for what he called his "tool kit" of initiatives that were designed to help local governments rein in costs.

We support Christie wholeheartedly for his leadership and vision in this effort.

But what we cannot support — what none of us should support if we care about our nearly 150-year-old city's next 150 years — is what Christie now wants to do.

The governor essentially is taking Vineland's economic tool kit, turning it upside down and shaking it until the UEZ, school funds and Developmental Center fall out. All he's leaving behind are the screws.

Urban Enterprise Zones

Let's start with how Christie wants to destroy the Urban Enterprise Zones. These zones are special districts set up in New

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Daily Journal

"A Special Plea to Gov. Christie: Don't Take Away Our Future"

"Jannarone, Magazzu Step Up to the Plate"

"Exasperated by Vineland Mayor's Actions"

Jason Alt

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

OUR VIEW

An upbraiding over bigotry

Did you hear the one about how Gov. Chris Christie has nominated a radical Muslim to be a Superior Court judge? And how, if So-hail Mohammed is seated on the bench, before you know it Jersey Girls will be required to wear burqas and jaywalkers will have their feet chopped off?

It's bad enough when this kind of nonsense finds purchase in the fever dreams of the aluminum foil-hat brigade in the blogosphere. It's even worse when these accusations reach the light of day.

Yet Christie on Tuesday had to launch a spirited defense of Mohammed after a questioner at a town hall meeting said the nominee had defended detainees at the Guantanamo facility where suspected terrorists are being held.

Christie said that simply wasn't true. Mohammed did represent people who were detained in New Jersey in the immediate aftermath of Sept. 11 and were ultimately released for having no involvement with any terrorist activity.

But even if Mohammed had represented Gitmo detainees, so what? This is America, and even suspected

Even if Mohammed had represented Gitmo detainees, so what? This is America, where the presumption of innocence is the foundation of our system of jurisprudence.

enemy combatants deserve some representation. The presumption of innocence is the foundation of our system of jurisprudence.

It is amazing that so many "patriots" are willing with their reckless accusations to actually undermine America's highest ideals. Perhaps there is some truth to that old saying: Patriotism is the last refuge of scoundrels.

Mohammed has been the target of Internet-based rumors about his affiliation with radical Muslims, with some going so far as to say

his appointment to the bench would be the first step toward introducing Muslim sharia law to New Jersey.

This would all be laughable if, in the near-decade since 9/11, anti-Muslim bigotry hadn't taken root in too many human hearts, along with guilt by association and a smoldering suspicion of anyone who prays to God and calls him "Allah."

This is a case where Christie's bluster is needed. It is said Mark Twain once remarked, "A lie can travel half-way around the world while the truth is putting on its boots." Technology has radically increased the speed with which rumor, innuendo and hateful falsehoods move.

Christie needs to stick by his choice and push back hard every time one of these lies sees the light of day.

D2: Responsible Journalism - Editorial Comment

Third Place, Daily Over 45,000

Asbury Park Press

"An Upbraiding Over Bigotry"

"\$335,000 a Year to Teach History?"

"Reward Excellence in the Classroom"

Michael Riley

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D2: Responsible Journalism - Editorial Comment

Forget traffic jams

New Jersey is a small state, but it's uniquely packed with people, most of whom drive cars, and many of whom do so poorly and aggressively. Perhaps that's why almost no New Jersey governor — not even Gov. Christie, self-appointed guardian of fiscal and ethical purity — can resist a helicopter.

Democrat or Republican, blue collar or blue blood, nearly all eventually succumb to the temptation to rise above turnpike traffic in a state police chopper. Christie Whitman criticized Jim Florio for doing it — and then did it herself. Jim McGreevey, having at one point logged more flights than weekdays in office, was shamed into getting Democrats to reimburse the state for his most egregious trips.

Indeed, we might doubt the Garden State bona fides of a chief executive who could ignore the propeller's siren song. Could anyone who has ever wasted part of his life parked north of Exit 8A?

Sure enough, one of the few who avoided the trap was Jon Corzine — an Illinois native. And he had his own aircraft, as well as a 91-m.p.h. highway crash that inadvertently illustrated the benefits of gubernatorial air travel.

So now that Christie has joined this long line, can we really blame him? Yes. Neither he nor any other governor should be using state police helicopters for personal or political business, and Christie's itinerary this week was a particularly offensive example thereof.

A \$12.5 million copter whisked Christie and his wife from Trenton to the North Jersey prep

school where their son was playing in a baseball game Tuesday. After they disembarked in a nearby football field, a car reportedly drove them the remaining hundred yards to the diamond.

It's a good thing this was only a high school game, or Christie might have required a horse-drawn carriage to the concession stand, a rickshaw to the restroom, and a palanquin to the souvenir shop.

After about five innings, the first pair were flown to the governor's mansion, in Princeton, where Christie dined with a group of potential presidential campaign donors. No word on whether this crew was outfitted with top hats and monocles, but that's about all that could have made this a haughtier display of high-flown privilege by a man with a penchant for killing public-transport projects.

And of course, this being Christie, he only aggravated matters with his arrogant and dismissive initial response. Directly contradicting the facts at hand, a spokesman asserted that the governor's "air travel has been extremely limited and appropriate" and that the governor would not reimburse the state. Later, he reluctantly agreed to pay for two recent trips "to ensure that this is not a distraction."

If Christie wants more presidential donors to come calling, he should take more care to align his personal conduct with his public message — even if he doesn't actually care to live by the austerity and rectitude he prescribes for those of us stuck in traffic here on the ground.



CHRISTOPHER COSTA / Ridgewood Patch.com

Gov. Christie arrived via state helicopter to watch his son play in a high school baseball game.

Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Philadelphia Inquirer

"Forget Traffic Jams"

"Like an Addict"

"Weedman...Reefer Madness"

Josh Gohlke

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D2: Responsible Journalism - Editorial Comment

Bench yourself

Justice Rivera-Soto should resign

THE STATE Supreme Court is not facing a constitutional crisis. It is being buffeted by a judicial crackpot. Justice Roberto Rivera-Soto should resign.

Rivera-Soto has notified Governor Christie that he will not seek renomination to the court when his term expires in September. The justice should not put off until tomorrow what he can do today. He is an embarrassment to the court and an insult to every person on the state's payroll. We applaud the Senate's passage last week of a resolution calling for Rivera-Soto's resignation. We are puzzled that more Republicans, and in particular, the governor, are not joining in the call.

Rivera-Soto's renomination was never a sure thing; his confirmation by the Senate, even less probable. His decision to not seek renomination is about the only thing he has done in recent memory that remotely makes sense. He first wrote that the court was in a constitutional crisis because Chief Justice Rabner named a temporary replacement to fill the vacancy left by Justice John Wallace.

Christie broke with tradition and did not renominate Wallace. Christie wanted to reshape the court in his own image. We disagree with his decision, but it was within the governor's constitutional authority to do exactly what he did. Senate President Stephen Sweeney, D-Gloucester, was less understanding. He has said he will not schedule confirmation hearings for Wallace's replacement until Wallace reaches what would have been his retirement age.

We note, as an aside, that these grown men with their petty actions and reactions appear more suited to a sandbox than to the State House or the judiciary. But we are stuck and the sands of time are flowing.

Rivera-Soto said he would not render decisions unless Rabner's replacement justice was off the bench. Then he changed his mind and said he would render judgment selectively. Put in laymen's



RIVERA-SOTO

terms, a well-paid state employee has announced he will work only when he feels like working. If that well-paid public employee was say, a school administrator, Christie would not only have shown him the door, he would have closed it rather quickly on his backside.

We are not inclined to back impeachment proceedings against Rivera-Soto. The Assembly has bigger fish to fry than this judicial stinker. Impeachment will take time away from the budget and needed structural reforms in pensions and benefits.

The bully pulpit should be sufficient enough to get Rivera-Soto off the bench. That will take the bipartisan voice of both the Governor's Office and the Legislature. This is not about political ideology. This about a justice of the state Supreme Court stating that he will not perform the duties of his office on a regular basis. It is about a justice who has changed his mind about not working and working - clearly not evidence of clear, well-reasoned thinking.

If Rivera-Soto can't decide whether to fulfill his duties as a justice, he should not be participating in any legal decisions. He should resign. Immediately.

First Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Record (Bergen County)

"Bench Yourself"

"Clock Is Ticking"

"Wayne Madness"

Alfred P. Doblin



Better Newspaper Contest 2011

D3: Responsible Journalism - Enterprise

NJPA Awards

D3: Responsible Journalism - Enterprise

Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

Once-promising charter schools go off course

(Editor's note: First of a two-part series)

By Carmen Cusido
STAFF WRITER

TRENTON — Three years ago, Capital Preparatory Charter High School opened to much fanfare and was hailed as a formidable challenge to standard high schools — a taxpayer-funded college preparatory program that might teach the regular public schools something about how to educate children.

Department of Education officials were among those who praised

Capital Prep and another school that was opening at the same time, Paul Robeson Charter.

"We visited the two new schools and were pleased about what we saw," Rich Vespucci, a spokesman for the department, said at the time. "There appeared to be a lot of teaching and learning going on in both schools."

Yet somehow things went terribly wrong at Capital Prep. The Grand Street school accumulated a large

deficit, lacked a certified business administrator and was spending taxpayer dollars in ways that had little educational value, the DOE later found.

The school spent \$10,000 on hotel fees for a staff junket to Atlantic City, \$5,600 on a year-end staff party at KatManDu restaurant, and \$38,000 on flower boxes and campus landscaping. Visiting DOE staff also found "a weak educational program, lacking in rigor and not meeting the goals

set forth in the school's charter," a spokesman said.

After a period of probation, the school was finally pressured to give up its charter in May, and the New Jersey State Police opened an investigation into school spending practices.

It wasn't the first charter school failure in New Jersey, or in Trenton. Forty charter schools have seen their licenses revoked, denied or surrendered since the much vaunted

alternative education program began more than a decade ago. This year both Capital Prep and Trenton Community Charter were targeted for closure by the DOE.

In the case of Trenton Community, the DOE found students simply were not making sufficient academic progress and concluded school officials had not come up with an acceptable turnaround plan.

A PRO-CHARTER AGENDA

The stream of charter failures
SEE CHARTER, PAGE A11

The Times

"Once-Promising Charter Schools Go Off Course"

"Charter Schools at the Fulcrum of an Ideological Divide"

Carmen Cusido

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D3: Responsible Journalism - Enterprise

SERIES: SAVING SPACES

The trail blazer



Jim Florance is a trail steward at Jonathan's Woods. At one time, he purchased a steel-cutting saw and cut up abandoned cars that he helped drag out of the woods. PHOTO: NICHOLE LORRAINE

THE PERSON
Jim Florance, 66, of Denville
• Trail steward, Protect Our Watersheds, Water and Woods

THE PROJECT
Jonathan's Woods
• 600-acre park in northeast Denville, including Rainbow and Beaman townships.
• Owned by the state and managed by Morris County Park Commission.
• Purchased and maintained by NCMWWF

INSIDE
With a handful of friends and volunteers, Florance is restoring his forest. Page 83

Jim Florance Denville
'Love for the land was passed on to me'

Acres for sale and homes for rent, Morris County has been a leader in preserving open space. In fact, as New Jersey's Green Acres Program turns 50, the county is the state's largest collector of more dollars for preservation — \$45.4 million — through its open space tax program.

Morris County's green track record shows more than 100,000 open acres preserved. "Morris County has been a leader in open space preservation, starting with Parsippany and Monroeville instituting the first municipal dedicated open space tax in 1990," said Laura Hovak of Mount Olive, director of advocacy and outreach for the New Jersey Conservation Foundation.

Although the decline in development has eased the urgency for preservation, the work is not finished, Hovak said. "Some are still making new housing land and, increasingly, overlooking how to connect their parks and natural open areas."

Look beyond the headlines, though, and you'll find more than a dozen nonprofits and legions of advocates and volunteers. They're picking up where government was, restoring forests, clearing fireways, providing funding and making the land

Lorraine Ash
star writer



JIM'S STORY, PAGE 83

Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

Daily Record

Saving Spaces Series:

"Trail Blazer"

"Making People's Lives Better"

"Open Space Oasis"

"Legal Scribe"

Lorraine Ash

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D3: Responsible Journalism - Enterprise

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

Gloucester County Times

“In Their World:
A Family and Autism”
(4-part series)

Rob Scott

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

IN THEIR WORLD

PART ONE A Family and Autism

Shannon Aylmer, 5 (right), asks her mother Beth for a snack using the picture exchange book after getting home from school. The book is a key communication tool between Shannon, her younger sister Colley, and their parents.



'Tiny Victories' For the Aylmer family of Clayton, each day comes with challenges that other parents never experience ...
... and a good day is measured on a much different scale

Reporter Rob Scott followed the Aylmer family and their autistic daughters in Clayton for four months and spoke with educators and doctors about what they're doing to treat and research autism. This is the first part of a four-part series. The series continues in the Times the next three Sundays.

By Rob Scott

robscott@gloucestertimes.com

Shannon Aylmer walks in the door from school and sheds her pink and green butterfly-and-lily-pad-decorated raincoat.

She plugs herself down on the landing at the bottom of the stairs and hastily kicks off her shoes and peels off her socks.

Her mother, Beth, sits beside her, and pulls Shannon's picture exchange book — their primary means of communication with one another — out of her backpack.

It's snack time while they wait for Shannon's younger sister, Colley, to get home from school.

Shannon grabs a small package of Oreos out of the bag. Beth makes her put it down and hands her the picture exchange book. Shannon has to ask.

The 5-year-old flips through the pages, filled with cartoon images — of food, people, places — stuck to Velcro strips, searching for the right one. She picks the “I want” patch — a cartoon hand reaching out — and places it on the Velcro sentence strip on the edge of the book. She finds “cookies,” tears the picture out of the book and puts it on the sentence strip in the right of “I want.”

“I want cookies.”

Beth hands her the Oreos and watches as Shannon twists apart the cookie and licks out the cream.

(See AUTISM, Page A-1)



Above, Buddy the dog watches through the back door as Colley Aylmer, 4, cries to go outside. Her mother, Beth, would not let her go outside because it had just rained. At left, Shannon looks at herself in the mirror during a dance class at The Dance Factory in Glassboro.

Staff photos by Tim Hawk

D3: Responsible Journalism - Enterprise

Third Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Record (Bergen County)

“Crucial Care at a Crossroads”

Harvy Lipman

CRUCIAL CARE AT A CROSSROADS

For disabled adults, smaller may be better



LESLIE SANDRO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Debbie Legutko with Frankie, one of her adult sons with autism, during a visit home in Ringwood. Because he needs care that's not widely available for developmentally disabled adults through community programs, Frankie must stay at a large state home.

COMING
MONDAY



■ The failings of the system affect real people in very real ways. Monday's installment of Crucial Care at a Crossroads tells the stories of some families that have been ill-served.

But state is far behind goal of shifting from big facilities to community care

By HARVY LIPMAN
STAFF WRITER

The commissioner tried to explain why New Jersey needs to close one of its seven institutions for the developmentally disabled if it is to care for more of the 40,000 adults in the state who can't take care of themselves.

But she was nearly drowned out by boos and catcalls from those in favor of the status quo: public employees with jobs at stake and families of residents at the Vineland Developmental Center who don't want their loved ones relocated.

Nearly lost amid the throng at the raucous hearing earlier this year was

the mother of Derek Legutko, a 26-year-old with autism who's living at home while waiting for a community placement. It's already been four years, and likely to be a lot longer.

Deborah Legutko of Ringwood and her husband, Michael, are both in their late 50s. They worry about their ability to keep up the care Derek requires and wonder whether the state will ever offer their son the kind of group-living arrangement they say he needs.

"His number on the priority waiting list is 1,171," she told the hearing. "Derek will probably be with us for the rest of our lives."

The Legutkos and thousands of

families like them are the embodiment of what's wrong with New Jersey's current system of caring for disabled adults. As prioritized by Human Services Commissioner Jennifer Velaz last May, the problem distills to this: The state relies too much on expensive state institutions and that eats up resources that could instead be spent on community-based group homes and other programs run by non-profits and other private entities.

There's a lot of evidence backing up that assessment:

■ Nearly 8,000 disabled adults are on a waiting list for services ranging

See **DISABLED** Page A-6

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Star-Ledger
SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2011

"WORSE STILL, THERE'S A NEW KIND OF KILLER ON THE STREET. Young men in their teens and early 20s, with no regard for life, not even their own, carrying weapons so powerful they can't control the guns as they buck and jump in their hands. The number of innocent victims — mothers and children caught in crossfire — is what chills the community."

MARK DI IONNO, WITH THE HOMICIDE SQUAD

THE KILLING CYCLE

THE INSIDE STORY OF THE ESSEX HOMICIDE SQUAD



St. John Zullo of the Essex County Homicide Task Force looks for evidence on South 20th Street in Newark, just far from where Dr. Terry Harris was slain and two others wounded on July 14. About 50 bullets were fired from an assault weapon and two handguns.

FOR THREE WEEKS IN JULY a newly formed homicide task force in Essex County permitted Star-Ledger columnist Mark Di Ionno and photographers Aristide Economopoulos and Andrew Mills unprecedented access to the detectives' work. They hid nothing: Crime scenes, strategy, lab work, theories and solutions, interrogations and arrests were all open and uncensored. From this access, the reporting team has painted an inside story of violence and detective work most readers will not have heard or seen. Our goal was to present a story that would expand the public's understanding of the community crisis that is urban crime. To mirror the harsh reality, some tough details are included. The language is rough at times, the scenes sometimes brutal, the views of some of the characters unsparring and raw. The photos are graphic.

D3: Responsible Journalism - Enterprise

Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Star-Ledger

"The Killing Cycle"

Mark Di Ionno

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D3: Responsible Journalism - Enterprise

SPECIAL REPORT Inside Johnson & Johnson

CRACKS IN THE EMPIRE

Trusted company faces recalls, plant shutdown and court verdicts

How did the pharmaceuticals giant stumble so fast?



MR. WELDON

Johnson & Johnson Chairman and CEO William C. Weldon prepares to testify on Capitol Hill in Washington last year as the recall of medicines produced by Johnson & Johnson's McNeil Consumer Healthcare. [Associated Press](#)

\$621 MILLION IN VERDICTS, FINES AND SETTLEMENTS

Oct. 5, 2016: An \$83 million fine and a misdemeanor guilty plea to misbranding the heart drug Nifedipine

June 3, 2016: Found liable by a jury, a 181 misdemeanor conviction by a South Carolina judge to pay \$327 million for deceptive promotion of the mental health drug Risperdal

April 8, 2016: A \$10 million settlement to conclude claims of bribery under the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, including making kickbacks to local officials in the United Nations oil-for-food program

Oct. 15, 2010: Ordered by a Louisiana jury to pay \$256 million for defunding the state's Medicaid program with the mental health drug Risperdal. J&J is appealing the verdict

April 28, 2010: A \$6.1 million criminal fine, a \$75.4 million settlement and a misdemeanor guilty plea to conclude criminal and civil claims of illegally promoting the allergy drug Xyzal between 2007 and 2009

Sources: U.S. Justice Department and court documents



Since 2000, Johnson & Johnson has recalled a number of its most popular pain relievers, including certain lots of Tylenol Arthritis Pain. [AP Photo/Steve Delaney](#)

ABOUT THIS SERIES

At Press Media spent six months reviewing thousands of documents and interviewing dozens of people across the country in our exclusive look at J&J. Our four-day series highlights a situation within the New Jersey-based company.

Coming Monday: Inside J&J's major drug production plant, shut down in 2010 after federal inspectors found problems.

APP.COM/INJ

Find links to court documents, government reports, company emails and other resources.

PART 1 OF A FOUR-PART SERIES

By Michael L. Diamond
Staff Writer

Johnson & Johnson, the gold standard for American corporations, has been admired for its devotion to a simple business philosophy: Put your customers first, no matter the cost, and profits will follow.

That idea, found everywhere from giant hospitals in the lobby of J&J's New Brunswick headquarters to its annual report sent to shareholders, serves as a guiding light for its tens of thousands of employees around the globe.

Yet today, the largest health care company in the world finds itself fending off critics who say the company more quickly wound to Wall Street's never-ending quest for high quarterly profits.

As J&J's profits last year eroded to a record \$13 billion, the company has been found liable or reached settlements totaling \$750 million in taxpayer health care deception claims, paid \$70 million to settle foreign bribery charges, been sued by consumers who say certain J&J hip replacement devices failed inside their bodies, and won the shutdown of a major plant that produced Tylenol and other best-selling pain relievers because it failed to meet federal safety standards.

And that was just for the last two years.

The company also faces the prospect of paying millions or more to settle outstanding government fraud claims stemming from what the government says is J&J's questionable marketing of at least one brand name drug.

"There are so many mistakes being made now, it is shocking," said Ellen Schreier, a marketing professor at Drexel University's LeBow College of Business in Philadelphia, in an expert in brands and corporate reputations.

J&J Chairman and Chief Executive Officer William C. Weldon, 62, through a spokeswoman, declined to comment for this story. But he told shareholders last spring in the company's annual report that, after facing severe tests in 2010, the 125-year-old company would restore quality and consumer confidence, and find new products to meet growing health needs.

"We are deeply committed to the people who use our products, to our employees, to the communities in which we live, and to you, our loyal shareholders," he wrote.

See [PARTICLES](#), Page A10

First Place, Daily Over 45,000

Asbury Park Press

"Cracks in the Empire – Inside J&J"

Michael L. Diamond

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION



Better Newspaper Contest 2011

**D4: Responsible Journalism -
First Amendment -
Art Weissman Memorial
Award**

NJPA Awards

Inspector alleges City Hall ordered probe shut down



Bob Adams



Pat Finley



Kevin Kirchner



Robert Romano



“As per Mayor Romano, my director Kevin Kirchner, the Zoning Officer Pat Finley and my super Bob Adams, I was told to make this complaint go away. I totally disagree with this process but you can't fight City Hall. As per this date nothing has been done to this property yet and the amount of vehicles on this property exceed his site plan by a lot.”

— Rick Bracaliello, code enforcement officer, in a Feb. 17, 2009, Vineland zoning office case history report on Moe's Auto Sales

Moises Afanador of Moe's Auto Sales

PHOTOS: STAFF GRAPHIC/STAFF

Mayor, other officials say they didn't interfere

By KRISTI FUNDERBURK
Staff Writer
kristifunderburk@thedailyjournal.com

VINELAND — Moises Afanador has been selling used cars from his South Delson Drive dealership for years without approval from the city.

The last time a city code inspector investigated Moe's Auto Sales — until The Daily Journal began asking questions last week — was in February 2008.

That's when zoning code enforcement officer Rick Bracaliello determined it violated city rules by having too many vehicles. But as he increased pressure on the business to get into compliance, the investigation came to an abrupt close.

The reason why, according to a case history report filled out by Bracaliello, raises questions about whether officials at the highest levels of city government relieved the rest of an

investigation into a businessman who had contributed hundreds of dollars to Mayor Robert Romano's election campaign one year earlier.

"As per Mayor (Robert) Romano, my director Kevin Kirchner, the Zoning Officer Pat Finley and my super Bob Adams, I was told to make this complaint go away," Bracaliello wrote in the Feb. 17, 2009, report. "I totally disagree with this process but you can't fight

City Hall. As per this date nothing has been done to this property yet and the amount of vehicles on this property exceed his site plan by a lot."

The Daily Journal obtained the report and related documents from the city through an Open Public Records Act request.

In interviews last week, all four city officials named in the report said they never told Bracaliello to make the complaint "go away" and

said they didn't know why the inspector made such an allegation.

Bracaliello, who has since transferred to the city's health department, declined to comment on the matter.

Even Afanador admits he continues to have more cars on his property than the city allows.

But since Bracaliello closed the Moe's Auto Sales

Phone us MOE'S on 46

D4: Responsible Journalism –
First Amendment –
Art Weissman Memorial Award

Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Daily Journal

"Inspector Alleges City Hall Ordered Probe Shut Down"

Kristi Funderburk



D4: Responsible Journalism – First Amendment - Art Weissman Memorial Award

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Times

A PAC contribution, a city contract and an advocacy group

Part One in a series.

After much controversy, it is unclear whether law firm violated the city's campaign finance ordinance

By Alex Zdan
STAFF WRITER

TRENTON — After months of denials that any financial connection existed between Mayor Tony Mack's campaign last year and a South Jersey law practice that was awarded a lucrative city contract, finance reports obtained by The Times last week show the well-

connected firm donated thousands to a political action committee which sent an identical amount to Mack.

Though it appears that Cooper Levenson of Atlantic City did not violate the state's pay-to-play laws, it is unclear whether the firm violated the city's campaign finance ordinance.

Cooper Levenson asserts it did not break the city law because the donation was both made and returned before requests for proposals on the legal services contract had been issued. A citizens' advocacy group contends the law firm violated the ordinance by not notifying the city of the donation,

and says there is no documentation that the \$7,200 contribution was ever returned.

"They made the contribution and, so far, there's no public record saying it was cured," said Citizens' Campaign spokeswoman Heather Taylor. "So as it stands, it appears there was a violation."

Marc McKitthen, the city's acting law director, said he couldn't evaluate the contract's legality over the phone when reached for comment Friday evening. "I can render an opinion with the facts in front of me," McKitthen said. On June 4, Cooper Levenson

gave \$7,200 to Partners for Progress, a Trenton-based political action committee (PAC), according to campaign finance records obtained by The Times. On June 7, the same amount was sitting in Mack's war chest thanks to a donation from that PAC, the mayor's campaign

SEE **LAW FIRM**, PAGE A04

"A PAC Contribution, a City Contract and an Advocacy Group"

"Atlantic City Party Yielded a Jackpot for Mack Campaign"

"City Council, Mack Struggle with Law Firm's Alleged"

"Additional Trenton Politicians Linked to PAC"

"Law Firm Pulls Out"

Alex Zdan

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D4: Responsible Journalism – First Amendment - Art Weissman Memorial Award

WATCHDOG REPORT:
CRDA lending

Political pressure led CRDA into costly loan

■ The agency lost nearly \$4 million in the 2009 deal with the Department of Community Affairs that helped an adviser to then-Gov. Jon S. Corzine.

By **EMILY PREVITI**
Staff Writer

The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority ignored its own policies when it succumbed to pressure from former Gov. Jon S. Corzine's administration and lost nearly \$4 million in a bad loan to another state agency.

Corzine's administration pressed the agency responsible for reinvesting casino dollars to make the loan, former Executive Director Tom Carver said. The loan helped a Democratic Party contributor and Corzine adviser to buy an affordable housing complex in Elizabeth, Union County.

"It was clearly indicated the administration wanted this to be accomplished. And we did that," Carver said.

□ See CRDA, A7

Findings

- The CRDA agreed to loan \$4 million to the state Department of Community Affairs despite staff misgivings and without standard lender protections. Most of the loan had to be written off.
- CRDA and DCA staff knew the loan funds would go toward the purchase and redevelopment of Oakwood Plaza Apartments in Union County but presented the deal as if the money were intended to benefit multiple affordable-housing projects.
- The CRDA was pressured by the Corzine administration to approve the loan, which benefited a Democratic Party contributor and adviser to the administration.

Third Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Press of Atlantic City

"CRDA Lending"

"Political Pressure Led CRDA
into Costly Loan"

Emily Previti

Mayor and aides got OT for Irene

Paterson paid four \$20,000 after storm

By NICK CLUNN and RICHARD COWEN
STAFF WRITERS

The Paterson mayor and three members of his administration have received a total of more than \$20,000 in overtime pay for hours spent responding to major flooding and other devastation brought by Hurricane Irene.

The city recently issued a total of 602 overtime checks for police officers, firefighters and other city employees who were asked to work during the storm, Mayor Jeffery Jones said on Thursday.

But there were also allotments for Jones, who received \$6,144 in overtime on Wednesday, and three other city employees who receive a salary and who are normally ineligible for overtime, according to public records released by the city on Thursday.

Those other employees are Jones' chief of staff, Charles Pettiford, who received \$4,446; Business Administrator Charles Thomas, who received \$5,623; and former Technology Director Kenneth Sumter, who received \$4,290, the records stated.

Jones said he was curious as to why he would receive overtime and said the matter should be explored. He said he didn't know, either legally or ethically, whether he deserved the extra pay.

The check, which has not been cashed, is in his office, he said.

"I'm not saying I do or don't deserve it. I have to find out," Jones said.

Jones receives an annual salary of \$119,017, Pettiford receives \$105,000, and Thomas gets

See OVERTIME Page A-8

OT recipients

Here are amounts paid as overtime to Paterson city officials between Aug. 27, when Hurricane Irene struck New Jersey, and Thursday, the day the records were requested by The Record.

■ Jeffery Jones, mayor: \$6,144.34

■ Charles Pettiford, chief of staff: \$4,446.04

■ Charles Thomas, business administrator: \$5,623.20

■ Kenneth Sumter, former information technology director: \$4,290.15

Source: City of Paterson



JONES



PETTIFORD



THOMAS

D4: Responsible Journalism – First Amendment – Art Weissman Memorial Award

Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Record (Bergen County)

“Paterson Hurricane Irene
Overtime Scandal”

Nick Clunn

Richard Cowen

NJPA
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D4: Responsible Journalism – First Amendment - Art Weissman Memorial Award

First Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Star-Ledger

- “It Still Stinks”
- “Christie to Sewer Bosses: Get Out”
- “4 Sewer Officials”
- “2 More PVSC Members”
- “PVSC a Rich Source”
- “Pay Cuts, New Code of Ethics”
- “AG’s Office Charges 3”
- “PVSC Fires Five More”
- “Six More Terminated”
- “Governor Fires Dozens”

Ted Sherman

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

IT STILL STINKS

THE PASSAIC VALLEY SEWERAGE COMMISSIONERS, despite Gov. Christie's promise of reform, remains rife with nepotism and no-bid contracts for insiders, records reveal.

By Ted Sherman
STAR-LEDGER STAFF

Most people have never heard of the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners, an obscure public agency that serves more than 1.5 million people across four counties of northern New Jersey.

It doesn't sound all that glamorous, and to enter its gates seems like a dark visit to Hades — one that begins with a row of ancient-looking, slow-turning Archimedes screw pumps working endlessly on a turbid river of waste.

For some, though, it is a river of gold.

As government agencies and municipalities tighten their belts, laying off cops, teachers, garbage collectors and firefighters to avoid going broke, Passaic Valley remains an island of job security for the connected, their families and their friends, a raw analysis of records and public documents by The Star-Ledger shows.

In a \$40.4 million payroll includes spouses and children of commissioners, mayors, friends of mayors and the brother-in-law of a mayor who is also a commissioner, the documents show. The median salary there has jumped by nearly 30 percent over the past five years.

Questions about how Passaic Valley spends public money are not new. Assemblyman Gordon Johnson (D-Bergen) once famously described the PVSC's budget as “an awful lot of money to push people through a pipe.”

FOR PVSC INSIDERS, BENEFITS

ANTHONY ARDIS
Ex-son-in-law of commissioner. Aggrandized commissioner, now top-paid employee.

ANTHONY J. LUNA
Chairman's hand to help deal that benefited Luna, where he is manager.

KENNETH PENNITORE
Former member of state House CFO Special family members or payroll.

WHAT IS THE PASSAIC VALLEY SEWERAGE COMMISSIONERS?
Created by a special act of the Legislature in 1952, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners operates one of the largest treatment plants in the country, handling everything that can be flushed or dumped down the drain within its 48 member municipalities in Passaic, Bergen, Essex, and Hudson counties, including Newark and Jersey City. That's about 230 million gallons per day, or about a fourth of all the wastewater generated in New Jersey, even more when it rains.

Overseen by a nine-member board, it has two representatives from each county: 4 voters and one at-large member, all appointed by the governor. Unlike with most other public authorities in New Jersey, the governor cannot veto a decision or directly challenge an action by the PVSC, whose acts are upheld as long as member municipalities,

At least 85 of Passaic Valley's 367 employees make more than \$100,000. There are paid more than \$200,000 — among them, a former aide to an influential Democratic congressman who earns \$250,643 and was given the keys to a new Ford Expedition to take home.

The documents show the commissioners routinely hire friends and family and those with ties to elected officials. A record of those hires is kept in what is known as the “connections” records — a document that officials denied existed until it was specifically requested by name. The records are unsorted, not unlike NFL draft records, keeping score over who gets the next hire. One

303 PVSC, PAGE 11



Better Newspaper Contest 2011

D5: Reporting and Writing - Breaking News

NJPA Awards

D5: Reporting and Writing - Breaking News

RATTLED Magnitude 5.8 quake shakes East Coast; evacuations in D.C., NYC and beyond



A crack at the base of the G.G. Green building in Woodbury is inspected after Tuesday's earthquake shook the area. Staff photo by Tom Heston

QUAKE'S IMPACT FELT BOTH FAR AND WIDE

Nerves, buildings take a hit

By Bob Lewis

Associated Press

MINERAL, Va. — Tens of millions of people from Georgia to Canada were jolted Tuesday by the strongest earthquake to strike the East Coast since World War II. Three weeks before the 10th anniversary of Sept. 11, office workers ground out of New York skyscrapers and the Pentagon, relieved it was nothing more sinister than an act of nature. There were no known deaths or serious injuries, but cracks appeared in the National Cathedral, and three customers broke off the lower. Windows shattered and grocery stores were wrecked in Virginia, where the quake was centered. The White House and Capitol were partly evacuated. The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake registered magnitude 5.8. By West Coast standards, that is mild, but the East Coast is not accustomed to earthquakes at all, and this one unsettled some of the nation's biggest population centers. In New York and Washington. (See QUAKE, Page A-4)

More Inside:

- How many? Page A-4
- Quake sets night? Page A-5
- Time for insurance? Page A-7

COUNTY ASSESSES THE DAMAGE

Most structures appear to shake it off

By Carly G. Rosell and Jessica Driscoll
gloucester@njpress.com

Billy Matos was waiting for a box in Westville in front of the G.G. Green building in Woodbury Tuesday afternoon, when chips of brick from the

historic building started to fall around him. Matos, 53, of Woodbury, made one of thousands of calls to 911 during and after the ground, cars, buildings and everything else in Gloucester County shook.

"I just stood right there and watched it," said Matos, who described the building's rocking like something out of a Looney Tunes cartoon. "It was phenomenal ... it was like a shockwave."

South Jersey felt the effects of the Virginia-centered magnitude 5.8 earthquake at 2 p.m. that rattled office workers in their chairs and had drivers puzzled as to what was rocking their vehicles at stop lights. (See DAMAGE, Page A-4)

RESIDENTS RECALL WHAT THEY FELT

Reaction: A scary, odd occurrence

By Rebecca Farand
gloucester@njpress.com

Ken Slaughter is used to feeling a few vibrations as he sits in his third-floor Woodbury apartment, but as he watched TV Tuesday afternoon, he knew this was different.

"Normally, when trucks and buses go by I get a little rattle," he said. "But my laptop and CDs were all falling out. I looked outside and thought the wind was

blowing, but the whole house was shaking. I thought, 'Not an earthquake in New Jersey!'"

His first idea was correct, as an earthquake really did shake all parts of Gloucester County Tuesday afternoon — tremors from a magnitude 5.8 quake that hit Virginia just before 2 p.m. (See REACTION, Page A-4)



NEXT UP ON THE RADAR

Region braces itself for Hurricane Irene

By Phil Davis
gloucester@njpress.com

WOODBURY — With forecasts now predicting that Hurricane Irene may hit the Chesapeake Bay on Sunday, still with hurricane strength, New Jersey is starting to prepare for more flooding and evacuation plans.

"It does look like the system is going to affect us," said Bob Wanton, of the National Weather Service in Mount Holly.

The current Category 2 hurricane is expected to

grow into a Category 3 and possibly into a Category 4 before it hits the North Carolina coast sometime Wednesday.

While Wanton advised that predictions can be up to 200 miles off, an actual storm's path, the current system looks to hit New Jersey sometime this weekend or Monday as the storm works its way up the coast.

In an August that has seen more than its share of rain, (See IRENE, Page A-7)



One of the spires of the National Cathedral in Washington is missing following the earthquake. Associated Press photo

Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

Gloucester County Times

"Most Structures Appear to Shake It Off"

"Reaction: A Scary, Odd Occurrence"

"The Earthquake from the Newsroom's Perspective"

"City Looking Hard at Damaged Green Building"

"City Looking Hard at Damaged Green Building"

Staff

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D5: Reporting and Writing - Breaking News

Irene's aftermath



By NED STANT
 Trees fell and houses damaged, roads turned into rivers and families became nomads. Thousands lost power and hundreds were forced from their homes.
 But for all the news that is left, including the still-raging floodwaters of the Ramapo Creek, Hurricane Irene didn't quite live up to the hype that preceded it.
 "I think we missed a trick on this one," Joe Blazewski, CEO of the Berlington County Chapter of the American Red Cross, said Tuesday evening.
 The losses were reported from the north, which began on a category 1 hurricane as it approached the Jersey Coast. Sunday afternoon had been weakened to a tropical storm after it made landfall off Long Egg Island near Long Beach Island and continued its course north toward New York City and New England.
 The landfall on the Jersey Coast coincided with the third year in the past 200 years that a hurricane's center came ashore on New Jersey.
 Cases of 20 mph winds were reported in Florence and 10 mph in Wightswater and other parts of the county overnight Sunday and Monday morning when the storm was still a hurricane remnant. Peak measurements reached 4 inches in some parts of the county, including a reported high of 7.3 inches at Clinton Hill.
 Although the rainfall totals fell below the 10 to 14 inches that many feared, the wind was still enough to bring the Ramapo
See IRENE, Page A4

HOME CHECKS AN OBSTACLES
 ■ Insurance claims
 ■ Evacuation orders
 ■ Homeowner meetings
 ■ Cleanup work
Check MyC3.com for updates on the storm and its impact throughout the Big Valley.
See IRENE, Page A4

Inside
 ■ Hurricane Irene: 21 from A2
 ■ Thanks, 'This is not cool' A4
 ■ Swiftness proves faster A4
 ■ Businesses closed A4
 ■ Powerlines back online from Jersey A2
 ■ Police buses overwhelmed A4
 ■ Tornadoes weren't out A4

NOTE TO READERS
 There will be no separate and business pages in the magazine today for we are being an enhanced storm coverage.
READ THE PAPER ONLINE FOR FREE

For subscription and circulation information, please contact the circulation department at the electronic address of the newspaper. We will be happy to assist you in any way possible.
 Readers should go to: www.burlingtonpress.com
Sign up for free

Powerline: Irene
 (These links are from our website) Readers can find out the power that they need to read The Burlington County Press, the Bucks County Courier Times or The Intelligencer.

Online polls
www.burlingtonpress.com
 Do you see signs of a new normal?
 Do you see signs of a new normal?

Yes 85% (16) No 15% (3)
Note to our latest poll:
 The site has only changed the location of the poll.

Full pages available at
www.burlingtonpress.com
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Several families and their pets are evacuated Sunday on East Spray Street in Pemberton Township by the Standard Fire Co. from Pemberton through and the Woodlands Fire Co.

Swiftwater rescue team helps with evacuations

By NED STANT
SWIFTWATER — During Monday, residents of Pemberton, who don't want to leave their homes behind.
 The Blackstone, a 45-year resident who lives on higher ground, was not surprised when those in his neighborhood after Hurricane Irene dropped about 4 inches of rain Sunday and Monday.
 "I've been through all of this and the old doors will not leave," the said of one who lives in the flood-prone neighborhood off Route 206. "The people that are now (live) in a big deal. The old doors are not leaving. This is their life."
 But when Irene's rainfall caused the north branch of the Ramapo
See IRENE, Page A4

Many still without power



Workers prepare to cut a tree blocking Street Road in Marlton on Sunday morning after Hurricane Irene damaged the county.

WORKS TO BRING power measurements
 ■ Power outages
 ■ Cleanup work
 ■ Homeowner meetings
 ■ Cleanup work
Check MyC3.com for updates on the storm and its impact throughout the Big Valley.
See IRENE, Page A4

Hurricane floods new for some, ugly reminder for others

By NED STANT
 It was still so for many of the residents of Burlington County in their flood-prone areas. Being that home at the Ramapo Creek mouth.
 The others, Hurricane Irene's wrath was new, or at the very least something they hadn't experienced in a long, long time.
 "This is the worst I've ever seen. I was just a kid, and that was in the '50s," Burlington City resident Linda Brock said Sunday morning on the porch of her home on the Columbia Park section of the city. "I had just a few years ago, and I'd see that water."
 Between 100 or 120 residences were evacuated from their homes during the week's storming hours in Burlington from the Atlantic. Crews filed the neighborhood's streets, roads and alleys.
 "I've lived here 40 years and I've never seen it go this high up," resident Mark Smith said. "I've seen one guy go to get his car out, which he couldn't, he had to park it back up the road through his driveway."
See IRENE, Page A4



A Burlington Township firefighter tries to push a Columbia Park resident's car out of 2 feet of water back into a driveway along Board Road early Sunday morning.

Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

Burlington County Times

- "Irene's Aftermath"
- "Hurricane Irene"
- "Floods"
- "The Big Cleanup"
- "Hurricane Leaves Mark"
- "Hurricane Irene Aftermath"
- "Medical Facilities"
- "Safety Advice"
- "County Continues to Recover"
- "Irene Is a Factor"

Staff



D5: Reporting and Writing - Breaking News

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

Daily Record

- "Five Die in Fiery Plane Crash"
- "Family in Crash"
- "Highway to be Open"
- "Statement by Greenhill"
- "Pilot Reported Ice"
- "How NTSB Investigates"

Staff

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MORRIS TWP. RESIDENTS SPARED

5 die in fiery plane crash that stuns Morris County

'Debris came down everywhere. It was very scary.'



By Abbott Kaloff
Staff Writer

MORRIS TWP. — Michelle DeLong said she was in her dining room wrapping Christmas presents Tuesday when she heard a loud noise that appeared to be an engine starting and stopping overhead. She looked up and saw dark smoke as debris rained down on her neighborhood.

She said she yelled to her son and daughter to get downstairs, fearing debris would hit her Springfield Road home.

"Debris came down everywhere," she said. "It was very scary."

A two-engine plane spun out of control just above the rooftops of a township neighborhood Tuesday morning before it plummeted onto Route 287 in a fiery crash that killed all five people on the plane, including a family of four, and created a traffic jam that clogged area roads most of the day.

Residents who live on either side of James Street said they heard a loud whistling noise as the plane descended, with part of a wing landing in a tree on Springfield Road before the plane flew vertically close to a house on Applewood Lane.

"A neighbor said it barely cleared my house," said Tom Stenale, who said his Applewood Lane home stood vertically in the plane's flow over. She said she watched from her deck as the plane appeared to go straight down onto Route 287.

"It looked like it was in a nosedive, there was a big fireball, then a second smaller explosion and just a billow of smoke," she said.

Federal transportation authorities said two in-flight fatalities, along with a woman, two children and a dog were killed when the plane, on its way from Titusville Airport to

Authorities investigate at the site of an airplane crash Tuesday morning on Route 287 in Morris Township. A family of four, a co-worker and a dog were killed. The plane took off from Titusville Airport in Bergen County and was on its way to DeKalb Peachtree Airport outside Atlanta.

Family in crash had homes in N.Y., Virginia

By Lorraine Ash
Staff Writer

Jeffrey and Carina Buckalew, the couple who perished with their children and a business associate in the airplane crash in Morris Township, were well known in financial, social, and artistic circles, according to media reports and those who know them.

"They moved in Charlottesville from New York City in September because they thought it would be beneficial in terms of scheduling the children," said Gregory Smith, executive director of the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, where Carina Buckalew was on the board of trustees.

"She is originally from Charlottesville," Smith added, "so it was an opportunity to not only have the kids out of New York but to be in a community she knew well and was



MORE ONLINE
Visit DailyRecord.com and search "plane crash" for a video and photo gallery related to this story.

See **FAMICV**, Page A3

See **CRASH**, Page A4

D5: Reporting and Writing - Breaking News

Lakewood officer fatally shot

By CHARLES WEBSTER
and MATTHEW McGRATH

INTENSE MANHUNT: Police are looking for single assailant who escaped on foot

ENGAGED: Patrolman Christopher Matkosz, 27, was going to be married

LAKESWOOD — A massive manhunt is under way for a 30-year-old man whom authorities believe is responsible for what was termed “the execution-style killing” of Patrolman Christopher Matkosz Friday afternoon.

Matkosz, 27, was shot at point-blank range while sitting in his patrol car on August Drive off Joe Parker Road, talking with the man, who drew a weapon and shot the officer down dead, Ocean County Prosecutor Marlene Lorch Ford said during a news conference Friday night at the township police headquarters.

The suspect, identified later by authorities as Judd W. Cochran, is described as a black male, about 5 feet 7 inches tall, and weighing about 200 pounds. He was last seen fleeing the scene wearing a black hooded sweat shirt and dark jogging pants, and his gray leather shorts were exposed, they said.

Speaking to the incident also characterized as a “hit man execution-style killing,” Ford said at the news conference that the shooting was done by somebody “who obviously has no soul.”

Matkosz, who lived in Manchester, was on a routine patrol that took him onto August Drive in a neighborhood off Joe Parker Road when he noticed the familiar face of a man, Ford explained.

“Our investigation, so far, indicates that the officer was conducting a routine kind of stop,” Ford said. “The individual was a pedestrian, and there was an exchange that was not too clear.”

Matkosz was questioning a man believed to be Cochran in front of 114 August Drive, a witness told police. The officer and man were talking before the man took one step back and fired three shots at point-blank range, each striking the officer, the witness said.



Police and emergency personnel search the area around a townhouse complex off Joe Parker Road in Lakewood on Friday after Patrolman Christopher Matkosz (below) was shot and killed.

A frantic phone call to 911 came in at 4:07 p.m. to report the officer was shot. Less than an hour later, Matkosz was pronounced dead at 4:34 p.m. after being taken to Jersey Shore University Medical Center in Neptune, according to Ford.

The shooting immediately sparked a massive manhunt from the air and on the ground for the man. State Police helicopters hovered around the area looking for the suspect, as heavily armed federal, state, county and local law enforcement officers combed the surrounding areas in search of the suspect.

Ford declined to say where on Joe Parker Road Matkosz was shot. She also did not comment on the type of handgun used in the shooting.

“I had covered the suspect responsible for this horrific act and will be apprehended and brought to justice,” stated state Attorney General Paula T. Dow in a statement.

Matkosz, who was engaged to be married, is survived by his fiancée, mother and brother, Ford said. “There has been a crossing together of the law enforcement community for this

tragic event,” a spokeswoman said about the efforts to track down the man responsible for the officer’s death. “This is a terrible tragedy, and our hearts and prayers go out to Officer Matkosz’s family, friends, fellow officers, and the entire New Jersey law enforcement community,” Gov. Chris Christie said in a statement. “While the facts are still being gathered, we support the Lakewood Police and Ocean County Prosecutor’s Office in their work to bring swift justice to whomever is responsible.”

“There has been a crossing together of the law enforcement community for this



Joe Shooting, Page A6



Third Place, Daily Over 45,000

Asbury Park Press

“Lakewood Officer Fatally Shot”

“Massive Manhunt in Cop’s ‘Execution’”

“Englishtown Mourns Loss of ‘Brother’”

Charles Webster
Joseph Sapia

D5: Reporting and Writing - Breaking News

12-ALARM INFERNO ENGULFS CITY BLOCKS



Firefighters train hoses on a blaze that spread from an abandoned fire warehouse to neighboring Camden homes Thursday afternoon. Smoke billows from the building (below), which has been vacant since the Republic Tire Co. moved to Gloucester Township years ago. Crews from the city and surrounding town battled the fire in temperatures close to 100 degrees. Photo by CHRIS LUCAS, Courier-Post

Responders cope with blazing heat

By JIM WALSH and GEORGE MAST
Courier-Post Staff

CAMDEN
Fred Vilaris was about to enjoy a glass of pasta in his air-conditioned home in Mount Ephraim Thursday afternoon.
Then the volunteer firefighter got the word a massive blaze was burning in Camden's Gateway neighborhood — and suburban fire companies were needed to battle it.
Vilaris, like scores of firefighters from Camden and its outlying communities, soon found



Fire destroys warehouse, ten houses in Camden

By GEORGE MAST and LUCAS K. MURRAY
Courier-Post Staff

CAMDEN
One of the largest fires in Camden's recent history roared through several blocks in the city's Gateway section Thursday, destroying an abandoned fire warehouse and damaging nearby homes on neighboring blocks.
As thick flames leapt high, more than five hours after the 12-alarm inferno broke out, blocks of brick

buildings had been reduced to smoking rubble with flames still flickering. A burnout was completed and flames licked at the tops of electric poles as well as a tree stump in a neighboring alleyway.
The blocks bounded by Mount Vernon Street, Mount Ephraim Avenue, Chestnut Street and Louis Street looked like a war zone.
"This is pretty bad," said Camden Fire Chief Michael
See BLAZE, Page 31A

Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

Courier-Post

"Responders Cope with Blazing Heat"

"Fire Destroys Warehouse,
Ten Houses in Camden"

"Residents' Home Now Just a Pile of Rubble"

"City Warehouse Owner Is Delinquent
on Taxes"

"Union: More Staff Could Have
Helped Contain Fire"

Staff

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D5: Reporting and Writing - Breaking News

First Place, Daily Over 45,000

Boonton slaying leaves pair's family asking 'Why?'

Woman was fatally shot and her husband injured as they walked along street



"THIS IS A GOOD TOWN"
Mark Di Lorenzo on the quiet street stunned by the shooting of Kashif Pervaz and Nazish Noorani. Page 8

By Ben Horowitz and Jessica Calefati
STAR-LEDGER STAFF

They had just finished an evening meal after breaking the daily fast of Ramadan. The couple, with their 3-year-old son tucked in a stroller, headed up a darkened Cedar Street in Boonton about 11:30 Tuesday toward her father's home two blocks away.

Suddenly, at least six gunshots rang out and Nazish Noorani, 27, who was in town with her family to visit her relatives, was dead. A few feet away, Kashif Pervaz, 20, was hit by at least two bullets. The child was unharmed.

And the Morris County community, which hadn't seen a homicide in more than a decade, was sent reeling.

Investigators from Boonton and surrounding municipalities combed the neighborhood of single-family homes throughout the day yesterday. No arrests had been made by last night, but new details were emerging about the killing and the couple.

Katie Bakstad, a neighbor who arrived at the scene minutes after the shots were fired, said Noorani was struck directly in the heart and likely died instantly. Bakstad, who is also a first-aid responder, said Noorani was lying on her back, about five feet from the sidewalk. Her husband was on the other side of the street. He was talking, having suffered gunshot wounds to his ankle and shoulder, Bakstad said. He remained at Morristown Medical Center last night, authorities said.

Morris County Prosecutor Robert Blanchi quickly spiked wild rumors the attack had been a bias crime, instead

calling it a "target specific" killing, emphasizing there was no danger to the general public.

The couple were living in Brooklyn but were in Boonton on Tuesday to visit Noorani's sister and father for Ramadan. When the shooting occurred, they were walking from her sister's home to her father's house on Church Street a few blocks away after Iftar, the nightly meal that breaks the daily fast during Ramadan, said Noorani's cousin, 19-year-old Muhammed Khan.

Yesterday, relatives said Pervaz

SEE BOONTON, PAGE 8

The Star-Ledger

"Boonton Slaying Leaves Pair's Family Asking 'Why?'"

"An Assimilated Town United in Disbelief"

"Wife's 'Death Reveals Husband's Half-Truths'"

Staff

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D6: Reporting and Writing - News Writing Portfolio

NJPA Awards

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IS GENOMICS MEDICINE'S HOLY GRAIL?

From decoding health risks to guiding treatment, our genes might tell all



By LORRAINE ASH
STAFF WRITER

Andrew Duke of Pine Brook had all he needed to find out his susceptibility to some 60 inherited conditions: saliva and a thousand bucks.

The 30-year-old entrepreneur learned from his Genome Wide Association Studies, or GWAS, test that he has an increased genetic risk for glaucoma.

"Duke's means I'm going to have glaucoma," he said. "But I went to the eye doctor for the first time in 36 years."

Duke — whose GWAS would have cost him \$1 million only four years ago — will remain vigilant. The pressure inside his eye can be lowered at the first sign of optic nerve damage.

Fast forward to a potential future in which a holy genetically tests positive for glaucoma. A doctor might be able to correct the metabolic pathway that causes the nerve damage before it occurs and prevent the disease.

Today personalized medicine is helping patients like Duke in a programic way by heralding potential diseases. But genetic tests also can help "stratify" when they reveal which medications a body will process well, given its DNA sequencing.

See Genomics, Page A8

Watch DNA testing for a deadly virus. VIDEO AT DAILYRECORD.COM

VIDEO GALLERY
Daily Record

Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

Daily Record

"Is Genomics Holy Grail?"
"Foreclosures Slow Pace"
"Reductions Limit Access"

Lorraine Ash

NJPA
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Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Daily Journal



Magazzu wants nude photos off website

By **JOSEPH P. SMITH**
Staff Writer
jsmith@thedailyjournal.com

MILLVILLE — One of Cumberland County's most influential politicians, Louis N. Magazzu, is using an attorney to fight a political activist who is behind a website posting embarrassing photos and emails from a cyber-affair. Magazzu admits to having while married.

Center City resident Carl B. Johnson has posted pleas on his website, magazzuwatch.com, for donations to a legal fund. Meanwhile, the website still carries the images that touched off the dispute — nude photos of Magazzu it censored.

On Monday, Johnson said he's put that fundraising on hold after an encouraging meeting with an attorney, whom he did not identify. "It's strictly a First Amendment issue," Johnson said. The attorney, he said, "basically said, "Talk to the press; keep doing what you're doing."

Johnson said the photos and messages will remain, and he promised to post any new information about the issue.

"The website isn't about posting shots of Lou naked or anything," Johnson said. "It is about exposing the underbelly of local politics. He was the figurehead, Photos by MAGAZZU on A6"

thedailyjournal
WEB EXTRA .com

Statement from Louis Magazzu's attorney

"Magazzu Wants Nude Photos Off Website"

"Officials: Vineland Cop's Lie Destroys 39 Cases"

"Soldier Rescues Cat from Afghanistan"

Joseph P. Smith

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D6: Reporting and Writing - News Writing Portfolio

A child's rare talent



Dan Servantes instructs Barber Elementary School student Jahmir Wallace as he plays guitar. Servantes, a Phillipsburg High School senior, has volunteered to teach 8-year-old Jahmir the instrument despite the boy having no arms. See more in a gallery and video at lehighvalleylive.com.

Armless boy learns to play guitar

BY SARAH M. WOJCIK
The Express-Times

PHILLIPSBURG | Jahmir Wallace focuses on every word coming from his high school music mentor Dan Servantes during their Friday morning guitar lessons.

Servantes, 17, of Lopatcong Township, strums a few chords of Bruno Mars' "Grenade" on his acoustic

"I've seen him pick up a Kleenex and blow his nose. He's unbelievable."

Dan Servantes, on teaching guitar to Jahmir Wallace

guitar to demonstrate the song's rhythm.

"Showoff," says 8-year-old Jahmir.

"It's nothing you can't do," Servantes quips back.

"I'm going to do it better than you," Jahmir says.

"Prove it," Servantes says.

"I want you to prove it," Jahmir smiles. He likes a challenge. Born without

arms, he's faced them all his life.

Dionne Wallace, the Barber Elementary School student's mother, said she learned only days before her son's birth his arms had not developed. She said doctors had no explanation, especially given that Wallace had three other healthy children

| PLEASE SEE GUITAR, A2

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Express-Times

"A Child's Rare Talent:
Armless Boy Learns to Play Guitar"
"District Boss Accused of 'Bullying'"
"Dad: 'He's Going to Be Missed'"

Sarah Wojcik

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D6: Reporting and Writing - News Writing Portfolio

Third Place, Daily Over 45,000

GOVERNMENT WATCH

Leadership at a price

Some seek cost controls for college presidents

By **JEREMY ROSEN**
Courier-Post Staff

Most presidents of state and tri-county public colleges haven't received raises over the past few years, according to a Courier-Post analysis of contracts, amendments and continuing employment agreements.

But lawmakers and taxpayer advocates think that's insignificant given the high values of presidents' salaries, benefits and bonuses.

Presidents and boards of trustees have created an artificial market, whereby presidents compare their compensation packages to each other," says Jerry Cantrell, president of the New Jersey Taxpayers Alliance and the Common Sense Institute.

"Presidents say, 'I want what they got,' and the upward cycle continues."

While state aid to his institution decreased 10.5

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|  ROBERT ALTENKIRCH NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PRESIDENT SALARY: \$407,921 |  ALI HOUSHMAND INTERIM PRESIDENT ROWAN UNIVERSITY SALARY: \$317,205 |  ROBERT MESSINA BURLINGTON COUNTY COLLEGE PRESIDENT SALARY: \$185,000 |  RAYMOND YANNUZZI CAMDEN COUNTY COLLEGE PRESIDENT SALARY: \$188,000 |
|---|---|---|---|

See COLLEGES, Page 5A

Courier-Post

"Leadership at a Price"

"Test Flight Fails to Ease Fears"

"Road to Red Ink 295"

Jeremy Rosen

D6: Reporting and Writing - News Writing Portfolio

CHOICE IN EDUCATION

The charter challenge

Schools fight for their place in public school system

By DIANE D'AMICO

Three new charter schools in Atlantic County and one in Millville have been approved to open in September.

They face tough odds.

Only four of the nine charter schools approved for Atlantic County since 1999 are still in operation. Statewide, more than one out of three approved charters either never opened, closed or were shut down by the state Department of Education.

After years of lukewarm state support, Gov. Chris Christie promised more charter schools, more flexibility in how they are run and more accountability for results. This month, acting Education Commissioner

Christopher Cerf announced an increase in staffing for the Charter School Office from five to 14 people and placed two schools in Jersey City and Trenton on probation. A record 23 new schools were approved in January to open in September; another round of applications is due March 31.

A review of local charter schools by The Press of Atlantic City finds the challenges of the past decade — financing, enrollment, test scores, facilities — still remain obstacles to success.

The New Jersey Charter School Law of 1998 promised choice and academic innovation at a lower cost. Run by private boards of trustees and authorized by the state Department of Education, charter schools receive 90 percent of the per-student cost in the school district where they are based.

This year, public school districts are contributing almost \$320 million toward charter school operations, including \$18.5 million in Atlantic County, most from taxpayers in Atlantic City, Pleasantville, Galloway Township and Egg Harbor Township.

Students attend for free, a message still not clear to parents. "People still ask me how much

See Charter, A6



Kindergarten students at Galloway Community Charter School prepare to participate in a play for visiting parents last month. Almost two-thirds of the school's students live outside of Galloway Township. Many people still don't realize there is no tuition, administrator Deborah Nataloni says.

Charter schools by the numbers

73: Number of operating charter schools in New Jersey.

23: New charters approved in January.

19: Charters surrendered by charter boards of trustees.

11: Charters revoked by the education commissioner.

5: Final charters denied because schools were not prepared to open.

4: Charters not renewed after state DOE review.

More on charters

See costs per student, which schools are set to open and which tried and failed. A6



Ryan Goukler, 16, of Ventnor, and Paul Pileggi, 18, of Galloway Township, play guitar in a class at Charter Tech High School in Somers Point. Founder Jerry Klaus says charter schools "should be looked at as part of a cohesive whole rather than divisive."

Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Press of Atlantic City

"The Charter Challenge"
"Autistic Students Seek Fit"
"Incarcerated N.J. Youth Doing Time in Classroom"

Diane D'Amico

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D6: Reporting and Writing - News Writing Portfolio

Edison firing raises hopes, questions

Ex-business administrator placed on transition team

By **BOB MAKIN**
STAFF WRITER

EDISON — The firing of Dennis Gonzalez, the township's former business administrator, has shaken up the municipal government in a variety of ways that has several residents, employees and the township council both apprehensive and hopeful.

A state statute requires that Gonzalez be paid for five weeks following his April 12 dismissal, but it doesn't require that he work. Yet, Gonzalez is working. Mayor Antonia Ricigliano has placed him on a transition team in town hall as she reorganizes her administration in the wake of firing him.

"He has been business administrator here, and I need him to help with the transition for when he leaves," Ricigliano said. "He is assisting me, and I am taking over all of his responsibilities."

Among the plaintiffs in more than eight lawsuits filed against Gonzalez by current and former municipal employees is the Edison Fire Fighters Association, the union that

represents the township's 120 professional firefighters. The union had accused Gonzalez of stonewalling requests for information filed under New Jersey's Open Public Records Act.

"He has been business administrator here, and I need him to help with the transition for when he leaves. He is assisting me, and I am taking over all of his responsibilities."

— Edison Mayor Antonia Ricigliano

OPRA requests must be filed within seven business days, according to the Department of Community Affairs. Some of the union's requests have been outstanding for more than a month, said Jim Walsh, the union's vice president and a professional township firefighter.

See **Edison**, Page **A3**

First Place, Daily Over 45,000

Home News Tribune

"Edison Firing Raises Hopes"

"Family: Officers Story Has Holes"

"Two Jima Knock Off Stirs Anger"

Bob Makin

NJPA
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Better Newspaper Contest 2011

D7: Reporting and Writing - Environmental Writing Portfolio

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PRECIOUS RESOURCES IN CONFLICT



A rift over 'fracking' muddies the river

Gas-drilling technique pits nation's voracious appetite for energy against its thirst for clean drinking water

By Matt Fair
STAFF WRITER
(Editor's note: First of two parts.)

Across western and northern Pennsylvania, drilling rigs have sprung up like a forest of saplings over the last five years as energy companies seek out pockets of natural gas hidden deep beneath the ground in a rock formation known as the Marcellus Shale.

They have brought with them a torrent of criticism from environmental groups who worry that the method used to drill the wells, known as hydraulic fracturing or "fracking," can lead to streams and rivers becoming contaminated by discarded drilling fluid.

Now, critics say, the problem is creeping into the Delaware River basin, from which water is used to supply towns along the western edge of Mercer County.

More than a dozen permits for wells have been issued in northeast Pennsylvania over the last few years in areas where groundwater ultimately drains into the Delaware River, and a handful of wells have already been drilled.

SEE **FRACKING**, PAGE A08

KEITH BRANCO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beaver Falls Municipal Authority workers Jim Riggio (left), the plant manager, and Cecil Griffith, the maintenance supervisor, examine one of the filtering tanks at the authority's water treatment plant in Beaver Falls, Pa., last December. The natural gas industry's use of a technique called hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," has resulted in waste fluids from the process contaminating Pittsburgh-area water sources, environmental groups claim. And they say the same danger now looms in the Delaware River watershed, which supplies drinking water for many New Jersey towns.

Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Times

"A Rift Over 'Fracking' Muddies the River"

"Lawmakers Seek to Ban 'Fracking'"

"Burning Coal Responsibly"

Matt Fair

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D7: Reporting and Writing - Environmental Writing Portfolio

Let the sunshine in



Photo by Steven Reilly/New Jersey Herald

Ron Beard, shown in front of his home on Lake Mohawk in Sparta, recently had a \$25,000 solar panel renewable energy system installed on the home by East Coast Alternative Energy, of Sparta.

Solar panels keep Sparta couple in eco-friendly mode

By **STEVEN REILLY**
sreilly@njherald.com

SPARTA — When Sparta resident Ron Beard was flying jetliners for Eastern and Japan Airlines from 1966 to 1999, he would fly over mountains and countryside all over the world. The view he remembers from 30,000 feet was not always good.

"I would be flying over the mountains and I would see the results of the mining and clear-cut work being done and it bothered me. The Earth looked like hell," Beard said. "It made me think about what we are doing to the Earth, and what I could do to help."

Beard recently installed a renewable solar panel energy system in his Lake Mohawk home that he shares with his wife, Judie, as one more step the environmental activists have taken to leave the smallest carbon footprint possible on their beloved planet.

"A few years ago I began to think that I have to back up what I believe in about the Earth and conservation programs," Beard said. "It wasn't enough just to talk about it. If people could see what we are doing first-hand, maybe they would be motivated to do something as well."

Beard's most recent eco-friendly project involved a \$25,000 solar panel renewable energy system that was installed by East Coast Alternative Energy from Sparta. The system is expected to provide 100 percent of the energy used in the lakefront home built in 1958.

"East Coast Energy is very good at what they do. They came in and look care of everything, from designing the system to the paperwork for my tax rebates. They were amazing," Beard said. "I feel I know everything I need to about the system. They made me feel really good about what we got."

The Sparta alternative energy firm has installed solar systems in both private and public buildings across Sussex County. The firm has engineers and administrators working as a team to secure the permits and tax-saving applications for customers as well as customizing the equipment installed in each job. Since 2008, East Coast has completed 45 solar photovoltaic and solar thermal projects, and the company is building 14 more. East Coast has installed or maintained more than 3.1 Megawatts of solar power, and the firm has earned customers more than \$487,479 in New Jersey rebates.

"We attended the demonstrations East Coast had around the county, and we saw how excited they were to talk about their systems," Beard said. "It gave me a lot of confidence in the company, and it gave me some hope to see some young people working so hard to help the planet."

The solar-power system the Beards had installed on their home is a roof mounted, grid-tied solar

To learn more ...

- For information on installing a solar panel energy system:
 - East Coast Alternative Energy, 973-300-5144; www.eastcoastalternativeenergy.com
 - solarpowerenergyhome.net
 - Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency, www.dsireusa.org
 - New Jersey Renewable Energy Incentive Program, 866-NJSMART



For more information on eco-friendly living, read Go Green in today's paper.

See SOLAR, Page A2

Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

New Jersey Herald

"Solar Panels Keep Sparta Couple in Eco-Friendly Mode"

"Christie Dumps

'Green' Program"

"Pipeline Hearing Wednesday

Meeting Will Focus on

High Point Plan"

Steven Reilly

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D7: Reporting and Writing - Environmental Writing Portfolio

Croak of the wild

Volunteers fanned out across NJ to listen for the familiar call of the Garden State's frogs.

By PEG QUANN
STAFF WRITER

BASS RIVER — The night is soft and misty. The moist air carries the music of male frogs looking for mates.

In the deep, dark woodlands of Bass River State Forest, volunteer Steve Mattan listens intently for the “ribbiting” love songs.

At one of Mattan's stops, next to a lake, wood frogs belt out their rhythmic tune.

Sometimes the males even join in a come-hither chorus, hoping their combined vocal skills will trick a female into thinking she is meeting one super toad.

“It will sound like one really loud guy,” Mattan explains.

It's March — when New Jersey's 16 native species of frogs and toads start to make their calls. Like crowing roosters, the male members of the frog family do all the croaking.

The females are quiet and demure.

They're conserving their strength to lay the thousands of eggs they will deposit in or near lakes and streams.

Eventually, the eggs that make it to the water will grow into tadpoles before morphing into adult frogs.

Mattan, who lives in Edgewater



NANCY ROKOS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Steve Mattan, a volunteer for the Calling Amphibians Monitoring Project, checks his pocket weather tracker along a marshy area in the Rancocas Nature Center in Westampton last week.

Park, will make the hourlong drive to the state forest three times this spring to listen for the sounds of the different frogs and toads. He's a volunteer for the Calling Amphibians Monitoring Project, sponsored by the U.S. Geological Survey, as well as the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey.

The director of development for PayChoice in Moorestown, the former Eagle Scout is a scientist at heart. He has a “Got Science?” sticker on the

back of his hybrid SUV, muddied from its treks on the rutted roads of the county's parks and forests.

Mattan knows the croakers' specific calls. He learned them by listening to a CD called “Calls of New Jersey Frogs and Toads.” It won't win a Grammy, but, hey, frogs aren't birds.

The CD was taped by David M. Golden, principal zoologist for the New Jersey Department of

See **FROGS**, Page A4

Check out our online video at www.burlingtoncountytimes.com

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

Burlington County Times

“Croak of the Wild”

“A Journey into a Bug's Life”

“Wanted: Acorns for Mighty Oaks”

Peg Quann

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D7: Reporting and Writing - Environmental Writing Portfolio

Polluters rewriting rules for site cleanup

State says it invited
environmentalists

By **JAMES M. O'NEILL**
STAFF WRITER

Key committees writing rules for New Jersey's new program to clean up contaminated sites are made up entirely of the polluting companies and their contractors.

The 16 committees, which have been putting together rule and guidance documents, include no one from environmental or resident advocacy groups, no health specialists, and no outside experts who aren't affiliated with the cleanup industry.

"It's a who's who of corporate polluters and their hired consultants," said the New Jersey Sierra Club's Jeff Tittel. "These oversight rules will be written so loosely there will be nothing to enforce later."

Officials with the Department of Environmental Protection counter that an overarching steering committee has four environmentalists among 25 members and that environmentalists were offered a chance to join the committees, but failed to do so.

David Sweeney, the DEP's assistant commissioner for site remediation, said the DEP
See **DEP Page A-6**

Third Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Record (Bergen County)

"Polluters Rewriting Rules
for Site Cleanup"

"Undersea Mission"

"Molasses Used in Cleanup
of Polluted Sites"

James O'Neill

D7: Reporting and Writing - Environmental Writing Portfolio

PRESS INVESTIGATION

Radioactive waste leaking into U.S. ground water

Major spills from nuclear plants increased in recent years

Top 10 tritium leaks
Radioactive tritium, a byproduct of nuclear fission, has seeped from nearly all of the 65 reactor sites in the U.S. Here are the top 10 sites, based on the approximate amount of radiation leaked into the environment. The intensity of a radiation leak is measured in picocuries. The federal safe drinking water limit is 20,000 picocuries per liter. Other countries and some states have set goals or guidelines as low as 400 picocuries.

- 1 **Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Hancock Bridge, N.J., 2008:** 15 million picocuries of tritium per liter (750 times over government limit for tritium in drinking water)
- 2 **Oyster Creek Generating Station, Lacey, N.J., 2009:** 10.8 million picocuries (540 times higher)
- 3 **Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station, Coburn, Ill., 2008:** 7.3 million picocuries (370 times higher)
- 4 **Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Winslow, Ariz., 1993:** 2.7 million picocuries (130 times higher)
- 5 **Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Sealey, Ga., 2008:** 4 million picocuries (200 times higher)
- 6 **Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Morris, Ill., 2009:** 3.2 million picocuries (160 times higher)
- 7 **Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station, Vernon, Vt., 2008:** 2.5 million picocuries (125 times higher)
- 8 **Brown's Ferry Nuclear Plant, Athens, Ala., 2010:** 2 million picocuries (100 times higher)
- 9 **Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, Southport, N.C., 2007:** 1.8 million picocuries (90 times higher)
- 10 **Seabrook Station, Seabrook, N.H., 1999:** 750,000 picocuries (37.5 times higher)



NRC's oversight questioned

By **TODD B. BATES**
STAFF WRITER

Millions of gallons of radioactive water have leaked from nuclear power plants throughout the U.S. since the 1970s. Discharging water supplies in New Jersey and other states, an Asbury Park Press investigation found.

Despite massive leaks that pollute ground water, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has never fined a violator — even plant operators that repeatedly leaked tritium, a radioactive form of hydrogen and a common byproduct of nuclear fission that can cause cancer.

Major leaks at plants have increased in recent years. There was an average of one per year in the 1990s. There were five leaks or spills reported in 2009, five in 2008 and three in 2006, according to an NRC document.

“A leak in and of itself is generally not considered a violation,” an NRC spokesman, Neil A. Sheehan, said in an email last week. The NRC’s mission is to ensure the public faces “no undue risk,” he said. Tritium leaks do not pose that risk level, he said.

See **Tritium**, Page A6

NRC Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko, though, told U.S. senators last month that tritium leaks are “not an acceptable situation for any power reactor in the United States.”

Yet the NRC, which urged the industry in 1979 to focus on preventing radioactive leaks, spills and overflows, has seen major unplanned discharges increase in recent years as nuclear plants age and their underground pipes deteriorate.

NRC and industry officials say the leaks have posed little or no risk to drinking water wells or the public health because contaminated ground water has almost always remained under the power plant sites.

Critics say that is not the point. Just as it is illegal for other companies to spill toxic waste onto the soil, nuclear plants should not get a pass when it comes to polluting ground water with radiation. The critics say the NRC’s lax oversight has allowed the radioactive leaks to go on for decades — with little regard for the public’s health.



Tritium leaks are “not an acceptable situation for any power reactor.”

— NRC Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko

What is tritium?

- Tritium, a radioactive isotope of hydrogen, is a byproduct of the fission in nuclear reactors.
- Tritium commonly bonds with oxygen to form water.
- So-called tritiated water has no radioactivity, but it emits radiation called beta particles.
- It takes 12.3 years for tritium to lose half of its radioactivity.
- Tritium is a known cancer-causer, but studies have shown tritium is harmful is a matter of scientific debate.
- Once swallowed, tritiated water moves throughout the body and it takes about one month for the isotope to be excreted, unless the tritium is absorbed into body tissues.

ON THE WEB: Visit www.nrc.gov and search for “tritium” for links to an interactive map and key NRC documents about tritium leaks.

SOURCE: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Nuclear power plant discharges to U.S. Environment, Tritium activity

NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IN NEW JERSEY VARY ON CLEANUP/PAGE A7

Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

Asbury Park Press

“Radioactive Waste Leaking into U.S. Ground Water”

“Ailments Afflict 9/11 Responders”

“Nor’easter Exceeds Irene”

Todd B. Bates

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D7: Reporting and Writing - Environmental Writing Portfolio

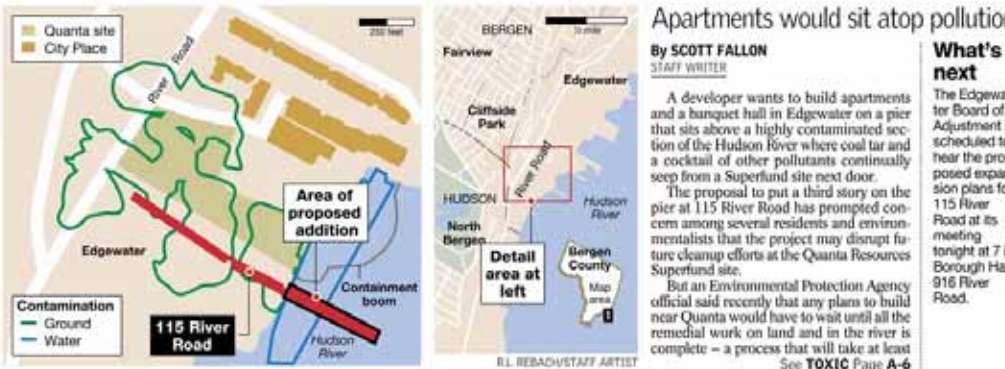
First Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Record

(Bergen County)

TOXIC LANDSCAPE: EDGEWATER WATERFRONT

A new threat to long-sought river cleanup



Apartment would sit atop pollution

By **SCOTT FALLON**
STAFF WRITER

A developer wants to build apartments and a banquet hall in Edgewater on a pier that sits above a highly contaminated section of the Hudson River where coal tar and a cocktail of other pollutants continually seep from a Superfund site next door.

The proposal to put a third story on the pier at 115 River Road has prompted concern among several residents and environmentalists that the project may disrupt future cleanup efforts at the Quanta Resources Superfund site.

But an Environmental Protection Agency official said recently that any plans to build near Quanta would have to wait until all the remedial work on land and in the river is complete – a process that will take at least

What's next
The Edgewater Board of Adjustment is scheduled to hear the proposed expansion plans for 115 River Road at its meeting tonight at 7 in Borough Hall, 916 River Road.

See **TOXIC** Page **A-6**

IL REBACH/STAFF ARTIST

“A New Threat to Long-Sought River Cleanup”

“Drug Disposal Can Be Tricky”

“DEP Let Poison Flow for Decades”

Scott Fallon

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Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Express-Times

“Share the Land: Community Supported Agriculture”

“Vietnam Project ‘Took My Breath Away’”

“One More Beat”

Kelly Huth

NJPA

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QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE SIGNING UP FOR A CSA

- **What does a share cost? A half share?**
- **How long does the CSA run?**
- **Where and when do I pick up my share? Is there one set time or is there a window to pick up my produce?** Some CSA providers offer delivery while others choose a central pickup such as a farmers' market.
- **Does the CSA distribute food only grown on that farm or is more produce sourced from other areas?**
- **How much does a share yield?** This is a tough question to answer, since the yield is determined by Mother Nature. But farmers should be able to estimate a number of crops you'll see in the box each week. Expect the mix and November yields to be less than what you'll receive in the full height of the season.
- **Is the CSA limited to vegetables?** Some CSAs offer seasonal fruits, others possibly dairy products, eggs and meat.



- **How many members does the CSA accept?** The fewer members, the more the share can be specified to individual tastes. On the flip side, larger CSAs may charge less.
- **How diverse is the crop selection?** Rights happen. So do droughts. They'll harvest your CSA if you find a farmer growing a diverse selection of crops.
- **How is the land grown?** Many farms choose to operate by organic farming practices but are not certified due to cost.
- **What should I sign up?** The answer is grow organics, unless you have other compelling reasons, but by the time the harvest has started to spread, it may be too late to participate.
- **Do you provide recipes, cooking techniques or label the ingredients for fresh items?**
- **Do I have any choice in the produce I get?** Most boxes out of 10 the answer will be no, if you're picking individual items you will try a vegetable, then a whole crop goes to waste.



Share the land

COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE provides stability for farms, variety for shareholders.

BY KELLY HUTH
The Express-Times

In a region where the trend is to leave agriculture, local farm-to-table CSAs offer a chance to preserve land, farms and food — and to save some money.

CSA, short for Community Supported Agriculture, has customers promise to the farmer for a share of a farm's seasonal harvest. Shareholders pay — often \$300 or more — every ahead of the season and help local farmers pay for seeds, tools, equipment and fertilizer necessary for planting.

For farmers, a CSA is the alternative to debt, explains Cathy Rein, owner of Heritage Farm CSA, which operates out of Salem Farms Dairy in Forks Township.

"It gives me operating capital. Without a CSA, farmers typically take out bank loans," Rein says.

This will be the third year Rein has offered a CSA, with about 60 shares available for \$300. The CSA provides a guaranteed sale of produce.

For a customer, meanwhile, a CSA is an alternative to a farm stand or grocery store and could potentially save money in the long run. It allows CSA members to know where their food comes from, invest in the local economy and add a green page to their plates.

Banking on Mother Nature
A CSA member is like a shareholder, says Michelle Bushong-Shelton, co-owner of Blue Blum Farm in Mount Township.

"CSA members are loyal. They are the farmers and shakers behind the growth and sustainability of a farm," Bushong-Shelton says.

In a typical season, farmers spend a few thousand dollars on seeds, leasing and tools, money at risk if Mother Nature doesn't cooperate. Shareholders lessen the risk by providing a guaranteed sale and capital early in the season when most expenses add up.

"Although they get a weekly share and build a trusting relationship with their farmer, it's actually more of an investment than a purchase," Bushong-Shelton says.

CSA money has helped Blue Blum Farm add a high tunnel, or greenhouse, to shelter their crops from harsh weather.

"People aren't saving money;



Margie Zeiner, right, of Harmony Township, purchases some fresh produce in boxes from Eric Shubert of Blue Blum Farm of Mount Township, at the Eastern Farmer's Market in Centre Square.

FIND YOUR CSA

Check out localfarm.org to find a CSA in your area. CONTACT INFORMATION, pricing and details are provided.

they're saving farms," she says.

Pocketbook savings
But pocketbook savings are on a shareholder's side, notes one farm owner.

At Cherry Valley CSA in Stroudsburg, Pa., Heidi Dorett sells 25-week shares at \$200, or \$10 a week. Second years pay production bi-monthly — a step beyond organic farming when farmers put more nutrients back into the soil than they take out.

Last year, she logged each item and compared the prices to supermarkets.

Reinventing the CSA

FARMERS LOOK BEYOND THE WEEKLY BOX to make their shares stand out from the crowd.

BY KELLY HUTH
The Express-Times

Nathan Porter-Bender is quick to stress "all farms are not created equal."

The owner of Bender Farms LLC in Forks Township says the offer a farmer's choice program is a significant departure from the traditional Community Supported Agriculture model, or what she calls the "black hole" of the industry.

"I wanted to do a CSA, but I disagree with the most predominant model," she says.

"There's a lot of people who produce and then sell it to a grocery store. It's not to go."

On average it's a 50 percent savings for local produce.

"We like our members wanting to know what they were getting for their money. It would be my question, too," Dorett says.

Cracking in local food dollars

Some shareholders purchase a share to kick-start the local economy.

"It not only supports farms and farmers in the Valley, but the dollars circulate and stay in the community," says Thomas DeFuria, owner of Blossing Star Farms in William Township.

"It's wonderful to know the families in my farm appreciate the food and it gives me inspiration to get up in the morning to do my work."

Look at a CSA as a commitment, a promise to keep a farmer in business. According to data from the 2007 Com-

Porter-Bender's concern is in the fact that CSAs are open to interpretation and operate without major rules of measure or enforced standards.

The River's Choice program allows users to prepare and fill up a debit card with a \$100 minimum and then shop from an on-site farm store — whenever they like. Members get pricing discounts, notification when products become available and bonuses for early signs.

"Looking in on limits. You decide what you want to buy. There's no one else's preferences," Porter-Bender says. "I wanted this program for the consumer to keep control over building their family."

"I don't think it's my responsibility to force you to eat anything. My job as the farmer is to produce new products and offer it to you to try."

"The old-style CSA is pay upfront and pick up a box once a week," says Lynn Trice, director of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chapter of Buy Fresh, Buy Local. "Nowadays, getting more creative and working."

Price class Knappe Farms in Dairy in Northampton. Owner John Flack allows customers to prepay \$200 or \$1,000 for six months of organically raised dairy, eggs and

I WANT TO GO, BY

D8: Reporting and Writing – Feature – Lifestyle and Entertainment Writing Portfolio

Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Express-Times

Ripple sought in hotel's revival

BOROUGH HOPES UNION HOTEL'S redevelopment will bring new life to downtown Flemington.

BY DOUGLAS B. BRILL
The Express-Times

FLEMINGTON | At the Union Hotel, a national landmark tied to the borough's famous past and muddled future, every step makes a sound.

The rooms upstairs — where journalists and well-todos stayed in 1935 while the Lindbergh kidnaping trial across the street made the borough known worldwide — were last used at least two

decades ago. They're connected by hallways of flaked and falling paint.

Joe LoPiccolo just stepped on what felt: crunch. And on some kind of white powder to keep rodents away: swoosh. And past an anachronistic cash register, up the narrow steps: creak.

LoPiccolo hardly notices. "I've seen worse," he said, tapping his toe on the floor to say the four-story, 35,000-square-foot hotel is sound enough to have a future.

LoPiccolo, 40, of Readington Township, is part of a three-man team picked Monday by borough council to re-

develop the hotel, which was built in 1814, closed in 2008 and is counted on the National Register of Historic Places. He's redeveloped similar buildings in Manhattan and Jersey City.

Joining him are two borough men who didn't even know each other until a few

months ago, when LoPiccolo got them together: Matt McPherson, 33, who lives within a block of the hotel and owns and runs the popular Red Rooster Grill around the corner, and Frank Banisch, a well-known community planner making his first foray into

| PLEASE SEE FLEMINGTON, A6

“Ripple Sought in Hotel’s Revival”

“Answering the Call”

“Teen Must Keep Head Out of Game”

Douglas B. Brill

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D8: Reporting and Writing – Feature - Lifestyle and Entertainment Writing Portfolio

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

Daily Record

“Locally Grown”

“Morristown Dirt”

“Recovery Revolution”

Meghan Van Dyk

AGRICULTURE REGIONAL OPTION

Warren farm one of first in state



Judy von Handorf, one of three full-time farmers who run the Community Supported Garden at Genesis Farm in Frelinghuysen, harvests Walla Walla onions as she talks about the farm's metamorphosis over the last 23 years. More photos: DailyRecord.com. KAREN SHANLEY/GETTY IMAGES

Locally grown — organic, too



Meghan Van Dyk

Mike Baki still bristles at the thought of a relative who once called him a dirt farmer. While he does intend to deal in dirt, it is soil that supports his family.

"Soil ... it's a living thing, it's full of life," Baki says while slicing a handful of speckled trout lettuce leaves from their roots, picking out tiny weeds from the bunch and placing them in a crate for harvest. "Commodity farming is about adding chemicals to the soil. My goal is to keep soil the way it is, to treat it in a mindful way so it provides food you feel great about."

Baki, who calls himself a "soil neophyte," is one of three farmers who tend the vegetables at the Community Supported Garden at Genesis Farm in Frelinghuysen Township.

Ahead of its time when established in 1988, the farm caters to consumers now seeking food that is organic and locally produced. These socially conscious shoppers are regulars at farmers markets and farm-to-table restaurants, and even supermarkets are offering more organic produce for a share of "locavore" dollars. But with its deep-rooted values and commitment to the soil, Genesis Farm has special appeal to anyone navigating their way to a healthier lifestyle.

"Soil and land speaks to all of us. There was a time when everyone lived on a farm, so we all have this part of our past that is agricultural."

JUDY VON HANDORF, Genesis Farm

COST OF A SHARE

Full-year shares at Genesis Farm run through April 27. A family share, or pickup every week, is \$1,794, a single share, with a biweekly pickup, is \$811.

Summer shares run through Nov. 22. A family share is \$1,279, and a single share is \$657.

Winter shares, which run from Dec. 7 to April 27, cost \$406.

For more information, call 908-362-4275 or visit www.genesisfarm.org.

See FARM, Page A2

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D8: Reporting and Writing – Feature - Lifestyle and Entertainment Writing Portfolio

'WE'D BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH'



AMY NEUMAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sheri Quattrocchi of Lodi holding newborn daughter Mikayla. A recurrence of cancer forced Sheri to make a difficult decision while pregnant with her first child after two failed attempts.

Woman battling cancer risks odds for motherhood

By **LINDY WASHBURN**
STAFF WRITER

Sheri Quattrocchi was just 13 weeks pregnant when the cancer she thought she'd beaten two years earlier snarled back. A swollen lymph node beneath her rounded belly turned out to be metastatic melanoma, an advanced form of the deadliest type of skin cancer.

To view a video on this story visit northjersey.com

This was to be her first child, the happy outcome of in vitro fertilization after two heartbreaking miscarriages. But now her choice was stark. Doctors said she had two options: terminate her pregnancy and begin treatment immediately, or carry her pregnancy as close to full term as possible and begin treatment after the baby was born.

"They said it really had to be my decision," recalls the 33-year-old Rochelle Park native, who lives in Lodi with her husband, Michael.

But the physicians' preference was clear: Termination.

"It was not my recommendation that she continue [the pregnancy],"

See **CHOICE** Page A-6

Third Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Record (Bergen County)

- "Woman Battling Cancer Risks Odds for Motherhood"
- "9/11 Fear Sent Scores of Jets to Canada"
- "N.J. Led Way in 2001 Battle with Anthrax"

Lindy Washburn

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

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Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Philadelphia Inquirer

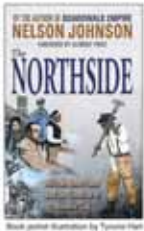
“Shoring up the Boardwalk
Empire”
“Ideas of Sex, Death, God”
“Governor’s Wife, Too”

Amy S. Rosenberg

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION



Waiting on those who trilled: African American men pushing rolling chairs along the Atlantic City Boardwalk in 1942. “What you had was obliging black people in uniform doing over white people,” says author Nelson Johnson. “You really felt like you were somebody special.”



Shoring up the Boardwalk Empire

Without African Americans as Atlantic City’s resort workforce, an author says, there would have been no playground by the sea.

By Amy S. Rosenberg
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

ATLANTIC CITY — When Judge Nelson Johnson wrote *Boardwalk Empire*, his history of corrupt Atlantic City, he certainly had no idea the Prohibition-era chapters would inspire the celebrated HBO series.

But he did know this: The chapter on the African American involvement in the creation of the resort — Chapter 2, titled “A Plantation by the Sea” — was destined to be the basis for another book.

“It became apparent if you remove the black experience from Atlantic City’s history, then the town never comes to be,” Johnson said in a phone interview from his chambers in the Atlantic County Civil Courthouse in Atlantic City.

“When you have two generations where 95 percent of the hotel workforce was African American, then how does this town ever develop as a regional, national resort unless you see **THE NORTHSIDE** on the

BLACK HISTORY MONTH




Outside Atlantic City Public Library is Judge Nelson Johnson, author of *Boardwalk Empire*, whose second book, *The Northside*, chronicles the city’s vibrant black community.

D8: Reporting and Writing – Feature - Lifestyle and Entertainment Writing Portfolio

SPECIAL REPORT

A YEAR IN TENT CITY



On a cold winter day, occupants of the Cedar Bridge camp, a "tent city" in the woods of Lakewood, cook their afternoon meal. At any given time, the camp is home to several dozen homeless people.

Living homeless and on the edge

LAKEWOOD CALLS IT AN ILLEGAL "TENT CITY." The minister who oversees it calls it "a living demonstration" of the need for a homeless shelter in Ocean County.

It's known as the Cedar Bridge camp, or the KP site, but the several dozen men and women who live there simply call it "home."

For the past year, an Asbury Park Press photographer and reporter have been chronicling everyday life in Lakewood's tent city — and the legal controversy swirling around the camp.

"A YEAR IN TENT CITY" is a multimedia series, excerpts of which will appear in print over the next four days, beginning today in the @ISSUE section, pages B4 and B5. For full coverage, including stories, videos, photo galleries and discussion forums, go to www.app.com and click on the series link.

STORY BY
SHANNON MULLEN
STAFF WRITER

PHOTOS BY
PETER ACKERMAN
CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

First Place, Daily Over 45,000

Asbury Park Press

"Living Homeless and
on the Edge"

"Tent City Residents Given
Eviction Notice"

"Struggling to Understand"

Shannon P. Mullen

NJPA
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D9: Reporting and Writing - Sports Writing Portfolio

NJPA Awards

D9: Reporting and Writing - Sports Writing Portfolio



Montgomery boys basketball coach Kris Grundy holds newborn twin sons Jack Kristopher (left) and Ryan David. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Coach juggling team, fatherhood

By **JERRY CARINO**
STAFF WRITER

BOYS BASKETBALL

Every night the game plan is the same for Montgomery High School boys basketball coach Kris Grundy.

Diaper changes? Check.

Feedings? Check.

Sleep?

"At this point, sleep is very optional," said Grundy, whose wife Megan gave birth to twin boys on Jan. 26.

Running a varsity hoops team is an all-consuming endeavor. Becoming a new dad twice over, right smack in the middle of the season, is excitement overload.

"It's 100 percent adrenaline," said Grundy, who is in his sixth year at the Cougars' helm. "It's tough — I'm not going to lie.

Luckily for Megan and I our families have been great, really providing support. They know how passionate I am about basketball and teaching. I'll get home and it will be time

for feeding, which is great."

Jack Kristopher and Ryan David were born one minute apart in a scheduled C-section at Princeton's University Medical Center. For four days Grundy handed over the team to his assistants, James Avalon, Joe Basford, Tommy Molarz and Pat Youraneff.

"I'm lucky enough to have phenomenal assistant coaches," Grundy said. "I sat the players down in the summertime and told them, 'There's going to be a point in the season where I'm not going to be there. You guys are going to have to step it up and look at the assistant coaches as if they're me.'"

The coaching community understands. Many of Grundy's counterparts are young dads. Somerville's Joe D'Alessandro became a mid-season father, also of twins, a few years back

North Plainfield's Dave Hooker has a seven-month-old son, Cort, who already has been to a couple of afternoon games.

Hooker considered resigning after last season but his wife Maureen talked him out of it.

"She said, 'You love it too much, you have to stay with it,'" Hooker explained. "My wife is very supportive of me doing what I have to do. She understands the late nights."

Megan Grundy understood when Kris was glued to his laptop in the hospital room three days after the boys were born. He was listening to the student-run broadcast of the Cougars' game against rival Hillsborough.

When Montgomery lost in the most excruciating way possible, squandering a 15-point fourth-quarter lead, Grundy reflected on something Linden coach Phil Collecchio had told him the week before: "When your sons are born, there's going to be a time when you come home after

a tough loss or a crappy practice, and you go into the nursery and your sons are there and you look at them and say, 'You know what, who gives a (hoot)? Your sons aren't going to care who won or lost. They're just happy daddy is home.'"

It made perfect sense.

"Once we lost to Hillsborough, I knew what he meant," Grundy said.

Of course the competitive juices didn't disappear. Grundy returned the following week and has the Cougars at 13-10 with the state tournament looming. The twins are doing well, with plush basketballs in their cribs.

"Everybody got them for us," Grundy said. "We probably had to return five or six."

The gift-givers were all thinking the same thing: This is a future backcourt. "It's a basketball family," Grundy said. "Now I've got to work on the frontcourt."

Jerry Carino
jcarino@njpressmedia.com

Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

Courier News

"Coach Juggling Team..."

"Future Phenom"

"Social Anxiety"

Jerry Carino

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D9: Reporting and Writing - Sports Writing Portfolio

Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Daily Journal

Larger than life career for M'ville grad

By JOSH FRIEDMAN
Staff Writer
friedman@thedailyjournal.com

Alan Shaw once feared he'd grow to be 10-foot-tall.

But after embracing his height on the hardwood, Shaw was able to use his size to his advantage — from shooting jumpers at Duke University to shooting a pistol at Academy

Award winner Jeff Bridges.

Shaw, a 1989 Millville High School graduate, has played many roles in life.

He's starred as a Thunderbolt basketball sensation, played sixth man at Cameron Indoor Arena, tried out for the Atlanta Hawks, met the Pope, stood in for Lurch on the "The Addams Family" movie, chased David Hasselhoff around "Baywatch" and so

much more in between.

And all his success can be traced back to his stature.

"I always tell people I'm 7 feet tall," said Shaw, 60, who currently lives in Lawrenceville. "I'm probably 6-10 1/2 in my shoes. But no one ever questions it."

Uncomfortable shoes

Shaw's tall tale began as an over-growing eighth-grader

trying to find his way towering over the crowd.

At 6-foot-4, he was lanky and a bit uncoordinated. He didn't feel like he fit in with the rest of the kids his age.

That was until former Millville basketball coach Ed Salson got hold of him.

"Once basketball came in, all of a sudden (my height) took

Please see BASKETBALL on A7



Alan Shaw has gone on to success in sports, acting and teaching.

Submitted photo

"Larger than Life Career for M'ville Grad"

"Crunchin' and Punchin'"

"What's on Deck?"

Josh Friedman

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D9: Reporting and Writing - Sports Writing Portfolio

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Express-Times

These IronPigs take aim at this hobby



IronPigs pitcher Scott Mathieson, right, shoots a bow and arrow at a target in the dugout prior to Sunday's doubleheader at Coca-Cola Park. Reliever Justin De Fratus looks on.

LEHIGH VALLEY PLAYERS Moss, Mathieson among those who have become avid hunters.

BY MICHAEL LORE
The Express-Times

ALLENTOWN | On any given day at Coca-Cola Park before an IronPigs game, Lehigh Valley players can be seen out on the field for batting practice.

Sometimes before or after the warm-up and pregame meal, Brandon Moss, Scott Mathieson and other teammates head back to the locker room, pick up their bow and arrows and head to the fields outside of the ballpark.

Many of them are avid hunters.

"We go out and shoot targets here; I don't shoot the groundhogs," Mathieson said. "I shoot stuff I'm going to eat and I've stuck to that so far."

Moss, who said his grandfather turned him on to the hobby when he was growing up in Georgia, goes after groundhogs outside of the ballpark because no license is necessary, using their skins for pine tar rags.

"I started bow hunting when I was 11 or 12 and it was something I fell in love with," Moss said. "It's one of those things when you do from a young age it's in you the rest of your life."

Moss has both of his bows with him at Coca-Cola Park, while Mathieson's new one just arrived, still in the box on

Sunday afternoon, as both players obviously hunt bigger game during the offseason.

Mathieson said he, teammate Philippe Anouot and other minor league players lease 3,000 acres in Perry, Fla., where they hunt. Mathieson began hunting four years ago while rehabbing from Tommy John surgery, while Anouot is newer to the hobby.

Prior to Sunday's doubleheader against Toledo, Mathieson showed reliever Justin De Fratus how to shoot at a target in the dugout, using Delwyn Young's equipment. Mathieson missed both of his tries, while De Fratus, who never shot a bow and arrow, went 1-for-2, carrying the target proudly back to the locker room.

While the two pitchers got a kick out of the friendly competition before gametime, Moss and Mathieson agreed hunting in the woods is normally a mixed bag of peaceful patience and adrenaline-packed action.

"It's like a therapy for me in the offseason to get away," Moss said. "Most of your time is spent in the woods alone with no animals around and you're in the peace of the woods. When the animals show up, the heart starts pumping, you get a good buck coming in range; there aren't many adrenaline rushes like that when you put a big buck down."

Mathieson, who got hooked going hog hunting — ironically enough — with his father-in-law in Florida, began bow hunting about a year ago.

"It's something that's real relaxing to me," he said. "When you do have a nice buck coming in, you have the adrenaline rush, your heart rate goes up and it's pretty exciting. It's something after I went the first time, I've been hooked."

While it's hard to compare who the better baseball player is between the pitcher and outfielder, Mathieson was quick to admit defeat on who the better hunter was, acknowledging his lack of experience is why Moss is superior in that regard.

"He's been helping me out with the bow," Mathieson said. "We're going to go on a few hunts this winter. He's been showing me a few tricks of the trade."

So is it harder trying to connect on a 90-plus mph fastball or trying to tag a big buck?

"I'm a more efficient hunter," Moss said. "I definitely have a lot more flaws in my baseball abilities than hunting. A missed (kill) is probably a definite strikeout — I'm still prone to them out there, but I do it less than I do on the baseball field."

Michael Lore can be reached at 800-360-3603 or mlores@express-times.com.

"These Iron Pigs Take Aim at Hobby"

"Every Day Is a New Day for ESU Coach"

"Towson: Don't Blame Us for Mess"

Michael LoRé

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D9: Reporting and Writing - Sports Writing Portfolio

Phils will never forget trip that changed them

By **RANDY MILLER**
Courier-Post Staff

The view outside the window of a speeding jet was chilling.

Jimmy Rollins kept looking for normalcy.

There were blue skies and puffy white clouds high in the sky, buildings and homes and moving cars looking like little dots way down below.

Rollins barely noticed.

On the day the Phillies finally made it back to Philadelphia following 9/11 after being stranded in Atlanta and Cincinnati for three days, what Rollins remembers most about the char-

FLYERS REMEMBER

» **Page 12:** Philadelphia coach Peter Laviolette was in Lake Placid, N.Y. when the U.S. was attacked.

ter flight home is what he didn't see.

There were no other airplanes in the sky.

This really got to Rollins, the Phillies' star rookie shortstop in 2001 and their only player still around 10 years later.

Riding home, Rollins tried imagining the final

See TRIP, Page 12E

Third Place, Daily Over 45,000

Courier-Post

"Phils Will Never Forget Trip that Changed Them"

"Sniders's Youth Influenced His Hall of Fame Path in Life"

"Public Enemy No. 1"

Randy Miller

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D9: Reporting and Writing - Sports Writing Portfolio

SPORTS & FITNESS



A quiet ride in the saddle is among the unique therapies for head and spinal injuries

HORSE WHISPER

Dominic Stratton is assisted by Compassionate Friends Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center founder Sherri Briggs (center), volunteer 16-year-old Danielle Jones (right) and volunteer 15-year-old J.J. Menaquale. CHRIS LACHALL/COURIER POST

By KEVIN CALLAHAN
Courier Post Staff

Sunlight sneaks in from openings in the roof at a historic Medford horse farm tucked away among pine trees and only a football field away from hectic Route 70.

The solitude soothes the horses here at Seafra — Gaelic for “God’s peace” — which hosts Medford-based Compassionate Friends Therapeutic Riding Center. It is here that Julie Miranda receives riding therapy to help her recover from a brain trauma injury.

As Ricky walks, burdened with the weight of a rider in the saddle, you can hardly hear the clacking of hooves in the smooth gray gravel. The quiet is interrupted only by the nurturing voice of Sherri Briggs coaching Miranda to keep her “head up” and “sit straight.”

“Do you feel Ricky’s movement?” Briggs asks.

After a smile and a nod from the 23-year-old, Briggs asks Miranda with the softness of sunlight to “find yourself in the middle of the saddle, let Ricky



move for you.”

Only four years ago, Miranda couldn’t move on her own. For months after a brain trauma injury, her only breaths came on a ventilator and through a tracheal tube. For two years, her nourishment came from a gastric

Dominic Stratton, 9, of Mount Laurel pets Popcorn at Compassionate Friends Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center. Stratton has cerebral palsy. CHRIS LACHALL/COURIER POST

See THERAPY, Page 6A

Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

Courier-Post

“A Quiet Ride in the Saddle Is Among the Unique Therapies for Head and Spinal Injuries Horse Whisper”

“Historic High”

“Perfect Match Wrestling a Lifeblood for Once Booming Town”

Kevin Callahan

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D9: Reporting and Writing - Sports Writing Portfolio

First Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Record (Bergen County)

Easing the pain for ex-pro athletes



Former Net Albert King, right, examining X-rays with Dr. Vincent McInerney, director of orthopedics for Pain Alternatives, Solutions and Treatment (P.A.S.T.).

North Jersey doctors healing, helping

By JEFF ROBERTS
STAFF WRITER

The titanium screws protrude from his vertebrae, pointing in every direction.

The X-ray image of Christian Okoye's neck shows the amalgam of jutting metal and bone, of a spine fused together and stabilized with 16 screws and two bars.

The former Kansas City Chiefs running back was dangerously close to paralysis after he retired in 1992, left with a severely compressed spinal cord after six bruising NFL seasons.

"I was told, 'Don't fall down, don't get whiplash. If you do, you're paralyzed,'" said Okoye, 44.

Doctors across the nation - even those at the prestigious UCLA Medical Center - would not operate on the former All-Pro, afraid his condition was so dire that surgery itself could paralyze him, doctors said.

"I've never seen anyone with this type of MHI who's

"They had all this glory before and the only thing they're left with is the tragedy of the burdens that made them great in the game."

Dr. William Focazio, CEO and medical director of P.A.S.T.

been able to walk," said Dr. Arash Ervasti, one of the orthopedic spine surgeons who performed the operation. "Any more progression and he would have been paralyzed."

Then Okoye found his "last resort" - the North Jersey-based Pain Alternatives, Solutions and Treatment (P.A.S.T.) Retired Athletes Medical Resource Group.

Surgeons performed a 3½-hour, \$300,000 operation that "re-built" Okoye's neck in July at St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center

in Paterson. And they did it for free.

P.A.S.T. is a network of North Jersey-based doctors who provide medical care, pain management and behavioral health services - often on a pro bono basis for those who qualify - to former professional players who have nowhere else to turn.

Some have no insurance. Some are under-insured. And

See HEALING Page 5-B

"Easing the Pain for Ex-Pro Athletes"
"Captain Fulfilling His Yankee Destiny"
"Grateful Giant"

Jeff Roberts

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION



Better Newspaper Contest 2011

D10: Reporting and Writing - Scholastic Sports Portfolio

NJPA Awards

D10: Reporting and Writing - Scholastic Sports Portfolio

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

FITTING IN WHILE STANDING OUT

Exchange students use sports to learn more than just language

By Jane Havsy
Staff Writer

When Noorahaya Lahtee signed up for Morristown sports tryouts this spring, her first question was, "What is softball?"

An exchange student from Thailand, she'd never seen a softball game. But she wanted to be part of a team, and she was willing to learn. Lahtee had already joined the Morristown choir, and fenced for the high school during the winter, making fast friends while improving her English. Softball was no different.

"On the first day, I didn't know what they were talking about," said Lahtee, an 18-year-old senior from Hat Vai, near the Malaysian border. "I got to learn a lot of vocabulary. I just asked, 'What is that? I don't understand.' I want to try new things before I go back. ... When I got to do cool stuff, I knew people and I knew how to talk to them. I knew how to get along really well with them."

Lahtee found her way to right field for the Colonials, slowly figuring out how to catch a fly ball and throw it back to the cutoff player. She blended in with the junior varsity softball team just like she had in the classroom at Morristown, one of almost 29,500 international students who attended American high schools last year.

"I always wanted to go away for a year. I wanted to go to another country, but I didn't know which one," said Lina Koch, a sprinter from Germany who helped break Mount Olive records in the 4x100 and 4x200. "I just chose different countries I would like to go to, and I got a scholarship for America."

New school, new rules

The vast majority of the international students in the United States — nearly 8,000 — are from Germany, according to the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel. However, the school system — and, in some cases, even the day — is very different there. Koch had to adjust to Mount Olive's block scheduling, complete with a daily one-hour lunch period. At home in Dortmund, she would've had about 20 minutes for lunch squeezed into the middle of a much longer school day, sometimes with 13 or 14 periods extending to 7 or 8



German exchange student Lina Koch runs for Mount Olive at the Morris County Relay Championships. BOB KARPSTADT PHOTOGRAPHER

See FITTING, Page B3

Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

Daily Record

"Fitting In"

"Fond Farewell"

"True Champion"

Jane Havsy

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D10: Reporting and Writing - Scholastic Sports Portfolio

Braves, 'Maids will square off for good cause

By Scott Chappellear

schappellear@njpressco.com

Girls basketball fans have gotten several opportunities in recent years to help area high school teams raise money for cancer research, but they can take it one step further Monday night at Williamstown.

Maybe they can help save lives.

In addition to making a donation or purchase when the Braves hold their third annual Cancer Awareness Game and fundraiser as the freshman, JV and varsity host Washington Township, people will have a rare opportunity to sign up for the National Marrow Donor Program Registry — now known as the Be The Match Registry — for free.

"It's very uncommon that they do that," said Bob Caulfield, whose daughter Courtney is a Braves senior guard. "Usually they try to get big corporations to sponsor it and offset the costs. They heard our story and allowed us to do it, they thought it was a unique story."

The Williamstown girls have raised nearly \$5,000 the last two years for cancer research

with their annual game, and are hoping for another big night. But Caulfield, who was instrumental in starting the event, wanted to do something more this year.

His son Robert was just five years old in 2007 when he was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, the most common type of childhood cancer. The family prepared to return home after two weeks of hospital

(See CHARITY, Page C-2)

DONATION INFORMATION

Williamstown High School girls basketball team will be offering patrons the opportunity to sign up for the Be The Match Registry for bone marrow donation Monday from 3-8 p.m. during their freshman, JV and varsity games against Washington Township. The regular \$100 cost to register is waived for this event. Following are facts about bone marrow donation.

- 70 percent of patients needing a marrow transplant do not have a matching donor in their family.

- Only 40 percent of patients who need a marrow transplant receive one. Reasons include lack of access to health care and inability to find a matching donor.

- Only eight million people nationwide are part of the Be The Match Registry, barely 2.5 percent of the U.S. population.

- 74 percent of those registered are caucasian.

- In addition to the actual surgical procedure of bone marrow donation, which is withdrawn from the pelvic bone, the necessary cells could also be obtained through the non-surgical PBSC donation procedure. This is an outpatient process where the cells are taken from blood withdrawn from the donor with the remaining blood returned to the donor through the other arm.

Information from the National Marrow Donor Program. For more information, visit marrow.org or bethematch.org

Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

Gloucester County Times

"Braves, 'Maids Will Square Off"

"Glou Cath Baseball Had Special Inspiration"

"Kingsway's Pentz an Inspiration to Team"

Scott Chappellear

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D10: Reporting and Writing - Scholastic Sports Portfolio

HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD ~ KASSANDRA IRIZARRY, BRIDGETON



Staff photo/Charles J. Olson
Bridgeton senior track and field standout **Kassandra Irizarry**, left, and junior **Jerome Scurry**, right, stand in front of the high school with their 11-month-old daughter, **Aniyah Scurry**.

Not running away

By **PATRICK BUGANSKI**
Staff Writer

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When **Kassandra Irizarry** hits that wall during the final lap of a 3,200-meter race, it's not her coach or her teammates who come to mind and force her to dig a little deeper for the energy to finish strong.

It's not a friend or parent there supporting her who provides the 17-year-old senior distance run-

Bridgeton's Kassandra Irizarry excelled in track less than a year after giving birth to a daughter.

ner at Bridgeton High School the motivation to push through a tough workout on a hot day.

What keeps "Izzy" running through a cramp or sore legs is the very person who last spring kept her away from the sport she loves —

her 11-month-old daughter, **Aniyah**.

"She's a beautiful baby," Irizarry said. "She loves laughing, she likes to play. She wants all the attention."

But giving an infant the attention she commands is tough on any-

one, let alone a high school student. For a student-athlete who isn't just participating but excelling, it's nearly unheard of.

"She might be the first athlete to do it, to my knowledge," Bridgeton head coach **Cyndi Wilks** said. "I remember some athletes, but not coming back to the success she's had. From my memory, from my time (in school to now), I have not seen

Please see **RUNNING** on C3

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Daily Journal

"Not Running Away"

"Fight of His Life"

"Knocked Out of the Game"

Patrick Buganski

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D10: Reporting and Writing - Scholastic Sports Portfolio



Third Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Record (Bergen County)

"A Tragic Ending to a Troubled Life"

"Hazing Turned Athlete into a 'Different Person'"

"Byrne Was the Best of the 70's by a Mile"

Jeff Roberts

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D10: Reporting and Writing - Scholastic Sports Portfolio

A similar situation ... minus the fumble

A high school football team is headed to a sectional championship game tomorrow without several key players, all suspended for poor behavior. But no, this is not the story you think it is.

In this town, none of the parents have filed lawsuits to reverse the suspensions before kickoff. On this team, none of the players have marched into a board of education meeting in their uniforms to protest the decision.

In this story, the coach and his defenders are not making lame references to the Constitution to protect the latest state title, as if the founding fathers fought to defend our rights to wear shoulder pads.

This is not Wayne Hills, where half a town seems to have cracked its moral compasses over a football game. This is Matawan, about an hour down the Parkway, where school officials have handled

**Steve
Politi**
nj.com/politi



a discipline problem on their football team with no such fuss.

"It's a tough situation," Joe Martucci said yesterday. He is the football coach and athletic director at the Monmouth County school, and he wouldn't say what the five players on the team did to warrant the suspensions.

But, based on his general description, it's clear they didn't leave anyone unconscious lying in a road — which is the alleged outcome of the Oct. 29 fight involving Wayne Hills players.

What happened next made this story national news. The

SEE **POLITI**, PAGE 48

Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Star-Ledger

"A Similar Situation...
Minus the Fumble"

"Restoring Newark's Promise"
"Crowning Moment for Hurley"

Steve Politi

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D10: Reporting and Writing - Scholastic Sports Portfolio

The fire nearly killed her. The recovery nearly broke her. But in seven agonizing months, a determined high school soccer star willed her way back onto the playing field. This is her story...

ERYKA'S FIGHT

Story by Matthew Stanmyre
STAR-LEDGER STAFF

Photos by Tony Kurdzik
STAR-LEDGER STAFF



Eryka Underwood studies the skin grafts that cover her hands. Below, she waits on the sideline last month to enter her first game since being badly burned Nov. 2.

AT HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN COLUMBIA, Md., three dozen bobbing ponytails burst across Field No. 1. They are stretching, chattering and clapping as they prepare for another game in another soccer tournament over another Memorial Day weekend.

In the anxious moments before the visitors from New Jersey take on a team from Frederick, Md., the teenage girls are sizing up each other.

Before long, most of the eyes lock on the girl from Union County wearing No. 16 for F.C. Copa. Like the others, she's athletic, lean and long-legged. But jagged patches of skin mark her thighs. Deep scars of purple, pink and red cover her hands. And a bulky black brace protects her left knee.

She looks more like a wounded soldier than one of New Jersey's best young athletes.

As Eryka Underwood, the 16-year-old defender, squints in the early morning light she knows she will have to get used to the stares.

The third-degree burns that nearly killed her 208 days ago have left their mark. On her and others. None of that is supposed to matter this morning. Today is about new beginnings and the miraculous possibilities of the human body, which in seven months can be pushed from near-death to elite athletic competition. Eryka will not dwell on the other girls—carefree, unscarred and beautiful in a different way than she now sees herself. She will not think about the ripped knee ligament that ended her dominant sophomore season at Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark, or the backyard bonfire that left her in a coma.

SEE UNDERWOOD, PAGE 22



First Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Star-Ledger

“Eryka’s Fight”

“Last Push to Greatness”

“Hoops ‘Schools’ Stretching the Learning Curve”

Matthew Stanmyre

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION



Better Newspaper Contest 2011

D11: Reporting and Writing - Business and Financial Writing Portfolio

NJPA Awards

D11: Reporting and Writing - Business and Financial Writing Portfolio

Hal Reel, founder and president of Reel Entertainment Group, creator of World Café Live in Philadelphia and Wilmington, Del., meets with Vicki Price of The Buccini Pollin Group Inc., project manager of World Café Live at The Queen. The two are standing in the newly refurbished Queen building in Wilmington.

Staff photos by Tom Hawk



CAN THE GREEN BE MADE INTO A QUEEN?

The future of the venerable Woodbury landmark might be found in Delaware

By Rob Scott

rscott@njpress.com

Hal Reel walks me through the halls of the new World Café Live at The Queen in Wilmington, Del., less than 10 days before it opens its doors to the public.

He leads me through the dining area, the kitchen, the upstairs banquet room, the recording booth and the 400-seat main concert hall, directing my eyes to admire the freshness of it all. Everything clean, new and orderly - other

than the tangle of wires on the stage and in the booth.

But I keep trying to picture what it looked like before all this: the rotted wood, chipped and crumbling masonry and smudgy, broken windows of the heretofore-vacant building.

The building - which spent a third of its life as a hotel, another third as a theater, and the last third as an empty eyesore on Wilmington's Market Street - was "like a hockey player with busted teeth" when contractors came in in 2009

and gutted it, says Reel, founder of the original World Café Live in Philadelphia.

It's taken about four years and \$25 million, but Reel is ready to unveil World Café's sister location, expanding his own brand and injecting new life into a once-depressed downtown.

So why should anyone in Woodbury, or Gloucester County for that matter, care about a music club in Delaware?

Because with the right combination of entrepreneurial wherewithal, commu-

(See GREEN, Page A-3)



At left, the G.G. Green building is a vacant 20,000-square-foot former opera house/theater that occupies half a block of Woodbury's downtown. A performing arts center and television studio/media center are currently proposed for the site. At right, the new World Café Live at The Queen in Wilmington bears striking similarities to the Green building's situation.

Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

Gloucester County Times

"Can the Green Be the Queen"
"On the Road to Recovery"
"County Interrupted"

Rob Scott

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D11: Reporting and Writing - Business and Financial Writing Portfolio



BY PEG QUANN - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Standing in front of the Johnson's Corner Market in Medford are (from left) Eric Johnson, son Gilbert and founder William Johnson. Eric and son Gilbert have made agri-tourism a major part of their 108-acre farm at the corner of Hartford and Church roads. It is known for its hayrides, its large tractor that children can try out, and its well-stocked farmers market.

Agri-tourism helping farmers

To supplement their income, some are hosting petting zoos, farm markets, holiday light shows and pick-your-own parties.

By PEG QUANN
STAFF WRITER

The rhythm of the seasons comes to a peak for farmers in the fall. It's not just harvest time, but harvest festival time as well.

Driving hayrides and watching hundreds of people watch your pumpkin patch for the perfect jack 'o lantern is as much a part of farming for some farmers today as tending to those ripening crops.

Old MacDonald might feel lost amid the crowds.

It's all part of agri-tourism, a term that has mushroomed into big business locally. The strong value of land has made it scarcer for farming, so farmers are turning to country-style entertainers to generate income. They're hosting petting zoos, farm markets, holiday light shows and pick-your-own parties to supplement their income.

According to the National Agricultural Statistical Service, agri-tourism has made an impact in New Jersey as a whole and in Burlington County in recent years.

In 2002, the state had 2,850 farms generating \$37.3 million in income. But only 204 were involved with agri-tourism, bringing in \$1.2 million in income. By 2007, the last year for which statistics are available,

there were 3,337 total farms, generating \$92.7 million in total income, but the 327 involved in agri-tourism were bringing in \$24.7 million of that amount.

"While data on agri-tourism in Burlington County in 2002 wasn't available, by 2007, the county was generating \$1.9 million, more than the entire state did five years earlier.

"Land values in New Jersey are very high," said Brian Schilling, assistant professor in the Department of Agriculture, Food and Resource Economics at Rutgers University in New Brunswick.

Ironically, the over-stretching housing developments that have made land so scarce and expensive for farmers have provided them with plenty of customers who fuel the agri-tourism industry.

"The silver lining is that we have a very large, affluent consumer base ... The market is right here in the farmers' backyard," Schilling said.

Schilling said that when they sell their harvest wholesale, farmers make an average of 17 cents of each \$1 the food generates at retail. However, if they sell their produce at a farmer's market, they get to keep the whole dollar, rather than sharing it with transportation and processing workers, as well as the supermarkets.

The Johnson brothers, Eric and Peter, have made agri-tourism a major part of their 108-acre farm at the corner of Hartford and Church roads in Medford. The Johnson's Corner Market is known for its hayrides, its large

tractor that children can try out, and its well-stocked farmers market.

But it wasn't always that way. When the brothers' parents, William and Betty, bought their farm in 1951, they had just gotten married, and went into traditional wholesale farming. Sweet corn was their specialty.

In 1960, Betty decided to put a wagon by the roadside to sell some corn. By 1965, the couple had set up a store that was expanded in 1989 and again in 2007.

"Eric and I graduated from college in the early '60s. As we were coming back to the farm, (we) realized wholesale wasn't the future of farming here, so we switched our focus to retail," Eric Johnson said.

It's not easy for some farmers to get retail, he added. They're used to their independence.

"We really made it a focus for us. (We) enjoy having people on the farm. A lot of farmers take the attitude that customers are an inconvenience. We've realized we need to be good hosts and provide a great experience for our customers. It's not what farmers are used to doing. We had to work on hospitality," Eric Johnson said.

"It's a lot of work," he added. "It's a lot different than when Mom and Dad used to farm -- selling from Fourth of July 'til Labor Day. Now it's August to Christmas."

And the farm is busy seven days a week.

Mark Robson, dean of Agricultural and Urban Programs at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, calls

the new type of agriculture "survival farming." His family farmed in North Hanover Township for years, but when his father and brother both died in 2006, the farm was sold.

"While consumers will only pay so much for tomatoes they can get year-round at a supermarket, Robson said there's still a niche for farm markets because there's "no produce like local produce."

And farmers who offer gourmet homemade products will have a following, he said.

For a farmer to do well at agri-tourism, "you have to have personality," Robson said, echoing Johnson's customer. "Not all farmers do well in a public setting."

Schilling noted that for all the criticism of New Jersey's tax laws which allow property owners who sell \$300 a year in agricultural products from five acres or more to receive a reduced farm tax assessment, it is vital for the state's continued agricultural business.

"In my opinion, the farm assessment is the absolute cornerstone of agricultural activity in New Jersey. Without it, you wouldn't be able to farm profitably in New Jersey," he said.

"You simply couldn't afford the taxes." Robson recalled one farmer whose son enrolled at Rutgers. He told him his son "knew how to grow peaches. I need you to teach my boy how to make money growing peaches."

"It's right," Robson said. "It's a business."

Robson, 609-271-6057 and 609-271-6058; pquinn@aes.rutgers.edu

Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

Burlington County Times

"Agri-Tourism Helping Farmers"
"Nursing a New Career"
"It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas"

Peg Quann

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D11: Reporting and Writing - Business and Financial Writing Portfolio

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Daily Journal

“UEZ Loans Pay Off for Vineland”

“Market Offers Tasty Preview”

“Fallout Uncertain

If Landis Theater Closes”

Kristi Funderburk

UEZ loans pay off for Vineland

But some businesses have fallen behind on payments. For example:



HANGAR 84

Hangar 84 is behind on payments. It borrowed \$235,000 in real estate loans and a \$47,250 equipment loan. Its last payment for the real estate loans was November 2010 and its last payment for the equipment loan was March 25.



UNIVERSITY IMAGING CENTER

University Imaging on Sherman Avenue is behind on payment. It borrowed \$425,000 and made its last loan payment in 2007.



RENNOC

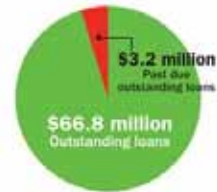
Vineland built Rennoc. \$4.57 million but was able to recover only half of that amount by getting control of the building after Rennoc closed in 2008.

Source: Vineland Office of Economic Development

Since 1985, Vineland has issued \$154 million in loans and only lost \$4.9 million of that total because it couldn't recover that money from the borrower, despite taking legal action.



Of nearly \$70 million in Vineland's outstanding Urban Enterprise Zone loans, just 4.5 percent of that amount is past due, as of late April.



Staff reporter: Lee Moore; staff photos: Cindy Lane

In 26 years, 3 percent of loans reached default

By **KRISTI FUNDERBURK**
Staff Writer

funderburk@thedailyjournal.com

VINELAND — The successes and setbacks of the city's Urban Enterprise Zone loan program can be measured by its delinquency report.

The report acts as a snapshot of every borrower who is behind in payments at a given moment, from those working diligently

to get current with their payments to those who've entered a legal phase and may never repay their loan.

As of the end of April, the report shows nine borrowers — including such businesses as the Hangar 84 downtown concert venue and University Imaging Center on Sherman Avenue — that are all behind in their loan payments, but in various

stages of delinquency.

But those businesses are by far the exception, rather than the rule.

Overall, participants in Vineland's UEZ loan program defaulted on just 32 percent of the hundreds of loans issued in the past 26 years, according to Frank DiGiorgio of the city's Economic Development Office.

Since 1985, Vineland has made 383 loans total-

ing \$184,281,000, not including smaller loans, such as those offered for facade renovations, DiGiorgio said.

In that same time, the city has charged off \$49 million, meaning that's the amount city officials never recovered from borrowers despite legal action.

Please see LOANS on A12



D11: Reporting and Writing - Business and Financial Writing Portfolio

Third Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Philadelphia Inquirer

"Fearing Layoff"

"Father and Son, Out of Work"

"A Report on Work,
Many Still Searching"

Jane M. Von Bergen

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

Out of frying pan, into the fire. Fearing layoff, she jumped too soon

The 27th in a series of 60 profiles of the unemployed.

By Jane M. Von Bergen
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Recreation therapist Patricia Thieringer, 55, loved her job at Magee Rehabilitation Hospital, where she organized rugby, basketball, soccer, and track-and-field teams for people disabled with spinal injuries and amputations.

"I got to see the strengths of people," she said. "I had the least-sad part of the rehab experience."

But in 2007, the hospital began a huge round of layoffs, and Thieringer feared that soon she'd be among the unemployed. She couldn't afford that — not with a special-needs daughter and a husband in a wheelchair, who worked only sporadically as a substitute teacher.

"I wasn't unhappy," she said, "but I was scared."

So she jumped ship to Haddon Township's school dis-

trict and municipality, where she served as a community activities director, organizing adult, after-school, and community programs.

"I was thinking that school districts are recessionproof," she said. "When I heard that our district was going to be losing \$4 million in state aid, I knew, due to my lack of tenure, that I would lose my job."

"It is so ironic that I jumped out of the frying pan into the fire."

Another irony: Magee didn't have more layoffs. Had she stayed, she

would probably still be there. The layoffs at the district did more than put Thieringer out of work. They dashed the dreams of her husband, Joe, a medical-supply salesman who had returned to school with the hopes of teaching.

Had the economy been different, he might have moved into a full-time slot.

Thieringer lost her school district job in August. In October, her husband returned to

Patricia Thieringer

Hometown: Haddon Township.

Profession: Recreation therapist, community activities director.

Experience: Managed public relations, publications, school-age child care, adult school and summer programs. Worked in rehabilitation and hospital settings to organize wheelchair teams and set up competitive leagues and championships in the Mid-Atlantic. Organized peer-mentoring programs. Selected, trained, and supervised therapists, interns, instructors, child-care workers, coaches, and volunteers. Founded two newsletters.

Education: Rutgers University — enrolled in the master's program in social work. Temple University — bachelor's degree in recreation therapy.

E-mail address: pthieringer@comcast.net.

For a resume, audio clip, and more, go to www.philly.com/jobless60



60 Profiles
IN
60 Days

his old field, landing a job as a medical-supply salesman.

At Magee, Thieringer became convinced of the value of peer-to-peer mentoring.

The athletes who participated in her programs appreciated the relationships with the other athletes. They encouraged one another, sharing tips about how to adjust to their new and more difficult lives.

"The beauty of sports is the mentoring experience," said Thieringer, a runner who loves to kayak on the Cooper River near her Haddon Township home.

Thieringer now relies on peer mentoring in her job search. She belongs to sever-

al groups whose members help one another with encouragement, job leads, and feedback on resumes and interviewing.

"I've learned so much from each person's successes and mistakes," she said.

Meanwhile, with a son in college, the family budget is stretched, despite unemployment benefits and her part-time tax-preparation job. Her daughter needs hearing aids of a particular type, but Thieringer can't afford them. "Our savings have dwindled."

Contact staff writer Jane M. Von Bergen at 215-854-2769 or jvonbergen@phillynews.com.

D11: Reporting and Writing - Business and Financial Writing Portfolio

Monopoly lost: Atlantic City's rise and fall
Monopoly lost: Struggling Atlantic City
belatedly looks to fix mistakes of past and stem
slide

By WAYNE PARRY
Associated Press

¶ ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) _ Four years ago, some Atlantic City casino customers were shelling out \$1,000 for a brownie sprinkled with edible gold dust in a Baccarat crystal they could take home.

¶ Nowadays, some wait until 11 p.m. to eat so they can get a steak dinner for \$2.99.

¶ At the beginning of 2007, Atlantic City's 11 casinos were at the top of a wave of prosperity. Starting with the 1978 opening of Resorts, the nation's first casino outside Nevada, Atlantic City for years was the only place to play slots, cards, dice or roulette in the eastern half of the United States. The cash kept pouring in, the busloads of visitors kept coming and the revenue charts went one way: straight up.

¶ And then, they didn't. Now, battered by competition from casinos all around it, Atlantic City is in a fight for its very survival.

¶ The resort is furiously trying to remake itself into a vacation destination that happens to have gambling, but with no guarantee it has a winning hand even as other threats loom,

Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Associated Press

"Monopoly Lost: Atlantic City's Rise and Fall"

"Atlantic City Tries Cheap Lures to Hook Gamblers"

"Atlantic City Casino Workers Afraid Steep Pay Cuts Will Knock Them Out of the Middle Class"

Wayne Parry

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D11: Reporting and Writing - Business and Financial Writing Portfolio

SPECIAL REPORT Inside Johnson & Johnson

CRACKS IN THE EMPIRE

Trusted company faces recalls, plant shutdown and court verdicts
How did the pharmaceuticals giant stumble so fast?

MR. WELDON

Johnson & Johnson Chairman and CEO William C. Weldon prepares to testify on Capitol Hill in Washington last year on the recall of talc-based products by Johnson & Johnson's Medical Consumer Healthcare. (AP Photo/Chris Wedel)

\$821 MILLION IN VERDICTS, FINES AND SETTLEMENTS

Oct. 5, 2019: An \$81 million fine and a misdemeanor guilty plea for marketing the heart drug Biacore.

June 3, 2019: Found liable for a jury, a \$81 settlement was ordered by a South Carolina judge to pay \$121 million for deceptive promotion of the mental health drug Risperdal.

April 8, 2019: A \$7 million settlement to settle claims of talc use under the Avandia drug program (Av), including making aid-backs to help officials in the United Nations stop the food program.

Oct. 16, 2018: Ordered by a lawsuit jury to pay \$700 million for defrauding the state Medicaid program with the mental health drug Risperdal. J&J is appealing the verdict.

April 26, 2018: A \$6.1 million criminal fine, a \$75.4 million settlement and a misdemeanor guilty plea to prosecute criminal and civil claims of illegal promotion of the epilepsy drug Topamax between 2002 and 2007.

Source: J&J public statements and court documents.

Since 2008, Johnson & Johnson has recalled a number of its most popular pain relievers, including and non-aspirin Tylenol. In this photo, made for the business industry.

ABOUT THIS SERIES

As the media spent its months covering thousands of lawsuits and embarrassing stories of poison across the country in our search for the truth, we decided to take a closer look at the company.

Coming Monday: Inside J&J's most drug production plant, shut down in 2019 after federal inspectors found problems.

APP.COM/JNJ

Find links to court documents, government reports, company recalls and other resources.

See 'MISDEMEANOR,' Page A10

By Michael L. Diamond
Staff Writer

Johnson & Johnson, the gold standard for American corporations, has been accused for its decision to a single business philosophy: Put your customers first. No matter the cost, and profits will follow.

That idea, found everywhere from government to the halls of J&J's New Brunswick headquarters in its annual report sent to shareholders, serves as a guiding light for its tens of thousands of employees around the globe.

Yet when the largest health care company in the world finds itself finding off officials who say the company puts quality second to shareholders' never-ending quest for high or quarterly profits.

In J&J's profits last year swelled to a record \$15 billion, the company has been found liable or reached settlements totaling \$700 million in taxpayer health care insurance claims, paid \$70 million in outside foreign bribery charges, been sued by consumers who say certain J&J hip replacement devices failed inside their bodies, and seen the shutdown of a major plant that produces Tylenol and other best-selling pain relievers because it failed to meet federal safety standards.

And that was just for the last two years.

The company also faces the prospect of paying billions or more to settle outstanding government fraud claims stemming from what the government says is J&J's questionable marketing of at least one brand name drug.

"There are so many mistakes being made here, it is shocking," said Elliot Schreiber, a marketing professor at Drexel University's LeBow College of Business in Philadelphia, an expert in brands and corporate reputations.

J&J Chairman and Chief Executive Officer William C. Weldon, 61, through a spokesman, declined to comment for this story. But he told shareholders last spring in the company's annual report that, after facing serious news in 2018, the J&J CEO and company would restore quality and customer confidence, and find new products to meet growing health needs.

"We are deeply committed to the people who use our products, to our employees, to the communities in which we live, and to you, our loyal shareholders," he said.

First Place, Daily Over 45,000

Asbury Park Press

"Cracks in the Empire: Inside J&J"

"Is State's Unemployment Program Too Generous?"

"Company to Pay \$9.5M for Bankrupt Steakhouse Chain"

Michael L. Diamond

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION



Better Newspaper Contest 2011

D12: Reporting and Writing - News Column

NJPA Awards

D12: Reporting and Writing - News Column

Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

It's me — Irene; just give me a chance to explain

Dear New Jersey:
I am sorry for savaging your coastline and inlets, your cities and hamlets, your basements and businesses this past week. But it's not like I have much control over what I do — or where I do it.
We hurricanes come from a very big family; you've run through your alphabet many times over naming all the relatives who have stormed across the Caribbean and up the Atlantic.
And before you arrived, building airports and tunnels and houses and roads, we thought of ourselves as beneficial — you know, like island-building volcanoes and canyon-carving erosion.
Meteorologists — whatever they are — believe we play a crucial role in maintaining Earth's heat balance, upon which the well-being of all life depends. We do this by pulling heat and moisture away from the equator. Without us, the tropics could overheat while the poles would go into deep freeze.
If those areas were to expand, the



James Flachsenhaar

moderate zones where you like to live would get smaller and smaller. And from what I saw, New Jersey is crowded enough already.
We also scrape sand from beaches, re-arrange coral and re-shape shoreline dunes.
Not so hot if you built your home or dock a boat there, but vital for these dynamic systems to rejuvenate.
In many places, we deliver as much as a quarter of all rainfall, which is good for agriculture and reservoirs. Which brings me to another point: Your state was pretty saturated when I got here.
A good soaking rain would have caused at least some of the flooding you experienced. I gave you that and then some.

Although it's not my department, as a weather insider I can tell you this: A warming globe is a wetter globe. And did I hear right: Your positions on global warming are often informed by political philosophy and not science? Hoo-boy.
Let me just share some lyrics I overheard at a Jackson Browne concert I scuttled at the Garden State Arts Center in '78:
Now you can hold on steady, try to get ready, but everybody's gonna get wet. Don't think it won't happen just because it hasn't happened yet.
Anyway, I wrote to apologize, not to give free advice — except for this: From shifting continental plates to ocean floors tilted upward into mountain ranges, Earth is an interconnected network of vast beauty and sophistication. And like most complicated equipment, it comes with a user's manual, which some of you seem to have misplaced.
Just as you wouldn't stick your finger into an open flame, it's not a best practice

to build on the banks of lowland rivers and in flood plains.
I mean, it's only a matter of time before these systems do what they always do: overflow, flood.
Likewise, a society so dependent on electricity might consider burying those cables instead of stringing them up on poles, which makes it easier for hurricanes like me to knock them down.
On the brighter side, I saw a few silver linings in my miserable wake. Some of you re-connected with neighbors, sharing food and elbow grease as your kids picked up branches.
My only regret? I missed the Atlanta headquarters of the Weather Channel. In my view, their hysterical, worst-case forecasts give weather a bad name. You know — like Irene.
James Flachsenhaar is general manager/editor of the Daily Record in Morristown: 973-428-6601; jflachsenhaar@njpressmedia.com.

Daily Record

"It's Me – Irene"

"Running with the Big Dogs?"

"Unplugged We're Just Another Zombie Movie"

James Flachsenhaar

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D12: Reporting and Writing - News Column

As delays continue, so does suffering

The suffering continues. It's remedy? Well, it's contained in a document signed into law 18 long months ago by then-New Jersey Gov. Jon S. Corzine on his final day in office.

And yet that remedy, officially known as the Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act, remains out of reach, on a high shelf in the office of Gov. Chris Christie, whose repeated delays in implementing the program guarantee more days of sheer agony for the seriously ill constituents he's sworn to represent.

Since the historic day Corzine put pen to paper, allowing chronically ill patients legal access to marijuana to help dull their pain, the Christie administration has dragged its feet and, in many ways, retreated on the matter.

Christie has tweaked, tinkered and delayed the original law to his liking, to the point where one wonders if his grand plan is to delay it to death. For example, he's won a battle to reduce the potency of the drug that would be available to those in need and place restraints on obtaining and distributing it.

And the suffering continues. Five hundred and 53 days after the law was enacted.

And one year after the most stringently regulated medical marijuana program in America was to begin.

Unconscionable.

The governor continues to drag his feet, so much so that he's just

Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

Burlington County Times

"As Delays Continue, So Does Suffering"

"Where Is the Hatred Coming From?"

"Medford Mayor's Response Is Curious"

Phil Gianficaro

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D12: Reporting and Writing - News Column

Discussing prejudice in the Pines

Ash Road was quiet and empty on a Saturday in Bass River, in the Pinelands of South Jersey. The calm belied a jarring event last week, when an 8-foot cross was burned in a nearby field off Route 9, illuminating the night sky.

Three white men were arrested, two from neighboring Tuckerton: Nicholas Comis, 22, of Ash Road, and Christopher Hurrell, 21, of nearby Birch Road. Also charged was Daniel Enders, 21, of the New Gretna section of Bass River.

While investigators have not said who the intended target was, neighborhood residents don't hesitate.

"Black family, house behind that one," said a woman on Jericho Road. "Moved in maybe six months ago. I haven't seen them or talked to them since they been here, but everyone knows they're here."

Everyone knows about the cross burning, too, and no one — from Tuckerton to Bass River and points between — is surprised.

"We're in the South here, and we don't like Northerners," said a laughing Carol Carrey, a stylist at a hair salon on Route 9. Carrey's Bronx accent is strong, 42 years after she moved here.

"Pineys, that's what they're called down here. You should see the trucks running around here with Confederate flags, all the time," she said. "We have very few black people down here, very few. When people talk about the 'white beaches of Long Beach Island,' that's exactly what they mean."

Bass River is 78 square miles of mostly rural woodlands that dissolve into lagoons and the back bays of the Atlantic Ocean.

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

Burlington County Times

"Discussing Prejudice in the Pines"

"Living with Ellis Parker's Ghost"

"In the Pines, She's Moving On"

John Mullane

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D12: Reporting and Writing - News Column

Getting no answer(s) at Camden tax office

Camden is so dysfunctional that its employees don't pick up the phone when people call to pay the city money or make improvements.

To check repeated complaints from readers, I made several calls Monday to Camden's tax collection office at (856) 757-7003. As readers, Realtors and two city tax employees described, calls to the collector's office can ring forever. No one picks up and there's no voicemail.

I went to that office on Monday to see why a city stuck on financial life support is pulling such a vital plug.

Inside, I found a line of Camden taxpayers, some struggling to walk, others pushing baby strollers. A city employee stood up from a public seat and returned to a lonesome post behind a pane of glass. This employee fronted empty desks that used to be occupied by several laid-off employees.

I watched from a public seat and introduced myself to the woman next to me. She was South Jersey Realtor Jamillah Gray, of Century 21. Gray described how people should not call this office, which is charged to increase city revenues, decrease tax liens and administer payment plans for residents who can prove a financial hardship.

"There's no one to pick up. It's Camden," she said.

So I took out my cellphone and tried calling the office one more time. Gray and I listened to unanswered rings for longer than a minute. A couple of employees circled behind the glass but didn't move toward the ringing phone.

Gray chuckled lightly. "See? This is what happens here."

For Camden residents trying to pay taxes, the city doesn't have any option other than to come in person — which probably explains the high volume of delinquent property owners who live out of state and haven't been tracked down. Tax

Third Place, Daily Over 45,000

Courier-Post

"Getting No Answer(s) at Camden Tax Office"

"Christie's Comments Infuriating"

"Police Data Contradicts District's Crime Stats"

Jeremy Rosen

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D12: Reporting and Writing - News Column

Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

Coordinate law enforcement

Young toughs are giving a black eye to the Center City experience.

I fell in love with Center City the first time I walked up Walnut Street.

Arriving in Philadelphia from Syracuse, N.Y., where the drab downtown emptied out after 5, I eagerly embraced my new city's cosmopolitan vitality. Three decades later, I still do.

But lately when I hop on the Speed Line at Westmont and head downtown, an unwelcome guest comes along for the ride.

Fear.

This feels like a confession of uncoolness, or an admission I've be-



Kevin Riordan
The Jersey Side

come comfortably suburban or, worse, hopelessly middle-age.

Which I can own.

What I can't accept is that my friends and I could be in danger after enjoying a great meal on 13th Street.

Or that I could be set upon by some young creep just because I'm a gray-haired guy standing on a busy sidewalk near Juniper and Walnut, as happened during the latest "flash mob."

I know very well that Philadelphia has never been Oz, and that being there, particularly in the evening, has always required a certain attentiveness.

I remember the mini-riots on Chestnut Street during the 1980s, that crack-crazed decade during which my car was broken into multi-

See **FEAR** on B4

The Philadelphia Inquirer

"Coordinate Law Enforcement"

"Sadness cover Rutgers' Webcam Spying Trial"

"With Christie out, No Fear of Voting for Him"

Kevin Riordan

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Star-Ledger
SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2011

"WORSE STILL, THERE'S A NEW KIND OF KILLER ON THE STREET. Young men in their teens and early 20s, with no regard for life, not even their own, carrying weapons so powerful they can't control the guns as they buck and jump in their hands. The number of innocent victims — mothers and children caught in crossfire — is what chills the community."

MARK DI IONNO, WITH THE HOMICIDE SQUAD

THE KILLING CYCLE

THE INSIDE STORY OF THE ESSEX HOMICIDE SQUAD



© 2011 Editor of the Essex County Homicide Task Force looks for evidence on South 200 Street in Newark, not far from where 40-year-old Tony Harris was slain and two others wounded on July 14. About 50 bullets were fired from an assault weapon and two handguns.

FOR THREE WEEKS IN JULY a newly formed homicide task force in Essex County permitted Star-Ledger columnist Mark Di Ionno and photographers Aristide Economopoulos and Andrew Mills unprecedented access to the detectives' work. They hid nothing: Crime scenes, strategy, lab work, theories and solutions, interrogations and arrests were all open and uncensored. From this access, the reporting team has painted an inside story of violence and detective work most readers will not have heard or seen. Our goal was to present a story that would expand the public's understanding of the community crisis that is urban crime. To mirror the harsh reality, some tough details are included. The language is rough at times, the scenes sometimes brutal, the views of some of the characters unsparring and raw. The photos are graphic.

D12: Reporting and Writing – News Column

First Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Star-Ledger

"The Killing Cycle"

"A Heart-Rending Question for
a Fallen Cop: 'Why, Daddy?'"

"Some Students Actually
worked to Fund that
\$32,000 Payday"

Mark Di Ionno

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION



Better Newspaper Contest 2011

D13: Reporting and Writing - Opinion Column

NJPA Awards

D13: Reporting and Writing - Opinion Column

Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

It shouldn't take death to appreciate life

The above the lip stud piercing shimmered against her white skin.

Her facial accessory looked purple, other times blue, and even raspberry colored depending upon the sunlight's reflection.

Rebecca had a tattoo with an inscription of R.I.P. on her left shoulder, a remembrance of her grandmother who died of throat and lung cancer.

"Her name was Ruth but I called her Oma," Rebecca offered.

Rebecca flicked her cigarette butt onto a sewer grate overloaded with paper, a plastic bottle and other debris. The tall woman and her black female friend walked down Walnut Avenue then turned right onto Garfield Avenue, where two police patrol cars were stationed just outside Garfield Avenue Park.

Monday's late-night shooting of Deon Harris, 39, and a female companion, had produced tumultuous minutes but Garfield Avenue delivered calm after the storm yesterday morning as cold death mixed with steamy hot temperatures. Rebecca broke yesterday morning silence with condemnation.

"Nobody should die on the streets like this.

We're all neighbors here. This may not be the best place in the United States to live, but stuff like this should never happen. I just don't know why people can't get along," she said.

Before Harris got shot, young men had waged war on a nearby basketball court in a park outlined by red, white, yellow, orange, blue and green pennants.

Now, small yellow cones identified either blood or bullet casings. They dotted the macadam landscape and one person said more cones littered a back alley.

If the cones identified bullet fragments then this

seemed like overkill. There were more than the engraved hop scotch blocks on the blacktop.

A similar scene existed in Prospect Village where two patrol cars were parked. Patrol officers awaited an arrival of police detectives, some who had left Garfield Avenue for a crosstown ride to Prospect Village.

Yellow crime scene tape crisscrossed a courtyard like a Cat's Cradle in a place that seemed disconnected from murder. Homicide seemed out of place here where one residence included an aqua-colored beach umbrella, potted flowers and plants, and other outdoor decorations. The entire courtyard, parking lot, and lawns exhibited care, unlike Garfield Avenue, where trash, boarded up houses, and blight ran roughshod over block after block.

Depression is king on Garfield Avenue, as residents shadow box demons, addiction, unemployment, and fatal feelings in a neighborhood that time forgot.

It may be a product of urban legend but some believe that hot weather upticks violent crime and even murder. Maybe it's the closeness of living quarters, proximity of despair, or a stifling heat that chokes the living daylight out of life like an emphysema attack.

"Rest assured, there's probably going to be some type of retaliation for this. Young men these days don't let things slide," Rebecca's companion said.

"You know some of these kids from when they are this big to this big," she said, holding her hand from child height then moving it upward.

"And then one day they come by and put a bullet in your ass."

L.A. Parker is a Trentonian columnist and staff writer. His column appears on Tuesday and Thursday. Reach him at laparker@Trentonian.com.



The Trentonian

"Shouldn't Take Death
to Appreciate Life"

"First Taste of Death"

"Dear Terrance"

L.A. Parker

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D13: Reporting and Writing - Opinion Column

Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

Examining a painful history fraught with transgressions

By Fakhruddin Ahmed

There are cogent reasons why roughly half of Americans, according to polls, harbor an unfavorable opinion of Islam. Besides perpetrating the most horrendous crime on American soil on 9/11, Muslims have been responsible for some pretty ugly incidents lately.

The Ayatollah Khomeini challenged one of the West's core values, freedom of speech, by issuing a "fatwa," or religious decree, in 1989, for the murder of Salman Rushdie over his controversial book, "The Satanic Verses."

The attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, were quickly followed by Muslim terror attacks in Bali, Indonesia (2002), Madrid (2004), London (2005) and Mumbai (2008). And when some Muslims went berserk, burning and boycotting in reaction to the Danish cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad in 2006, the rest of the world held its collective breath in consternation.

Muslim terrorists' attempts to blow up planes, airports,

tunnels and subways in America were thwarted. And if Qur'ans had actually been burned by Pastor Terry Jones in Florida last fall, as he threatened to do, some Muslims would have reacted by creating mayhem. Clearly, there is a less-enlightened, fanatically violent underbelly at work in the name of Islam. Understandably, the Judeo-Christian polemic against Islam centers on terrorism.

Submerged in an all-encompassing anti-Muslim hysteria, when non-Muslim Americans see signs of increasing Muslim presence around them, they feel besieged by an intimidating culture. That America's complexion is transforming from shades of white to brown is difficult for many Americans to stomach; when some of those brown faces belong to Muslims, the transformation becomes downright frightening.

With no prominent Muslim-American voice to assuage those apprehensions, fear begets fear, spawning more virulent anti-Muslim vitriol. Are Muslims, their religion

and their culture a mortal threat to America? Is this the vaunted "Clash of Civilizations" between the West and Islam, as Harvard's Samuel Huntington had predicted in 1993?

Civilizational narratives are rarely one-dimensional. Western democracies, especially Britain and France, exploited and repressed most Muslim nations as colonial powers over the centuries, souring Muslim taste for democracy.

Conceivably, America's more recent interventions in the Islamic world are fueling Amercaphobia. The invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan, with the concomitant collateral death of thousands of civilians, have exacerbated Muslim-American relations, as have the al Qaeda-seeking drone attacks inside Pakistan that inadvertently kill civilians and whose legality stands on shaky grounds.

We may consider ourselves to be the "good guys" eliminating the "bad guys" before they attack us; but to the child of the civilian we kill in Afghanistan, we are the bad guys. He or she

may vow to exact vengeance.

Quid pro quo is in vogue in international relations. America garnered the Muslim world's gratitude when it rushed to bolster the Afghans after the Soviet invasion of 1979 (which led to Muslim participation in Gulf War I in 1991), and liberated the Bosnians (1995) and the Kosovars (1999) from the Serbs. Muslims were not thrilled, however, when America attacked Afghanistan in 2001 (and has occupied it since); the neoconservatives fabricated WMD "evidence" to facilitate President George W. Bush's attack of Iraq in 2003; and America started waging an undeclared war inside Pakistan.

Excluded from the debate about them inside America, and reduced to passive observers, Muslim-Americans are chagrined at the spectacle unfolding right before their eyes. Right-wing Republicans see no downside to demonizing the Muslims. It energizes their base, carries no political penalty, and forces the Democrats to defend a progressively unpopular minority.

Democratic defense of Muslim-Americans has not been stellar either, perhaps because they, too, secretly covet the bigot vote. Deprecators realize that Muslim-Americans, who number only 7 million, cannot retaliate electorally, making Muslim-baiting a win-win proposition.

Sarah Palin tweeted last July, imploring "peaceful Muslims" to "refute" the proposed New York City mosque near Ground Zero. Other Republicans and some Democrats jumped on the bandwagon, attaching intellectual heft to an originally ignorant far-right-fringe viewpoint.

A "moderate" Muslim is being redefined as one who condemns no demand. Detractors are not interested in Muslim points of view; they want Muslim condemnation of Islam. For them, Islam-bashing is the new normal, the new acceptable form of racism. If any other ethnic or religious group was so maliciously mauled, the attackers would be branded incurable racists.

What astonishes Muslim-Americans is that those

hurling imprecations at them on television, on the radio and in the blogosphere do not seem to care that Muslim-Americans are watching and listening. It's as though Muslim-Americans are apparitions that do not really exist or have feelings. Muslims feel like screaming: "Hey, I am in the room. Stop backbiting!"

The virus incubated by right-wing bloggers Pam Geller and Robert Spencer has been spread so far and wide by Fox News that all of America is now infected with an anti-Muslim epidemic. It hurts Muslim-Americans to see their patriotism questioned, their faith defined, distorted and defiled beyond recognition by anti-Muslim bigots through blatant lies. It is un-American to attempt to sacrifice an entire America-loving community, already reeling under vicious attacks, at the altar of higher television ratings.

Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed is a Rhodes scholar. Originally from Bangladesh, he lives in West Windsor.

The Times

"Examining a Painful History Fraught with Transgressions"
"Common Misconceptions About Muslim Americans"
"Strong Partnership Awaits America and Muslim World"

Fakhruddin Ahmed

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D13: Reporting and Writing - Opinion Column

Passing a law won't make kids safer

Let's agree that the world has more than its fair share of creepers. For the uninitiated, creepers are something similar to predators. We read about them all the time. The specific type of creeper we're talking about today is among the worst, those who prey upon children. They collect filthy photographs, make scary overtures and do whatever they can to satisfy their own perverted carnal desires at the expense of young innocents.



JOSEPH P. OWENS
Letter from the Editor

So it's understandable that parents want to protect their children.

Unfortunately, protecting your kids is more difficult than passing a law.

Parents in Ringwood, N.J., were rightfully up in arms last year when some 63-year-old creeper was seen videotaping

girls from ages 8 to 10 at a local swim meet. When the cops tapped him on the shoulder, he told them he thought the girls were sexy.

What that guy needs is a knuckle sandwich. Instead, he was cited for disorderly conduct and trespassing, charges that eventually were dropped.

A bill under consideration in the New Jersey Legislature would ban photographs or recordings of children when "a reasonable parent or guardian would not expect his child to be the subject of such reproduction." No action has been taken by the Assembly Judiciary Committee, most likely because at least some of the legislators recognize the measure as wildly unconstitutional.

Of course we'd like to legislate our way into a safety net that keeps creepers from getting their jollies at the expense of children. If there were an easy and legal way to end child molestation or abuse, every right-minded person would vote to make it happen today.

Unfortunately, there is not.

Consider the ramifications. You're at your child's T-ball game, all worked up about little Johnny's first at-bat. You have the video camera rolling because you want to send images to grandma and grandpa and Aunt Sue. Of course, you get a shot of the pitcher and you also capture an image of the catcher after Johnny swings mightily and misses.

You see now a law breaker.

About 10 years later, you're out on the lawn taking pictures of Johnny and Bonnie and six of their friends as they are posing before climbing into the limo on the way to the high school prom. Of course you get a nice photograph of the whole group.

You see now a two-time loser.

You say a "reasonable" parent would not object to such keepsakes? Everyone has a different take on what is reasonable. Besides — and this is the really disgusting part — sometimes the peering creeper is also mom or dad, which makes the family all-sun omelet.

The sentiment is good. No one wants children exposed to such darkly hideous degenerates. The best we can do is keep our children close and report criminals when they break the law.

You could also explore the knuckle sandwich route. A jury might think you did the right thing.

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Express-Times

"Passing a Law Won't Make Kids Safer"

"Classrooms in Job Johnnies
Beginning to Smell"

"Mr. and Mrs. Claus Remind Us
About Giving"

Joseph P. Owens

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D13: Reporting and Writing - Opinion Column

Third Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Philadelphia Inquirer

As sad and sick as the story is, it's about all of us, too.

It's not just a Penn State problem



**Annette
John-Hall**

Like a piece of rotting yarn, the loyal good-old-boy network continues to unravel in State College.

On Monday, Jack Raykovitz, president of Second Mile, resigned from the charity founded by former Penn State assistant coach and alleged child rapist Jerry Sandusky, and from which Sandusky reportedly plucked his victims. The at-risk kids had no idea how at risk they really were.

Raykovitz's departure brings to six the number of men who have lost their jobs or have been placed on perennial administrative leave because of their apparent complicity — one of whom is reportedly still collect-

ing a \$27,000 a month paycheck.

Given the no-snitching culture that hangs like a black cloud over Happy Valley, something tells me we're only scratching the murky surface.

By leaving, Raykovitz said he hoped to restore the community's faith in the organization.

Where have we heard that before? Why, from Joe Paterno himself. When the octogenarian coach announced his on-his-own-terms retirement date — just before he was booted out — he talked about the organization, too.

See **PENN STATE** on B6

"It's Not Just a Penn State Problem"

"Memorial Overcomes Its Critics"

"Nutter Playing Shame Game"

Annette John-Hall

D13: Reporting and Writing - Opinion Column

Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Record (Bergen County)



“Another Teacher Gets Lost on Facebook”
“An American Tragedy: The Rise and Fall of Corzine”
“Marriage by the Book of Merman and Mormon”

Alfred P. Doblin

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D13: Reporting and Writing - Opinion Column

First Place, Daily Over 45,000

Asbury Park Press

Voters not unhappy with 'partnership'

We have come to expect them — those press conferences held after elections to tell you, the voter, exactly what you were thinking when you went to the polls on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

This year was no different. Gov. Chris Christie, speaking at an event at a hospital in Newton on Wednesday, said it was the redistricting map's fault that his Republicans didn't pick up seats in the Legislature and that the results of the election (no gain for the GOP in the Senate; one lost seat in the Assembly) were no referendum on his tenure.

Assemblyman John Wisniewski, the Middlesex County Democrat who also serves as the chairman of his state party, said voters showed they were sick of the governor's bully politics.

"The state of New Jersey is quickly increasing in its Christie fatigue index,"



John Schoonejongen

Wisniewski said on Wednesday. "And the people of the state of New Jersey want government ultimately to produce results, not rancor. Chris Christie is an expert on producing rancor, but not necessarily always so good at producing results."

But how much of either story is true? Everyone admits that the redistricting map approved by commission tie-breaker Alan Rosenthal favored Democrats and made it almost impossible for the GOP to gain control of the Legislature. Nonetheless, there were a few competitive districts in the state, and the Republicans, despite their expensive efforts and some

direct campaigning by Christie, lost every one of them.

The races for Senate seats in the 2nd District in Atlantic County and the 38th in Bergen County ended up not even being close. Republican Assemblyman Vince Polistina lost to Democratic Sen. Jim Whelan, 54 percent to 46 percent in the 2nd, and Republican John Driscoll lost to Democratic Sen. Robert Garden by a slightly smaller margin in the 38th. In both cases, Republicans spent well south of seven figures on the campaign. Neither of those results can be blamed on a poor redistricting map.

As for Wisniewski's claim that voters are sick of Christie, well, recent polls show the governor's popularity rebounding. And with the GOP realistically capable of only picking up three or four seats combined, it's a tough sell to convince people that a pre-ordained result is repu-

lication.

This was a weird election. Virtually uncontested in most of the state, the campaigns were left tossing red meat at sleeping dogs. Republicans said Christie needed more help to push his programs forward. People yawned. Democrats said they needed to stay in control to put a check on the governor's radical agenda. People yawned some more.

A Monmouth University/New Jersey Press Media poll conducted less than a month before the election confirmed the sleepiness of the electorate. The survey showed that 45 percent of the people polled had not even heard that the entire Legislature would be up for election on Nov. 8. That's a far cry from the picture of a fed-up constituency that Wisniewski paints.

See VOTERS, Page B2

"Voters Not Unhappy with 'Partnership'"
"Adoptees Deserve to Know Chapter 1"
"'Tis Truly a Season of Brightly Burning Lights"

John Schoonejongen

NJPA
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Better Newspaper Contest 2011

D14: Reporting and Writing - Feature/Entertainment Column

NJPA Awards

D14: Reporting and Writing - Feature/Entertainment Column

Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Jersey Journal

“Lately Ireland Seems a Little Less ‘Lovely’”
 “Hoboken’s Sanctuary for the Body and Soul”
 “You Can Count on Saint Francis to Soothe the Animals”

Alex Santora

NJPA
 NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

Life Faith

Lately Ireland seems a little less ‘lovely’

If I heard the word, “lovely,” once, I heard it a 1,000 times during my ten day stay in Ireland.

When I told the steward I enjoyed my flight, his reply was, “Lovely.” I told the waitress I’d have the cottage pie and she said, “Lovely.”

On the surface, the Irish people are polite and very hospitable but times ahead will be tough. The prevailing political party since 1972, Fianna Fail, was thrown out in the February 23, 2011, election and replaced with the Fine Gael, which joined with the Labor Party to form a coalition government.

Ireland’s debt is the equivalent of one-third of their total economy and unemployment hovers around 15 percent in some parts of the country, the size of West Virginia with some 4.5 million residents. Now

people fear coming economic changes and the kinds of squabbles – increased taxes, layoffs, reduced pension – states are also facing in the U.S.

A more insidious issue that still resonates with the Irish people is the simmering sex abuse scandal in the Catholic Church. Ireland is 85 percent Catholic and older Catholics are weathering the storm but young Irish are leaving the church in droves.

There have been few ordinations in Dublin and the future is not promising though the Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin is a glimmer of hope. This native Dubliner, who spent many years in Rome, is a blunt speaker and has alienated some of the other Irish bishops and clergy while he tries to reform the Irish church.

The Sunday before I arrived, there was a historic prayer service in St. Patrick’s Pro-Cathedral in Dublin, which I visited, where Martin and visiting Cardinal Sean O’Malley of Boston, washed the feet of abuse victims. It made world-wide headlines and was a visible sign of the healing that Martin is determined to bring about.

Apart from the national political and ecclesiastical struggles, life in the quiet villages and parish churches goes on. I spent half my time with long time

friend, Jay Strebbs, the son of the popular Casino in the Park business, Kathleen Strebbs. He has become an Irish citizen and lives in Greebagh, Kerry, where his mom and her family grew up. It’s right on the Atlantic Ocean and a bit like, say, Seaside, though more rustic and quite hilly.

What attracted me is that every one knows every one else in that village and nearby town, Killohgan, and greet each other by name in the bank, post office, grocery store and on the streets.

The big question of the day was whether you were going to the wedding of the local taxi cab driver. Evidently he invited over 400 guests. Local churches with their own cemeteries are open throughout the day and people stop by to light a real candle and pray.

Dublin, on the other hand, is a lot like Jersey City and Hoboken. I stayed in the Swords section with Sheila and Tom Burke and their two children, Aoife (pronounced oi) and

Ryan. They used to worship in Our Lady of Consolation, Jersey City. Sheila’s parents, Marion and Gerry Waters, spend a lot time with their grandchildren. Seeing the heavy Irish stock reminded me of the strength of the faithful, who built up the church in Hudson County.

Especially Ra, 87, and Hugh Corrigan, 91, the grandparents of OLLG parishioner Paul Corrigan. They live in Dunleek, County Louth, drive to church for Mass every day and pick up people along the way and maintain their quiet home and property where they raised seven children. Most are scattered around the world but their son, David, Paul’s dad, is the closest in Dundalk and visits them weekly. The failings of humans and the Church do not deter their strong and active faith in God.

Santora is the pastor of Church of Our Lady of Grace & St. Joseph, 400 Willow Ave., Hoboken, 07030. (201) 659-0303, fax (201) 659-5833, e-mail: psantora@nyjunco.com





SHOWING THE influence of the Catholic Church, “The Confession Box” is a pub around the corner from St. Patrick’s Pro-Cathedral in the heart of Dublin.

D14: Reporting and Writing - Feature/Entertainment Column

Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

Daily Record

"Signs of Progress"
 "New Pastor"
 "Great Wide Somewhere"

Michael Daigle

Signs of progress, post-Katrina, in La.

By MICHAEL DAIGLE
 STAFF WRITER

CENTENARY: Students working to help residents of New Orleans

MOCHETTOWN — They are the veterans now, no longer wide-eyed at the devastation, no longer gazing at the others that emerged from shattered homes like green cartoon gas, no longer shocked by the black "X" spray painted on the door of a house where a person died.

They absorbed the despair they saw on those crowded New Orleans streets, the sweat-soaked in the faces of residents left with not much more than their lives. (That the emptiness with the pasting of banners, leader of the address with a soft smile and quick hello.

The race — Neil Andrus, Rory Murray, Samantha Aquino and Mark Tamborelli — were among 100 students and staff from Centenary College and Drew University who spent 10 days of their winter break in New Orleans helping the city and its residents recover from Hurricane Katrina, which struck in August 2005.

They worked with the St. Bernard's Project, one of the central efforts to rebuild housing in the city.

This trip was the fifth consecutive working visit to New Orleans for the college group. Since 2006 more than 800 Centenary students and staff have volunteered more than 10,000 hours of labor and raised nearly \$200,000 to support the relief effort.

Andrus of Oakland, the Centenary director of residence life and the manager of this year's trip, said evidence of progress can be found in nearly all parts of New Orleans.

"My first year, there were cars in the potholes in the backyards, boats in the middle of the streets," he said. "Now, you can drive down the highway without seeing an abandoned vehicle. Now, the new you see in the empty lots, which is not good for the community, but a sign of progress."

He said the empty lots were marked by steps and



"Now, the worse you see is the empty lots, which is not good for the community, but a sign of progress."

— Neil Andrus, director of residence life

made in re-establishing the business district of the city.

"There was always an effort to get the (French) Quarter back in an effort to get back the tourists," he said. "This year, we saw restaurants open, more and more open storefronts. The first year there was one art store. This year it was art gallery after art gallery."

An August 2009 report, "The New Orleans Index at Five," by the Brookings Institute and the Greater New Orleans Data Center, returned the observation of improvement.

"Nearly five years after the levees failed and flooded 80 percent of the city, New Orleans has regained the vast majority of its population. The most recent official population estimate from the Census Bureau peg the New Orleans population at 224,520 in July 2009, up from 208,540 in July 2006, but still 20,000 persons lower than in July 2003, when the Census estimated the population at 452,000," the report said.

By June 2009, 46 of New Orleans' 75 neighborhoods had recovered well over half of the number of households, and the metro area has an estimated 91 percent of its pre-Katrina population, the report said.

As of May 2009, the state had disbursed nearly \$0.5 billion in grants to 127,300 homeowners, and only 900 Louisiana families lived in government trailers in June 2009, down from over 45,000 in September 2007.

Murray said one interesting aspect of the reconstruction of the city is the effort not to replace what was lost with the same style of buildings, but to engineer new neighborhoods using green technologies and new building designs.

Aquino said the "brand P&G homes," a development of 26 homes for 200 residents sponsored by actor Brad Pitt, were built on thick



"Before, you'd see the marks on the houses, saying what they found in the house. This time, I really felt there weren't nearly as many of them."

— Mark Tamborelli, Centenary College junior

But the work remains.

"My first year, I went down, and I knew what had happened, but it was two to three years after it happened," Tamborelli said. "I assumed it was like they probably fixed everything. You get there and there are still houses demolished, houses with walls missing and roofs

blown off. I try to convince my friends to go down there, but they say, there's no point. I said what do you mean? They still need help, and we should go back to help them."

Michael Daigle
 617.257.7547; mdaigle@dailyrecord.com

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D14: Reporting and Writing - Feature/Entertainment Column

Wouldn't choose a cruise

If my wife's ship ever comes in and she hits the lottery, it's my guess she'll rent permanent cabin space on a cruise liner. So in retrospect it was no colossal surprise when she handed me an envelope at the Telford Inn before Thanksgiving and said sheepishly, "I'm giving you your Christmas gift early. I've been paying on it since May."

Goodie. But what is it? Lunch with Meg Ryan? Burgers and fries at Five Guys the next 365 days? Two passes to the 2011 Masters? A month with Andy Reid's personal dietitian?

Not exactly, although all very nice choices.

"We're going on a cruise the day after Christmas."



Bob
SHRYOCK

She could have hit me with a 2 x 4. And after this column, she might.

She waited an eternity for me to utter, "It's absolutely the best Christmas gift ever. I'm so happy I could just cry."

But I was too stunned to comment. If she had said, "You can have your choice of a cruise or a week at the Marcus Hook Motor Lodge with free continental breakfasts," I'd have had to flip a coin.

"Uh, very nice," I fibbed. I summoned the waitress: "Another Grey Goose ... and quickly, please."

You see, I've now been on five or six cruises and other than all the free ice cream I can eat, I haven't found too many reasons to leave Mantua.

But this cruise was different. Kathy's son Eric's in-laws were taking 20-some family members on a week-long cruise aboard the Carnival Pride, which sailed out of Baltimore Harbor to Cape Canaveral and the Bahamas the day after Christmas. New Year's Eve on a cruise ship. Whoopie.

They just didn't know we were booked on the same ship.

"It's going to be a surprise," Kathy explained.

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

Gloucester County Times

"Wouldn't Choose a Cruise"

"Now We're Cooking"

"Holding Back the Tears"

Bob Shryock

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

ONLY HUMAN

She was hard to love, but I did

My mother died on the morning of February 15.

As soon as I saw the number of the person calling me, I knew. Ninety-three was as old as Florence Riley was going to get. Once she caught pneumonia, it was only a matter of time. I handled the phone call well, thanking the nurse for her kindness and saying all things you're supposed to say — "This was a blessing," and "She's in a better place now" — and



Michael Riley

just because they are clichés doesn't mean that they are not also profoundly true. My voice was firm and strong.

I hung up the phone in the kitchen and walked to my bedroom, where my wife was.

And I began to cry, with great heaving sobs.

"This is stupid," I said, choking out the words. "I didn't even like her that much."

"No," Sue said. "But you loved her." And of course, she was right.

D14: Reporting and Writing - Feature/Entertainment Column

Third Place, Daily Over 45,000

Asbury Park Press

"She Was Hard to Love, but I Did"

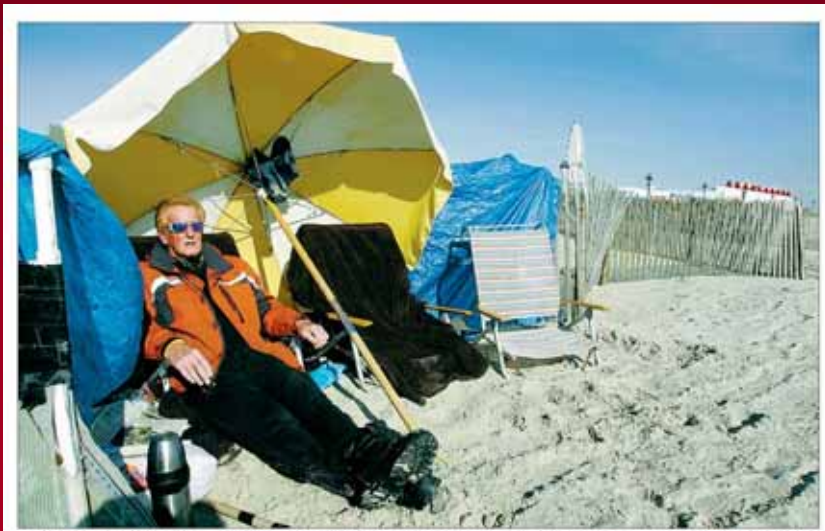
"High Technology for Dummies"

"Three Wise Men Knew How to Gift"

Michael Riley

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D14: Reporting and Writing - Feature/Entertainment Column



Earl Paul, 75, sits on the beach at Plymouth Place in Ocean City. 'Ocean City's No. 1 beach bum' goes to the beach an average of 250 days per year. When it snows, he has even been known to shovel out a patch of beach to sit on. Staff photo by Steve Garwood

For Ocean City's No. 1 beach bum, every day is a day spent on the sand

OCEAN CITY — When it's a sunny, 62-degree day in January, as Thursday was, Earl Paul wakes up and heads to the beach.

If, on the other hand, a bunch of snow falls overnight, as it has already several times this winter, then this retired pipe-fitter obviously needs to change his plans. He breaks out his shovel, the same as most of us do — only he goes and clears out his favorite spot on the beach.

Then, he sets up and sits down there for the next few hours, or more.

Paul, 75, is proud to claim the title of "Ocean City's No. 1 beach bum" — as proof, he made that the subtitle of "East of the Beachwalk," the memoir he wrote of his days on the

beach. And there are lots of them for a guy who moved to a condo "50 yards off the beach" about 15 years ago.

"I try to average 250 days on the beach a year," Paul explained, on that relatively balmy Thursday — one of a few nicely warm days this week before another cold blast hit.

"Two times, I've done 300."

He puts in so many hours on the beach he's not satisfied to just be known as Ocean City's top beach bum. He's got ambitions that go much farther than that.

"I might be the biggest beach bum on the East Coast of the United States," he suggests — with the exception of that one fatuously sunny state at the bottom of the coast. "We're not going to Florida with that. I don't want apples and pears, if you know what I mean."

And Paul doesn't want to go to Florida, even for the winter, because his four children and eight grandchildren are all in the Philadelphia area — and they visit him sometimes and go to the beach with him, even in the winter.

But this experienced beach bum is always ready for visitors at his favorite spot, just half a block north of the Ocean City Music Pier. He brings at least one extra beach chair with him in the winter, and often two, just in case anybody drops by to talk.

"The warmer the weather gets," he says, "the more friends I have."

Paul never depends on the kindness of strangers or friends for his own warmth, though. His signature item is a yellow beach umbrella, which he lays down on its side and turns into a wind block. But he also brings two blue, plastic tarps he arranges strategically, depending on the direction the wind is blowing in, to keep his face in the sun and the wind off his back as much as possible.

So it takes him at least 15 or 20 minutes to set up every day when he hits the beach — although when the wind is particularly aggressive, it can take him a lot longer to arrange everything just the way he needs it.

He also figures it takes him 45 minutes to get out the door with his morning coffee, the newspaper he reads when there's no company, and his radio — although getting ready for the beach is a bigger deal when it's cold out. He wears three layers on his legs — two sets of thermal long johns under heavy fleece pants. On top, he does seven layers, including three T-shirts, more thermals, a sweatshirt and a wind-proof parka. Plus, he wears

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Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Press of Atlantic City

- “Sand in My Shoes: For Ocean City’s No.1 Beach Bum”
- “Sand in My Shoes: Behaving on the Beach”
- “Sand in My Shoes: Keeping the Streak Alive”



Sand in My Shoes

Martin DeAngelis

the subtitle of "East of the Beachwalk," the memoir he wrote of his days on the

Martin DeAngelis



NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D14: Reporting and Writing - Feature/Entertainment Column

Shack full of Cuban flavors

Tiny El Caney serves up classic cuisine six days a week

Fried yuca that literally melts in your mouth. Plantains as sweet as candy. A Cuban sandwich that I would put up against any I've eaten in Miami.

But you don't need to jet on a plane for this food. Nor can you eat it in a restaurant.

You need only to join the line at a shack near the railroad tracks in Bergenfield, with cracked tile floors and four crammed-in stools. Peruse

the short menu printed on a tarp. When the train rumbles by, you may need to scream your order.

Owners Tony and Cynthia Gonzalez won't mind. This is as much fun as the former Wall Streeters have had on a job. In fact, it reminds Tony of his business suit-wearing days as a compliance officer at Bear Stearns, handing out plates of food in the cafeteria to co-workers with \$5 bills.

His mother's cooking was just that good, and his lunches made co-workers just that jealous. But after Bear Stearns offered him a buyout package in 2008, Tony didn't think about going into the food business.

Then one day, Cynthia, an El Salvador native and former Pershing project manager who was working at Englewood Hospital, mentioned "That little place on the corner is for rent."

"At first, he thought I was joking," Cynthia said. She wasn't. She knew that Tony's mother, Nereida Gonzalez, had grown up cooking for miners in her native Cuban town of Pinar del Rio, and continued producing roast pork, ropa vieja and local rivas after she brought her family to New York in 1981.

So why not share a good thing and create a business that would allow the family to work together? The Gonzalezes considered opening a restaurant and even checked out a 150-seat spot on Washington Avenue. It had a full kitchen already set up, while in the shack they'd have to buy new equipment and squeeze it into the tight space.

But then they'd have to worry about service and waiters, when all they wanted to do was cook good food. So they chose the shack, and in October 2009 they opened El Caney, named for the restaurant next door to their home in Cuba.

Friends warned them it would take a year to build up a clientele, but two months barely went by before they started running out of food. That Christmas, they did 11

El Caney

48 W. Church St., Bergenfield
201-374-1107, elcaney.net
Open 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Saturday, Closed Sunday.

parties — and a few weeks later, Cynthia delivered the couple's third daughter, Victoria.

Now, there's a constant flow of customers trekking to the shack for the daily specials that, given their quality, are astonishingly cheap — \$5.99 for the roast roast pork you can imagine, \$5 for the superb Cuban sandwich, given a kick by a bit of thin-cut chorizo.

Neighbors walk in for some of the split pea soup. Young professionals pick up a bite after work, checking their mobile devices in line. Tony gets a kick out of seeing a few men surreptitiously wolf down a dessert at the small counter, then innocently bring a bag of roast pork home to their families.

Cynthia and Nereida do most of the cooking. "I do most of the talking and I get most of the burns," says Tony. He favors Cuban music, set low. Cynthia calls the Cuban music nappy, puts on Spanish rock and turns it up. The kitchen has so little storage room that they wind up shipping every morning, around 6 a.m. They close around 9 p.m., and sometimes head out for burgers or pizza because they've sold all of their own food.

These are even longer hours than Tony used to work at Bear Stearns, but it's different now. He can take his older daughters, Amanda, 10, and Veronica, 7, to school, he can share child-care duty with his wife and mother, and he enjoys the banter with customers.

One regular, New Millard marketing manager Steve Ben-Israel, swung in recently, fresh from a trip to Miami. "I didn't

cheat on you guys," she reported. "I didn't have any Cuban food at all."

What keeps her coming back? "You can't get this food in a restaurant," Ben-Israel said. "It tastes like you went to your friend's house and their grandmother made you this food. This is homemade cooking, and everything is fresh."

Another big fan is Jason Perlow, a Tenafly resident who knows his Cuban food. He runs the "Off the Beaten" food blog and has long chronicled North Jersey's ethnic eateries. Perlow

declared El Caney's food as good or better than in Union City, the state's Cuban epicenter.

"It stacks up against all the places in that area, and stacks up against any equivalent Latino restaurant in Bergen County," he said. "I can't think of any place as good for the value."

Neither can I. E-mail feedback to me at ung@northjersey.com; if you include your name, town and phone number, your thoughts may be included in future columns. Blog: northjersey.com/foodblog; Twitter: [elaung](https://twitter.com/elaung).



ELISA UNG
THE CORNER
TABLE



STAFF PHOTOS BY LESLIE SANDOZ



Clockwise from top, Nereida Gonzalez and her son, Tony, outside the tiny eatery; the classic Cuban sandwich from El Caney; Cynthia Gonzalez serves up an empanada to a customer.

First Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Record (Bergen County)

"Shack Full of Cuban Flavors"

"Chef with a Mission"

"N.J. Cheesemaker

Likes Challenge

of Doing Hard Things"

Elisa Ung

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION



Better Newspaper Contest 2011

D15: Reporting and Writing - Sports Column

NJPA Awards

D15: Reporting and Writing - Sports Column

Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

Daily Record

FOOTBALL MORRIS KNOLLS 33, MENDHAM 0

Golden Eagles blast Minutemen Morris Knolls shuts out Mendham to earn likely postseason berth

By Joe Hofmann
For NJ Press Media

DENVILLE — Heavy, wet snow, freezing temperatures and gusts of wind transformed yesterday's Morris Knolls-Mendham football game into a battle for survival.

Knolls not only survived, it thrived — and earned a likely playoff berth as what was a do-or-die game with regards to the postseason.

The Golden Eagles managed to score

on the game's very first play and rolled to a soaking wet 33-0 victory.

So how'd they celebrate? By doing what any red-blooded 18-year-old would do during a blizzard: With a snowball fight.

"We talked about having fun during the game during warm-ups," coach Bill Regan said.

Fun is just what Knolls had — from the opening whistle right up until Regan broke the day's final huddle with everyone shouting the words, "Snow Angel!"

"They were just kids playing today," Regan said with a smile. "We had a play date, that's all."

The Golden Eagles adapted to the wacky weather a whole lot better than the Minutemen.

On the first play of the game, running back Julian Melahn took a handoff from quarterback Mike Stango and went 65 yards for a touchdown. The first of three Dan Bubak extra points split the uprights, and the rout was on.

Melahn (19 for 149) added a 2-yard

touchdown run on the second play of the second quarter a short time after Knolls recovered a Mendham fumble that came after a poor punt snap at the Minutemen 23.

"Julian is a real mudder," Regan said. "He played very well, and Mike Stango made a lot of good reads. I'm proud of the way we played today. We were very opportunistic."

Melahn and Stango had plenty of help.

See GOLDEN EAGLES
Page B3

"Golden Eagles"
"Postseason Changes"
"Graduation Losses"

Joe Hofmann

D15: Reporting and Writing - Sports Column

Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Times

An affectionate farewell to the Duke of Flatbush

Sunday began for me in Port St. Lucie, Fla., shaking hands at the Maric spring training camp with Sandy Kousser. By the time our plane landed in Newark at 5:30 p.m., my cell was filled with text messages from family and friends about the passing of Duke Snider. Edwin Donald Snider: The Duke. My all-time favorite player.

Who can really explain why someone captures your heart? In the case of Duke and I, it didn't seem to make much sense.

Duke was a Dodger. I'm a Phillies fan. Duke played center field. I was a catcher. And while we both batted left and threw right, Duke was a Hall of Fame player whereas I was a plunger at best. No common-ten, right? Except for the fact

Rick Freeman
@RICKFREEMAN

What I loved the Duke.

Back at a time when the debate about who was better among Willie, Markey and the Duke was all the rage, I would always be eager to dip in my two cents about why Duke was the best. Despite being shot down by friends who thought they knew better and by fathers who probably did, I doggedly defended my man.

The years, of course, have brought perspective, and I've come to realize that there is no shame in being the third-best center fielder in New York in the 1950s.

Snider's career was pretty darn good. He led all major league in home runs (239) and RBIs (1,051) during the 1950s. He is still the Dodgers' all-time leader in home runs, with 289 home runs and 1,271 RBIs. From 1952 to '57, he hit 40 or more homers each year and averaged 117 RBIs per year while batting .335. The 1957 season was the last year the Dodgers played in Brooklyn and the last the Duke would call Ebbets Field his home. The move to Los Angeles and the vast expanse of eight fields at the Los Angeles Coliseum, along with knee problems, probably cost Duke a shot at 300 homers. He hit just 31 homers during the last eight years of his career, finishing with 407 hits.

Snider led the National League in hits, homers, RBIs and walks once; he led the league in slugging twice; and

was the leader in runs and total bases three times. He hit 13 home runs in World Series play, still the most ever by a National Leaguean, and the Duke is the only player to hit four home runs in two different World Series.

My father took me to my first major league game in the mid-'50s at old Connie Mack Stadium to see the Dodgers and Duke play the Phillies. A few years later, in 1963, Dad and I traveled to Cincinnati to see the Dodgers beat the Reds, 7-2, at old Crosley Field. Duke hit a homer that night and, coincidentally, Kousser was the winning pitcher. That road trip opened into my first visit to Cooperstown and the Hall of Fame, and that shy New York baseball fan pretty much became an annual destination. It will be strange this year to

BY RICK FREEMAN, TIMES STAFF WRITER



In this 1959 photo, Duke Snider accepts a birthday cake — and a kiss from fans at Ebbets Field.

“An Affectionate Farewell to the Duke of Flatbush”

“Human Element Can’t Be Removed Entirely from Baseball”

“Serious Decisions Loom for Phillies”

Rick Freeman

D15: Reporting and Writing - Sports Column

Rout caps entertaining series between teams

PHILADELPHIA — When looking back in the history books, you'll find that it took seven games to decide the Eastern Conference quarter-final series between the Philadelphia Flyers and Buffalo Sabres.

You'll read that Ryan Miller stood on his head and stole two 1-0 shutouts in Games 1 and 4.

And you'll read that two games were forced into overtime before the Flyers dominated in a 5-2 win in Game 7 at the Wells Fargo Center Tuesday to propel themselves into the next round.

You'll read that the Flyers took Games 2 and 3 for a 2-1 series lead before dropping their next two and scraping for a 5-4 overtime win in Game 6 to force the tiebreaker.



Chris
PAWLING

But what most die-hard, orange-blooded Flyers fans — and even the blue and gold faithful — will remember is that this playoff series was a total circus.

“Every game seemed like it was a totally different puzzle to solve,” said Flyers forward James van Riemsdyk. “There were dif-

(See FLYERS, Page C-8)

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

Gloucester County Times

“Rout Caps Entertaining Series Between Teams”

“Flyers Should Have Advantage”

“Flyers Need to Find Crack in Miller”

Chris Pawling

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D15: Reporting and Writing - Sports Column

1,000

*Paulsboro High
hits a coveted
mark in wrestling.*

One way to find Paulsboro is to take Interstate 295 to Crown Point Road and ride that narrow two-lane through the marshes and past the truck depots and across the big, steel bridge.

Another is to step back in time.



**Phil
Anastasia**

The past always seems to come alive on winter nights inside the little, tan-bricked gymnasium at Paulsboro High School.

That happened again Wednesday night, when a

group of teenage wrestlers reached a historic milestone in a journey begun by another group of teenage wrestlers in the year before World War II.

Paulsboro's 59-6 victory over Haddon Township was the 1,000th win in the history of a program that began varsity competition during the 1940-41 season.

The Red Raiders are the first high school team in the East
See **PAULSBORO** on A4

Third Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Philadelphia Inquirer

"1,000 Paulsboro Hits
Coveted Mark"

"Grief Multiplied"

"Sports Play Vital Role"

Phil Anastasia

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D15: Reporting and Writing - Sports Column

Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Record (Bergen County)

Assistant's ill son gives RU reason to fight



TARA SULLIVAN

NEW YORK - Jim Carr had the room. And he had a message. "Two. Four. Zero. Zero," he said. "Two. Four. Zero. Zero."

Carr, an assistant with the Rutgers men's basketball team, made sure to repeat those numbers again and again. His boss, head coach Mike Rice, listened in quiet awe. The Rutgers players inside the team meeting room were rooted in rapt silence.

"That's how many seconds are in a game," Carr exhorted, retelling his story later, in a quiet hallway near the service elevator of Madison Square Garden. "And that's how many times it seems Brayden has been written off."

Brayden is the 2½-year-old son of Jim and Natalie Carr, a toddler who has been in a fight for his life for the past five weeks. From a hospital bed at Duke University, where doctors gave him 48 hours to live, to the hospital room at NYU, where

Tuesday's good news included a discharge plan to a New Brunswick hospital closer to home, Brayden has proven himself quite a fighter. And throughout the better part of this resurgent season at Rutgers, Brayden and the Carr family have been the team's inspiration.

Never more so than on Tuesday morning, when Carr owned the room. An opening-round Big East tournament game against Seton Hall

See SULLIVAN Page S-4

"Assistant's Ill Son Gives RU Reason to Fight"

"McHale Proving She's Next Big Thing"

"Friends & Allies"

Tara Sullivan

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D15: Reporting and Writing - Sports Column

Coach's actions require a suspension of belief

We were actually willing to give Chris Olsen some benefit of the doubt — honestly, because we go back a bit, and that's what we do in North Jersey.

We fondly recall his Bergenfield days, when he would perform backflips after a win, sometimes even after he ran up the score so shamelessly that the opposing coach refused to shake his hand.

We remember when Joe Clark fired him at Paterson Eastside — purportedly because the coach wouldn't bench kids for skipping class or being disrespectful to teachers, and in those days you'd just shrug when he'd blame losses on the refs, or claim the other team did something dishonest to gain an advantage.

Honest, we didn't want to

Dave D'Alessandro
nj.com/DaveD



pile on Chris Olsen, a fine high school coach despite his reputation for being a classless winner and a lousy loser, which — luckily for the adoring townspeople of Wayne, who bow to his domineering countenance — is a side he doesn't have to show very often.

That was the case again last night, when Wayne Hills posted a 48-21 rout of Paramus in a state semifinal. To call this a fervent spectacle would be

SEE **D'ALESSANDRO**, PAGE 25

First Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Star-Ledger

"Coach's Actions Require a Suspension of Belief"

"Hedden Standing Tall as NCAA Investigates Kean"

"These Two Gave the Tourney a Jersey Flavor Long Ago"

Dave D'Alessandro **NJPA**

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION



Better Newspaper Contest 2011

D16: Reporting and Writing - Critical Writing

NJPA Awards

D16: Reporting and Writing - Critical Writing

Sugarland keeps fair crowd dancing

REVIEW

BY TIFFANY BENTLEY
The Express-Times

Country powerhouse Sugarland showed more than 10,000 people Friday night at the Great Allentown Fair that the show must go on.

Just two weeks after a stage collapse in Indiana killed seven people before Sugarland was to perform, the group showed that life continues. They did it with a sold-out show.

Little Big Town opened the show at 7 p.m., adding bluegrass and electric guitar elements layered over pleasing harmonies and a country cover of Lady Gaga's "Born This Way."

Sugarland took the stage at 8:15 p.m. to a rerecording of Michael Jackson's "Black or White." Lead singer Jennifer Nettles sang in the halo of a spotlight and drew the crowd in with the band's second song, "Stuck Like Glue."

Nettles kicked in her June Carter Cash-like antics in "Let Go Laughing" and showed her vocal power in "Tonight." She ran from one end of the stage to the other throughout the show with the grace of a gymnast and the warmth of a true country singer.

Nettles' playfulness with guitarist Kristian Bush escalated during "All I Want to Do," requiring Nettles to tell



A sold-out crowd greets Sugarland on Friday night at the Great Allentown Fair.

Bush to "get that thing away from me," after he was rubbing his backside against her leg.

A mash-up of covers, including Dolly Parton's "Nine to Five" and CeCe Lo Green's "Forget You" sprinkled with a Destiny's Child chorus, moved the crowd to dancing like they were in a club as they waved their cowboy hats.

The tone got serious and emotional when Nettles broke into "Why Don't You Stay," but turned energetic again with the crowd cheering and shouts of "Hey, hey" during "Find the Beat Again." A close-out collaboration with Little Big Town followed a spotlight shining on a white flag for Indiana.

The group didn't falter

throughout the night or lose a smile. They kept the diverse crowd dancing, laughing and singing — showing that while country music can be heart-wrenching, its healing element prevails.

Reporter Tiffany Bentley can be reached at 610-250-7171 or tbentley@express-times.com. Talk about issues in your town at highvalleylive.com/forums.

Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Express-Times

"Sugarland Keeps Fair Crowd Dancing"

"STP Intoxicated with Rock n' Roll"

"Snoop Dogg Mesmerizes Crowd and Crocodile Rock"

Tiffany Bentley

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D16: Reporting and Writing - Critical Writing

MOVIE REVIEW: '50/50'



Joseph Gordon-Levitt (left) and Seth Rogen team in "50/50," now in area theaters.

Dramedy finds humor in serious subject matter

Grade: B+
Starring: Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Seth Rogen, Anna Kendrick, Bryce Dallas Howard and Angelica Huston; written by Will Reiser; produced by Evan Goldberg, Ben Karlin and Rogen; directed by Jonathan Levine

Running time: 100 minutes
Parental guide: R (sexual elements, adult themes, harsh profanity, drug use)
Certainly cancer is no laughing matter, and the talents behind "50/50" clearly recognize that. But they also understand that humor sometimes possesses the power to soften pain and lift the heart of someone suffering from a life-threatening illness. That's the case in the warm, funny and well-intentioned "50/50."

In the R-rated dramedy, 27-year-old Adam Lerner (Joseph Gordon-Levitt of "Inception") seems on top of the world with a rewarding job, a best friend and a bright future. That upward path hits a possible dead end when Adam learns he has a 50-50 chance of surviving a complicated operation on a malignant tumor.

While those in Adam's family, especially his high-strung mother (Angelica Huston), feel devastated by the news, his best friend, Kyle (Seth Rogen), sees the condition in a different way. The colorful Kyle believes he can improve his buddy's social life by guiding young ladies to the sweetly handsome Adam for pity sex at most or a date at least.

The general plot might make "50/50" sound crude, but the movie rarely feels that way. The screenplay by Will Reiser, who based the script on his own cancer diagnosis and treatment, hits the right notes and introduces people who feel genuine, not like one-dimensional sitcom characters.

Bryce Dallas Howard ("The Help") appears as Adam's girlfriend, who begins to have second thoughts about their future together once his cancer diagnosis is revealed, but the role never challenges her.

Anna Kendrick, who received an Oscar nomination as best supporting actress for her role as an emotion-challenged bean counter in "Up in the Air," is much better served by the material. She plays a well-meaning 24-year-old therapist who has only had two previous clients and is ill-equipped to handle someone like Adam, a patient with a totally uncertain future.

Although the subject matter of "50/50" doesn't seem very commercial, director Jonathan Levine ("The Wackness") takes a well-intended approach to edgy material. The filmmaker warns that life can be short and suggests that it should be enjoyed with good humor and a sense of adventure, whether a person is 27 or 97.

Lou Gaul: 609-871-8055; email: lgaul@phillyburbs.com

Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

Burlington County Times

"Dramedy Finds Humor in Serious Subject Matter"

"Connecting the Dots Spoils This Biopic"

"Clooney is Oscar-Worthy in Thought-Provoking Drama"

Lou Gaul

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D16: Reporting and Writing - Critical Writing

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Times

BILL OF FARE

Scotswoman brings civilized tradition of British tea rooms to Hopewell

By Susan Sprague Yeske
PHOTO BY THE TIMES

Le Chardon seems likely an unlikely name for an English-style tearoom owned by a Scotswoman. Carol Boyle quickly makes everything clear.

"The name means 'chickie' in French," she said, a reflection of her homeland, where the purple thistle is the national emblem, and the years she spent living and teaching in French-speaking Belgium.

It was in being together my Scottish and French sides," she explains.

Boyle, of Princeton, opened her tea room 15 months ago with her daughter, Madeline Graham, at the site of the former Falls coffee shop in Hopewell Borough. For the ardent tea drinkers who have visited the beverage at shops throughout the British Isles, it was a dream that was always at the back of their minds.

"It was something we always talked about doing," Boyle says. "When we lived in the U.K. we visited tea shops and talked about how we would do it."

Their concept, which is still evolving, includes a la carte items for "elevenses," since the shop opens at 11 a.m. Beginning at noon a variety of lunch items are available, including full-sized sandwiches, eggs Florentine, tea sandwiches and salad croissants, which is a nod to her time in Belgium.

The afternoon tea menu, which is served from noon to 5 p.m., includes a range of hot meals, each accompanied by a pot of tea of the diner's choosing, tea sandwiches, Boyle's homemade scones and a dessert.

Always, there are pots of properly made tea, included with the high teas and served à la carte for \$3.50. Le Chardon offers 74

Le Chardon Tearoom

27 W. Broad St., Hopewell
(609) 466-6200 (lecharдонtearoom.com)
HOURS: Open Wed.-Sat. 12 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. noon-5 p.m. Closed Monday, Tuesday.

CREDIT CARDS:

Most major. **FOOD:** The owner makes all her own very good sandwiches, salads, soups, scones and cakes for this pleasant tearoom.

SERVICE: Daughter Madeline Graham is attentive to all guests who visit the tearoom.

AMBIENCE: Located in a former home, this comfortable tearoom gives the impression of dining with a beloved relative. The tables are decorated with pastel fabric tablecloths and tea is served on charmingly mismatched china.

COST: High tea \$23.95, Scottish tea \$11.95, afternoon tea \$12.95, hot drink \$7.95, lunch à la carte items \$4.95-\$9.95, breakfast à la carte items \$3-\$5. Children's menu \$3.95-\$6.95.

varieties from prestigious tea companies Barney & Sons and Teylors of Harrogate. These include black, green, oolong, herbal and decaffeinated teas that range from traditional to fruity to flowery. For those who don't like tea there is coffee, espresso, cappuccino and iced tea.

Raising her children in Belgium, Boyle served them the traditional after-school snack there called "le goûter," a tradition she continues at Le Chardon. She also offers a children's high tea platter featuring juice, chocolate milk or lemonade in place of tea.

Boyle made all her own soups, \$4.95, and it shows. On the day we tasted the soup du jour was apple purée, which was full bodied and satisfying with just a hint of



ANDREW WALLACE FOR THE TIMES

Owner Carol Boyle shows some of the goodies served with a pot of tea at Le Chardon Tearoom in Hopewell.

sweetness. Lately, because she frequently has vegetarian customers, she has been using vegetable broth as a base, but the soup has lost some of its heartiness, and was even more satisfying with a slice of bread.

From noon on, à la carte items are available for lunch, and we sampled a chicken salad sandwich on a croissant, \$7.95, served with a small side salad. The chicken salad, which also was one of the featured sandwiches in the high tea, was fresh, flavorful and nicely seasoned, and perfect with the croissant.

Combination tea meals offer a variety of options: the higher the price, the more food is included. A Scottish tea, \$11.95, was a filling meal with a pot of tea, two tea sandwiches and a choice of shortbread, scone or slice of cake for dessert.

The zenith of the menu is, of course, the high tea, \$15.95, including a round of finger sandwiches, which on this day included egg salad, chicken salad and cucumber with cream cheese. All were flavorful and fresh. High tea also includes a pot of tea, a scone with butter, jam and cream and a slice of cake. The cake, which was a plum torte, was warm from the oven, and very good, but best of all were Boyle's homemade scones. Served warm with small pots of cream and strawberry and apricot jam, they were tender inside, yet properly crumbly.

We left the tearoom satisfied and not hungry for hours to come, after a pleasant, relaxed experience in a comfortable setting. For lunch, snack, high tea, or a bridal shower, party, or just for a well-made pot of tea, you can't beat Le Chardon.

"Scotswoman Brings Civilized Tradition of British Tea Rooms to Hopewell"
"Restaurant on Site of Old Farm Stand Blends Italian, Portuguese Cuisines"
"Blue Rooster Rises from Flood Waters with Its New Streamlined Menu"

Susan Yeske

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D16: Reporting and Writing - Critical Writing

THEATER REVIEW

IT'S RAINING DIVAS



From left: Anastacia McCleskey, Jacqueline B. Arnold and Ashley Spencer laugh as they pose together in front of a billboard featuring their likenesses above the Palace Theatre.



While Will Swenson cuts an impressive figure in "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" at the Palace Theatre.

PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT
Palace Theatre, 1554 Broadway, New York City • \$52-\$127 • 877-250-2929 • www.ticketmaster.com

By BILL CANACCI
CRITIC WRITER

'Priscilla, Queen of the Desert' is outlandishly entertaining

Set aside, Lady Gaga, "Priscilla" is hers.

The Broadway musical, based on the 1994 Australian film "The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert," is fun and fabulous — full of great music and the best, brightest and most outlandish costumes of the season.

The show begins in Sydney. Tick (Will Swenson), also known as Mitz, is gay and a drag queen — who happens to be married to a woman (Jessica Phillips). The wife calls Tick from her casino in Alice Springs, about 1,700 miles away, letting him know their 6-year-old son wants to meet his father.

While Tick does not tell his friends the whole story, he convinces fellow performers Adam (Nick Adams) and Bernadette (Tony Sheldon) to head to the Outback with him. For the long trip, Adam's rich mom buys a tour bus — and they're off to see the wizard. Well, in a manner of speaking.

While there are some touching moments, it's clear that director Simon Phillips and co-book writers Stephan Elliott (who wrote and directed the film) and Allan Scott want audiences to forget their troubles, laugh and have a good time. There is not a lot of depth here, but it is not as shallow as some might suspect.

Sheldon has been with the show since it debuted in Sydney in 2008, so it's no surprise that he brings class and dignity to Bernadette, a transsexual full of strength and courage. She may be 20 years older than the other boys, but she still can shake her groove thing. The best part of Sheldon's performance is how he portrays the character as a surrogate mother, for Bernadette makes sure they will survive.

Adams, as the flamboyant Adam Felicia, is hot as a guy and as a woman. He's introduced by singing "Material Girl," and Madonna would be impressed (and perhaps

slightly annoyed because the staging is so similar to the song's video). Adams pumps the crowd up with his moves (spills) and his body, and he entertains the audience with the character's cockiness and constant digs at Bernadette.

Swenson is the least believable of the trio, which is disappointing since he is the focus of the story. Not that he does not have moments where he's fantastic — it's just that Swenson never gives off the appropriate drag attitude. He never looks uncomfortable, but this Mitz lacks star power and charisma.

Attention must be paid to the three divas, Jacqueline B. Arnold, Anastacia McCleskey and Ashley Spencer. Whether they are singing "It's Raining Men" or "Hot Stuff," these ladies put on quite a show. They are much more than simply background singers.

Nathan Lee Graham is not on stage a lot as Miss Understanding, yet he makes sure the crowd has a good time from the beginning.

Production supervisor Jerry Mitchell deserves praise for keeping the energy and pace going. Music supervisor Stephen "Spud" Murphy arranges a great collection of disco and '80s hits (although thanks to "Mamma Mia!" playing up the street, Abba is noticeably absent).

The real stars of the show, though, are costume designers Tim Chappel and Lizzy Gardiner, who won an Academy Award for their work on the film. A Tony is surely in their future, for these "True Colors" are hilarious, wacky, bizarre — and beautiful, like a rainbow.

Third Place, Daily Over 45,000

Asbury Park Press

"It's Raining Divas"

"The Heart of a Newsman"

"World Class"

Bill Canacci

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D16: Reporting and Writing - Critical Writing

Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Star-Ledger

Singer Ricky Martin lets loose at Prudential Center

Inside the cages — stacked three by three, upward toward the roof of the Prudential Center in Newark — the dancers shook at their restraints. They grabbed at the metal lattice-work that separated them from each other, and pressed their bodies against the bars.

Like a prize chocolate in a box of candy — or like Paul Lynde — Ricky Martin was in the center square. He was the hub of the wheel of activity, and he was singing his heart out.

As he reached the climax of "Seven Years," he knocked down the barrier, broke free of his cell and, turning his back on the adoring crowd momentarily, took a leap of faith from the platform into the outstretched arms of his bandmates.

It was an effective piece of arena pop theater, and a telling beginning to the Saturday night concert, "Musica + Alma + Sese" in the Latin pop star's first tour since coming out as a gay man, and thus is, for Martin, a jump into the unknown.

But the metaphor went far beyond the star's sexuality. "Musica + Alma + Sese" was an opportunity for Martin to



TRIS MCCALL

redefine his two-decade career for American audiences, and demonstrate that he is much more than the goofy pop singer who scored several soulless crossover hits at the turn of the millennium. Martin spent much of the night looking backward and working without a net.

Few backing tracks were used, a rarity at an arena concert, the evening was sparsely lit on Martin's muscular, tattooed shoulders and he carried it well. He cut loose, and danced playfully as he sang, secure in the knowledge that his fans would catch him if he stumbled.

He never did. Martin dispatched the English-language hits early in the show, springing through "Livin' La Vida Loca," "She Bangs" and the gimicky "Shake Your Bon-

fire" in quick succession. The message was clear: These are not the focus of the evening. The Puerto Rican native was already an international singing star when these songs ruled the U.S. charts, their success gave him an English-speaking audience to rival his mother-tongue-speaking one. Martin approached these songs with gratitude and enthusiasm but never seems less than thrilled to be singing, yet he did not embody them as fully as he did his other material.

"Livin' La Vida Loca," as joyful as it is, is a waste of Martin's talents. Martin is a powerful, emotive singer, and a rare find with a romantic ballad. Much like Neil Diamond — another underrated entertainer — Martin is a strong onstage communicator whose willingness to forgo subtlety feels like a generous concession to an audience hungry to follow their hero as far over the top as he is willing to go.

(Also like Diamond, Martin has the power to make grown men and women weep like pretzels on a roller coaster.) His straightforward,

passionate readings of the ballads "Yester" and "Bata Ya" provided a sense of intimacy and familiarity that's hard to achieve at a venue as large as Prudential Center.

It helped that the concert was kept to human scale. There were few pyrotechnics and props, and Martin's affable charisma was the primary special effect.

The further back into his catalog he went, the more relaxed he became. Martin sang "Fuego Contra Fuego" and "El Amor de mi Vida" — songs out in the early '80s when he was taking his first tentative steps away from the boy band Menudo — while sitting.

He brought out a dancer for the impish "Martin," and while he joined her on the floor for a brief duet, he spent much of the song admiring her from his chair. It's the rare arena performer who can sit through a 20-minute stretch of his concert without shaking his connection to the audience. Martin pulled it off, his comfort was infectious.

Perhaps he was just gathering strength for his charge to the



Ricky Martin's "Musica + Alma + Sese" tour at the Prudential Center featured the singer's '80s hits, such as "Livin' La Vida Loca," in addition to more recent ballads and salsa-pop songs.

"Singer Ricky Martin Lets Loose at Prudential Center"
"Taylor's Shift"
"Song of the Week: 'In Paris'"
"The Throne"

Tris McCall

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D16: Reporting and Writing - Critical Writing

First Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Philadelphia Inquirer

“Zeppoli”

“Shore Dining Part 1”

“Shore Dining Part 2”

Craig Laban

DINING REVIEW CRAIG LABAN



Zeppoli

This Italian stands out from the crowd. But the din is a real headache.

If you've eaten much in Collingswood over the last decade, you know that the menu favors usually come in Italian, Italian, or Italian.

It is curious, then, that chef Joey Baldino would choose such a crowded field to debut his own Italian BYOB, Zeppoli. And it is all the more remarkable that his food is so distinctive and mouthily wrought that it has instantly risen above that crowd.

The secret? It's not flashy presentation or contemporary innovation. It's about focusing in on one particular underexplored region — Sicily — and tapping the essence of every dish with flavor and a feeling of authenticity, based on the island cooking alongside one of its masters.

Handmade tagliatelle di lomina, for example, comes tossed with just a few ingredients. But this minimalist construction is upon its such harmony that it is positively transporting, the fresh smug of buttery pasta ribbons, a nubbin of lemon, and the fluttering warmth of olive

fake heat, the zucchini ring of shored but-targa tuna not eating like waves on a Palermit beach.

Or how about the sublime rabbit scapola, the sausage-riddled meat braised to tenderness in a ripe red chink of San Marzano tomatoes? I've had plenty of homemade sausage, but Baldino's is something mammoth, the house-ground Berkshire pork shoulder more tender than meat, and fragrant with fennel and the swagger of Sicilian red wine.

It's no wonder the restaurant are flocking to this 35-seat meek — especially given Baldino's pedigree stops at Venti, Osteria, and Amada — which brings care from across the Sun Franklin Bridge, too.

But do they all have to be so obnoxiously noisy? I'm not just talking normal loud. I mean an accompanying 98 to 102 decibels. The six ladies near the front window drank so much wine they bled out into their boxes — and still weren't the noisiest table. The deafening cheer

reaction of half-eaters ensued until I couldn't hear the guest sitting next to me unless she spoke directly into my ear.

Baldino, 31, didn't anticipate the problem until he was done converting the space from Indi-Blue (which moved across the street) and opened for "friends and family" private night. And for this South Philly native, who spent up for living with his parents at 15th and Center (where the saintly Madonna Regina still leaves his a plate for dinner every night), those late-by-the-sea are superlatively strong.

"But now it's like Brenda and Sandy might be here every night!" concedes Baldino. "I've got acoustical panels on my desk that I'm looking at."

Look at something, please! This cozy little room, with its dark wood accenting, antique photos and pendant lights, rustic wood tables, and low-angled windows, could have all the charm of a genuine Sicilian trattoria. But with

by **ZEPPOLI** on 10/11

VERY GOOD

Zeppoli
618 Collings Ave., Collingswood,
856-934-2670
www.zeppolirestaurant.com

Joey Baldino's exciting debut as a chef-owner takes Collingswood's already crowded Italian scene to a notch, with a heartfelt ode to authentic Sicilian flavors informed by the lessons of his padrone (Venti, Osteria, Amada) and the soul of his South Philly upbringing. A supereasy noise problem, though, shines out the intimate pleasure of this fry tradition, and remains the only obstacle to a three full.

MENU HIGHLIGHTS Artisanal Sicilians: house ferret sausage (spring and white beans, tagliatelle di lomina, rigatoni alla diavolona, pasta Tagliarini); Sicilian Beharman stew; rabbit scapola; milk-braised goat (special); whole lamb (special); zeppoli; house pasta and arborio risotto; tomato, sticky peas.

DRINKS Thick Italian, but especially Southern Italian, focusing on wines from Sicily or Campania. Deep reds like Nero d'Avola or white wines like Falanghina, Marzemino di Lipari, or anything from Sicily's able winery. Pinotage is perfect for Zeppoli's cuisine.

WINDING NOISE A head-splitting roar of 98 to 102 decibels is the potentially cozy trattoria's greatest flaw, and needs to be addressed (about a 75 decibels or less).

IF YOU GO Dinner Wednesday through Monday 5:30 to 10 p.m. Entrees, \$21-\$26. All major cards.

Not technically wheelchair accessible (there are two steps at entrance), but restaurant can make accommodations with advance notice. Bathroom is accessible. Free parking in the back and front.



Better Newspaper Contest 2011

D17: Reporting and Writing - Robert P. Kelly Award

NJPA Awards

D17: Reporting and Writing - Robert P. Kelly Award

Family's produce plans worry neighbors



In the yard of their Chatham Twp. home are (from left) Debbie Bucuk, husband Tom and son Mike. WARREN WESTURA/SPECIAL TO THE DAILY RECORD

Dispute grows over farming

By Aaron Morrison
Staff Writer

CHATHAM TWP. — Organic farmer Mike Bucuk, 24, isn't tending the overgrown arugula at his family's three-acre Green Village home.

Bucuk and his parents, Tom and Debbie, planted a vegetable garden with hopes to sell its bounty at the local farmer's market. But doing so would mean the Bucuk's home would qualify as a commercial farming operation, which violates Chatham Township law.

At issue is the commercial label, the family says. The Bucuks, 30-year Chatham residents who moved to their Green Village home in November, insist the word "commercial" overstates their plans.

"We're not building a farm so large it needs a crop duster," Tom Bucuk joked.

Word of their plans spawned a rebuke from some neighbors, who are concerned their small scale organic farm would be an intrusive nuisance.

Although Mayor Nicole Hagner and other township officials support adoption of a local Right to Farm Act that would allow farmers to bypass local zoning rules, the Bucuks have been ordered to halt all farming operations until action is taken.

"For me, it's depressing," said Mike Bucuk, who studied agricultural ecology at Rutgers University. "I just stay away from (the crops). We don't weed anything, we don't

"For me, it's depressing ... We don't weed anything; we don't cultivate."

MIKE BUCUK, who studied agricultural ecology at Rutgers University



Tom Bucuk holds the family cat as wife Debbie and son Mike kneel in front of their tilled land. WARREN WESTURA/SPECIAL TO THE DAILY RECORD

See FARMING, Page A6

Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

Daily Record

"Dispute Over Farming"

"Hooked on the Lake"

"Thriving Hives"

Aaron Morrison

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D17: Reporting and Writing - Robert P. Kelly Award

Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

Pet poisoner list grows?

Two more dogs with similar symptoms are dead

By Lauren T. Taniguchi

ltaniguchi@njpress.com

DOWNE TWP: — Two more dogs have been reported dead under suspicious circumstances in the Driveling Creek area.

Bev Greco, executive director of the Cumberland County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (CCSPCA), said that an unconfirmed report was submitted to the CCSPCA late Wednesday afternoon by a dog owner who wished to remain anonymous regarding the death of his or her two dogs.

The swiftness of the symptoms' onset didn't allow the meat Raymond consumed to reach his stomach. "(Digestion) just doesn't work that fast, and that's frightening," SPCA's Bev Greco said. "What that means is ... apparently this is strong enough that it can take them down pretty quickly ..."

These large-breed dogs allegedly experienced fatal symptoms similar to those suffered by a golden retriever, Labrador and a Lab-Chow mixed breed that all died within minutes after ingesting balls of uncooked meat placed without explanation nearby sandy trails.

All five cases were reported to have happened in the same time frame around Feb. 10 and 11 in Downe Township nearby Driveling Road, James Moore Road and Tom's Bridge Road, with the two most recent fatalities occurring at a property adjacent to where the first

(See DEAD DOGS, Page A-8)

The News of Cumberland County

"Pet Poisoner List Grows?"

"White Tiger Succumbs"

"A Harsh Lesson for Area Schools"

Lauren Taniguchi

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D17: Reporting and Writing - Robert P. Kelly Award

Guarding the marketplace

Homeland Security spends \$1.4 million on malls — for what, no one wants to say

By Samantha Costa

LAWRENCE — It's all very hush-hush.

Quaker Bridge Mall is among several malls in New Jersey that have been earmarked for hundreds of thousands of dollars in Homeland Security enhancements. Tight-lipped officials have chosen not to disclose why the township that lies just 55 miles southwest of Ground Zero is getting those enhancements.

Lawrence Chief of Police David Poshinsky and several marketing and security personnel at Quaker Bridge said they were not authorized to explain why \$300,000 has been requested for security spending at the Route 1 mall or how it will be spent.

"The grant is dynamic. There's a lot of areas we're looking at with the mall we're trying to put together," Poshinsky said. "That's just the only piece of the puzzle." He did not elaborate.

Last year, 14 counties in New Jersey were eligible to apply to the state Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness for up to \$300,000 through the Casino, Air, Rail, Shopping Mall-E Program.

And while the officials remained mum, the 2009 grant's Notice of Availability of Funds document is clear. Among the items money spent at malls can be used for are:

- Closed-circuit television systems in the malls — which must be relayed back to police, a provision that apparently snuffed an award in Cherry Hill.

- Dedicated officer patrols.
- Behavioral observation training for officers.

- Physical security measures at malls, such as concrete barriers or large planters.

While Lawrence got the full \$300,000, another \$1.1 million was parcelled out to Hamilton in Atlantic



A security officer patrols the parking lot near Macy's at the Quaker Bridge Mall in Lawrence earlier this month. Below, another officer rides a personal transporter as he patrols the mall's walkways.

County, Cherry Hill, Eatontown, Bridgewater and Freehold Township, all of which applied for money to enhance mall security measures.

State Homeland Security spokesman Dominic Rota suggested that the Quaker Bridge Mall grant may be used to purchase closed circuit surveillance, enhanced radio communications and perimeter security.

Rota also said the size of the mall was a determining factor in the awards. The Lawrence mall measures a hefty 1.1 million square feet.

Explaining the need for extra security, Fred Roberts, chairman of the Rutgers University Homeland Security Research Institute, said malls can be quite attractive to terrorists.

"It's a lot like other targets where you might make a big splash, whether it's a hospital or school or transit

MALL SECURITY GRANTS

Five police departments applied for Homeland Security grants for malls

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Hamilton (Atlantic County) | \$300,000 |
| Lawrence | \$300,000 |
| Bridgewater | \$281,304 |
| Freehold | \$294,368 |
| Cherry Hill (withdrawn) | \$125,000 |
| Eatontown | \$118,888 |
| Total | \$1,418,000 |

Other agencies and municipalities throughout the state were awarded the CAR-E grant for police, as in 194 security enhancements.

SOURCE: NJ OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND PREPAREDNESS



First Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Times

"Guarding the Marketplace"
 "Learning the Confucius Way"
 "Steamboat Comes to Shore"

Samantha Costa

D17: Reporting and Writing - Robert P. Kelly Award

Longport brothers try to stay whole while crafting Nub TV

By ELISA LALA
Staff Writer

The first sign of what it would be like to raise three fearless sons came to Cammy Graeff, of Longport, when her youngest son, Tucker, was 2.

Tucker, now 19, was playing with his two older brothers, Ben, now 22, and Hob, 24, on the family's land in Pennsylvania when his tiny body went sailing down an ice-covered cliff and hit a tree headfirst.

"When I got to him, he was unconscious," said Cammy, recalling the incident — still terrifying, years later — as she stood beside her sons on a recent afternoon.

Looking back on the incident — the first of many emergency room trips, broken bones and worrisome days to follow — she said it foreshadowed the mayhem to come.

"Growing up, we weren't allowed to watch TV or use the Internet," said Ben, the middle son. "We were told to go out and have fun. We had the open space, and we just ruled it."

Now grown and living in Longport, the Graeff brothers haven't eased up. Rather, they have evolved their passion for risk-taking into a profession. The Graeffs are the creators and owners of Nub TV — videos of their daring, dangerous and sometimes straight-out silly antics to be viewed by the world. In its raw form, Ben said, Nub TV is something like "Jackass," the former MTV stunt and prank series.

In order to make Nub TV a reality, the brothers took differ-



From left, brothers Tucker, Ben and Hob Graeff, of Longport, turned their daredevil tendencies into a profession — Nub TV. Hob and Tuck became certified stuntmen and Ben enrolled in film school at the Art Institute of Philadelphia.

ent focuses. Hob and Tuck became certified stuntmen, graduating in June 2010 from the Kahana Stunt School in Orlando, Fla., and Ben enrolled in film school at the Art Institute of Philadelphia. Ben also is a professional surfer.

When it began, Nub TV was a YouTube channel created by Ben, covering mostly his local surfing exploits with a few skits here and there. Then, Hob and Tucker were still away at stunt school. It rapidly accumulated thousands of hits.

In September 2010 with the brothers back in Longport, the Graeffs began a partnership with Robbie Beach, a video production professional, and Zac Gordon, a fellow daredevil from Harrisburg, Pa., and began filming episodes of single stunts to be put onto iTunes for free download.

"We figured we'd get about

500 downloads on the episode," Hob said, "but we woke up to crazy feedback."

In one day, more than 1,000 people had downloaded the pilot, which soon reached more than 11,000 hits. Seeing Nub TV's potential, the crew began more episodes for download. They ran through fire, jumped off buildings, belly-flopped onto a table full of open mouse traps. Nothing was beyond them.

"Everything is 100 percent real, and everything still hurts," Hob said, "but it's just safer. Then again, it's not all that safe. Basically, stunt school changes the level of hurt a person would get in a certain situation."

But it doesn't keep the Graeffs out of the emergency room — and that is what scares their mother.

"Our parents are supportive of Nub," Ben said. "They just don't want us to die."

Just a few weeks ago, Cammy said, she again spent a day in the hospital waiting room.

"I'm nervous every time. I pray every time they do their stunts," she said, her stern gaze moving from one son to the next. "I hate the stunts. I really wish they would just go to med school."

To learn more

To download Nub TV episodes or learn more about the crew, see:

nubrevolution.com
beachvideo1.com
nastythehorse.com/splash.html

□ See Brothers, 13

Third Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Press of Atlantic City

"Longport Brothers"

"St. Baldrick's Head Shaving at LCMR"

"Petersburg Boy Helps Bring Awareness of Osteogenesis"

Elisa Lala

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D17: Reporting and Writing - Robert P. Kelly Award

Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Record (Bergen County)

Child abduction response tested

By REBECCA D. O'BRIEN
CLIFF BOUTER

More than 100 law enforcement officers from throughout Bergen County took part Friday in the first ever field exercise designed to test how authorities coordinate their response to child abduction cases.

Held in New Milford, the exercise brought together the county's Child Abduction Response Team, which includes officers from county and state police, the Sheriff's Office, Prosecutor's Office and the county's Rapid Deployment Force.

Bergen police teams go on alert in rescue drill

The Prosecutor's Office designed the exercise and New Milford Police Chief Frank Papapanos helped arrange the exercise. It was up to the command staff and the boots on the ground to put the pieces together. Here's how it worked.

A mother — played by a female employee at the Prosecutor's Office — called to report her 12-year-old daughter missing, last seen at Kennedy Field behind the New Milford Borough Hall.

Typically, when police hear about a missing child, the response is local. Detectives gather information, inquire about daycare providers, check friends' homes. More often than not, the child turns up quickly.

"Every scenario presents itself differently," Papapanos said. "It's a sliding scale of response."

The initial contact and interviews are done with the local police. If the case meets certain criteria, then the Prosecutor's Office steps in.

In the New Milford exercise, clues

See **CART** Page **A-8**



Officers in the Child Abduction Response Team searching in New Milford on Friday for clues in an exercise designed to find a reported missing girl.

"Child Abduction Response Tested"
"Silence, Lawsuit Hinder Probe"
"A Revolving Door for Burglars"

Rebecca D. O'Brien


NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D17: Reporting and Writing - Robert P. Kelly Award

9/11: TEN YEARS LATER
THE SECURITY EXPERT

A BURDEN TOO GREAT FOR ANYONE TO BEAR

His job was to keep the World Trade Center safe, and the guilt and grief weigh heavy on his shoulders



George Tareek, the security manager for Port Authority at the World Trade Center on 9/11, keeps this model of the twin towers in a cabinet in his Brooklyn home. "It was my home away from home," he says.

By Jason Grant / www.nj.com story

GEORGE TAREEK, the Port Authority's second-in-command for security at the World Trade Center 10 years ago, is sitting in his dining room in Dyker Heights, Brooklyn. His wife of 20 years is relaxing upstairs. It is a warm mid-August night, his hands are trembling slightly. The 61-year-old man is telling a story he rarely shares with anyone — about the rescue effort inside the north tower of the World Trade Center and the moment when the glass, steel, dust and bodies rained down. And always he remembers "Andy," a fireman who was standing beside him.

"I says, 'Andy, come stand by me.' He touches this shoulder and all hell breaks loose. One second he's next to me, the next second he's gone."

Then there are the buildings themselves, whose safety gave him so much pride, two shining towers he spent his days and nights thinking about until he believed he had thought of everything to protect them from evil. Only a few days before the attack, he had gone over their safety with another security professional. "It was my home away from home," he says.

For the past 10 years he has felt he let down his family, the one inside the towers.

"Really, we were the safest building in the United States," he says referring to Sept. 10, not the 11th.

— TAREEK, PAGE 8

First Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Star-Ledger

"A Burden Too Great for Anyone to Bear"

"A Patriotic Town Honors Another Fallen Soldier"

"N.J.'s Top Lawman Takes on Wall Street"

Jason Grant

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION



Better Newspaper Contest 2011

D18: Reporting and Writing - Best Headlines

NJPA Awards

D18: Reporting and Writing - Best Headlines

Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

Veni, vidi, veto

Christie wields pen like a weapon, killing 14 tax, jobs bills

By Ginger Gibson
STATEHOUSE BUREAU

With a dramatic thud, Gov. Chris Christie dropped a stack of 14 vetoes on his lectern yesterday and in one fell swoop dashed a Democrat-backed tax incentive and jobs package, setting off a war of words punctuated with personal attacks and biting criticism.

The tax-cut-touting governor killed the series of tax cuts for businesses in the largest batch of vetoes in a single day in recent memory, calling the

bills "irresponsible" and "political games."

Calling the vetoes "disgusting" and accusing Christie of "a complete disregard for the well-being of working-class residents," Assembly Majority Leader Joe Cryan fired back that the governor is playing politics with people's livelihood.

While neither side disagreed that tax cuts are needed, the spat sparked by Christie's vetoes cranked up the rhetoric in advance of his budget address

next week and the expected firestorm to follow.

"Just like I vetoed continuing appropriation bills, I'm vetoing these tax cuts and incentive programs," Christie said. "We have to be consistent on this."

Senate President Stephen Sweeney (D-Gloucester) intends to challenge Christie's vetoes.

"Honestly, we had like 38 votes (out of 40) on almost every one," Sweeney said. "Don't

SEE VETOES, PAGE A07

The Times

"Veni, Vidi, Veto"

"Dread on Arrival"

"Bank Robber Admits Role as Both Bonnie and Clyde"

Blake Johnson

D18: Reporting and Writing - Best Headlines

MORRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY

A SQUIRREL'S MISSTEP, A LOST DAY AT COURTHOUSE

Backup battery
blaze leads to
building closure

By Abbott Kaloff
and Matt Manocchio
Staff Writers

MORRISTOWN — The Morris County Courthouse was closed early Wednesday morning after a backup battery caught fire during a power outage caused by a squirrel.

Newsroom acting Fire Chief Joe Prachtbauer said firefighters responded at 8:58 a.m. to a report of smoke coming from a third floor courtroom, and that employees had been evacuated from the historic building, which was filling up with smoke.

Jersey Central Power & Light Co. spokesman Ron Morano said a downed wire caused by a squirrel being electrocuted led to a power outage at 8:30 a.m. for 300 customers, including the courthouse and Morris County administration building. He added that the equipment that caused the outage at the courthouse had nothing to do with 2376A.

"That was their internal equipment," he said.

Prachtbauer said the fire was caused by a computer's backup battery inside Courtroom 12 on the third floor of the courthouse, where the Appellate Division is located. He said firefighters entered the room wearing air masks and used thermal imaging equipment to locate the fire, which was quickly extinguished. The battery was destroyed.

"This thing is melted and gone," he said.

Morano said power was restored by 11:30 a.m. but local officials returned power gradually to the courthouse and administrative building to make sure that there were no more problems. Prachtbauer said that power was restored to all parts of those buildings by 1:30 p.m.

All court proceedings scheduled for Wednesday were postponed, including a plea hearing for Joel Velazquez, charged in the murder of the Rev. Edward Hand, and an extradition hearing for Colin Abbott of Randolph, arrested last week and charged with murder in the death of his father and cooperator in Pennsylvania. Prachtbauer said the outage at the courthouse was attributed to the town's underground electrical utility system, the site of several underground electrical fires over the years on South Street.

He said firefighters received a report of nine people stuck in an elevator at the administration building, connected by a walkway to the courthouse, but they got out on their own by the time firefighters arrived on the scene.

"They self-estrained," Prachtbauer said.

Jury and court workers, including those who work in the administration building, were sent home. However, county offices in the administration building remained open for the day.

Morris County Sheriff Ed Buckford said the courthouse had a partial power outage by the time he arrived at his office there early Wednesday morning. The power was off on the second and third floors, he said, adding that there was



The Morris County Courthouse was closed all day Wednesday after a smoldering piece of electrical equipment triggered an evacuation. A firefighter in a protective suit (below) shows the effects of the heat while battling the blaze and a heat wave.



See FIRE, Page A2

ONLINE FOR PHOTOS, SEARCH "COURTHOUSE FIRE" AT DAILYRECORD.COM

Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

Daily Record

"A Squirrel's Misstep..."

"Forecast?"

A Category 3 Hurricane..."

"Green House Effect"

James Flachsenhaar

D18: Reporting and Writing - Best Headlines

Bruise brothers

Hennellys look to inflict pain in postseason



By Bill Evans

bill.evans@nj.com

Two years ago, eighth grader John Hennelly watched his older brother, Matt, compete in the NJSIAA state wrestling tournament as a sophomore.

Last year, it was Matt sitting in the stands watching John finish seventh in the state as a 103-pound freshman.

This year, the brothers from Delsea Regional High School plan to both be in uniform competing until the final day of the season in Atlantic City. John, a 112-pounder, and Matt, who will compete at 130, open their postseason runs this weekend at the District 11 Tournament.

"I was pumped watching him last year, but I would have loved to have been there next to him," said Matt, who was denied a second straight trip to states when he finished fourth in Region 8 with the top three advancing. "This year, we're trying to make it the highest and furthest being next to each other the whole time."

"I want to win my third district title, win my region and place top three in the state, that's my goal. It's my last."

(See DISTRICTS, Page C-3)

Staff photo by Lori M. Hulsch
Brothers Matt (left) and John Hennelly have successful wrestling records at Delsea. Matt, a senior, wrestles at 130 pounds and John, a sophomore, competes at 112 pounds. Both are hoping their postseason paths lead to the state championships in Atlantic City.

“

Confidence is a big thing, I have a feel for the other wrestlers. I've wrestled almost 30 matches, and I'm going to stick with what's worked so far.

— Trent Hampton

”

THE MAIN EVENT: 285 POUNDS



Trent Hampton, Pennsville 28-1

The 285-pound class is at least six deep. While Pennsville's Trent Hampton is the favorite, there could be dark horses like Milville's Jeremy Wilson and Delsea's Tre Porch to keep an eye on. Cumberland's Steven Paul and Woodstown's Josh Hitzner have both advanced to regions before.

There will be several talented heavyweights who won't move on as this is clearly the stiffest class at District 31.

— Bill Evans



Jeremy Wilson, Milville 21-5

“

It's a really deep weight class and everyone in it has a shot at a title. It's going to be really tough competition this year.

— Jeremy Wilson

”

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

Gloucester County Times

“Bruise Brothers”
“Bats Out of Hell”
“Jimmy Two Times”

Matt Cosentino

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D18: Reporting and Writing - Best Headlines

Up for 4 Grammys, a song that dare not speak its name



Getty Images

Cee Lo Green is nominated for his song whose sanitized version uses the title "Forget You."

By **Dan DeLuca**
INQUIRER MUSIC CRITIC

When the Grammy Awards are presented Sunday night at the Staples Center in Los Angeles in a ceremony broadcast on CBS, a naughtily infectious song by soul man Cee Lo Green has an excellent chance of being named both song and record of the year.

But if it wins, you won't hear the song's correct name. That's because it contains an obscenity.

The devilishly catchy pop tune, which is up for four awards, is about a heartbroken guy moved to shout out the two words that best express his frustration at losing the girl he loves to a well-heeled rival.

It became an instant viral Internet sensation when it was released last summer. So far, the official video has racked up more than 43 million YouTube hits in its unexpurgated version, which also has garnered plenty of play on satellite radio. If
See **SONG** on A15

Third Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Philadelphia Inquirer

"Up for 4 Grammys, a Song That Dare Not Speak Its Name"

"Restaurant's Peak Brings Parking Pique"

"Opera Company Back in Flash"

Miriam Tarver

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D18: Reporting and Writing - Best Headlines

Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Record (Bergen County)

Frozen? Yes. Safe to skate? Maybe



Not all North Jersey ponds cleared for use

By MONEY ALVARADO
STAFF WRITER

Recent winter storms and cold temperatures have helped form ice over North Jersey lakes, making them ideal for skating, fishing and other winter recreation. But the statewide ice advisory issued by Bergen County has also prevented smaller ponds from opening for ice skating.

"We have to have several days of sustained below-freezing weather, and we also tend to have days when we are not getting snow," said Debra Childson, director of education at the Trudy Nature Center, where a pond hasn't opened this season, or last. "If you have snow on the

pond, it can actually prevent the ice from becoming thicker."

On Sunday, Bergen County officials measured the ice over the Wild Duck Pond at Saddle River County Park. Although the ice was 9 inches thick, officials kept the pond off limits to skaters.

Wolfgang Albrecht, head of the county's parks department, said while 9 inches is the required minimum, other factors are considered.

"Given the temperatures, it was too warm," he said. Temperatures hovered around 40 degrees Sunday.

Albrecht said the high temperatures kept county ponds in Glen Rock and Wallington closed. Both have been open

at times this season.

Ridgewood's Twinnery Pond has been open to skaters for the past several days, according to the town's website, but King's Pond and Greigian Pond - also in Ridgewood - have been closed. Timothy Corwin, Ridgewood's director of Parks and Recreation, said the ponds need at least 8 inches of ice before officials consider opening them.

Corwin said the snow and freezing rain in recent storms hasn't helped.

"You need cold temperatures, no snow, so you can get that clear ice to form," Corwin said. "Snow is an insulator; it insulates the ice, so when you have snow

See POND Page L-6

"Frozen? Yes. Safe to Skate? Maybe"

"Pettitte Ready to Face Rocket's Red Glare"

"Hard to Work for, Harder to Kill"

Orlando R. Lorenzo

D18: Reporting and Writing - Best Headlines

Fish draw cast of thousands

Anglers line up as state fills waterways for fall fishing



Tom Fritsche, of Winslow Township, Camden County, fishes last week from a boat on Hammonton Lake. The state is filling its waterways, including several in South Jersey, with trout as the fall fishing season begins.

By LEE PROCIDA

Staff Writer

HAMMONTON — The roar of a truck's engine broke the silence on a crisp, sunny morning at Hammonton Lake Park, where a handful of fishermen waited by the boat launch under ruddy-leaved trees.

The flatbed carried more than a thousand trout from 100 miles away to stock the 70-acre lake, and as it pulled up, more anglers jumped from their cars and readied their poles for the beginning of fall fishing season.

"You got a chance for a big fish," said Lenny Senkarik, who traveled from Tuckerton for the release and was suddenly surrounded by competition. "It might get to be aim-and-arm later."

The state fills certain lakes and streams with fish throughout the year for recreational fishing, supplying thousands of in-state and out-of-state anglers

See Fishing, A6



Division of Fish and Wildlife worker Bill DeYoung releases trout from a truck as he stocks Hammonton Lake last week for the start of the fall fishing season.

Trout stocking

New Jersey began stocking area lakes and rivers with trout for the fall fishing season.



Press graphic by Arshina Mathew

First Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Press of Atlantic City

- "Fish Draw Cast of Thousands"
- "'Messiah' Rehearsals a Moving Experience"
- "Learning Is Endgame for Chess Club in A.C."

Craig Schenck

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION



Better Newspaper Contest 2011

D19: Reporting and Writing - Special Issue

NJPA Awards

D19: Reporting and Writing - Special Issue

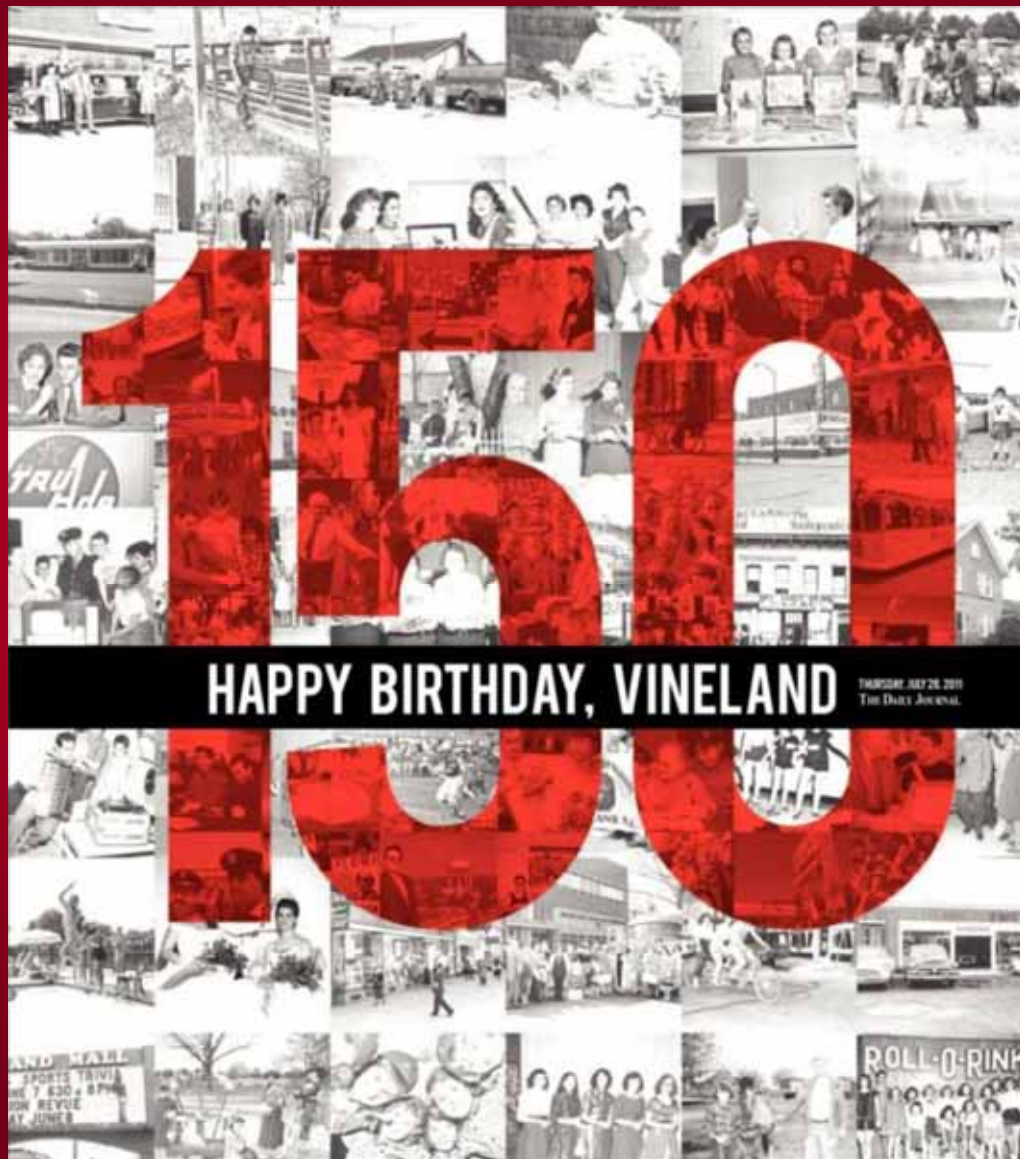
Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

Daily Record

“Living 2011”

Staff

D19: Reporting and Writing - Special Issue



Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

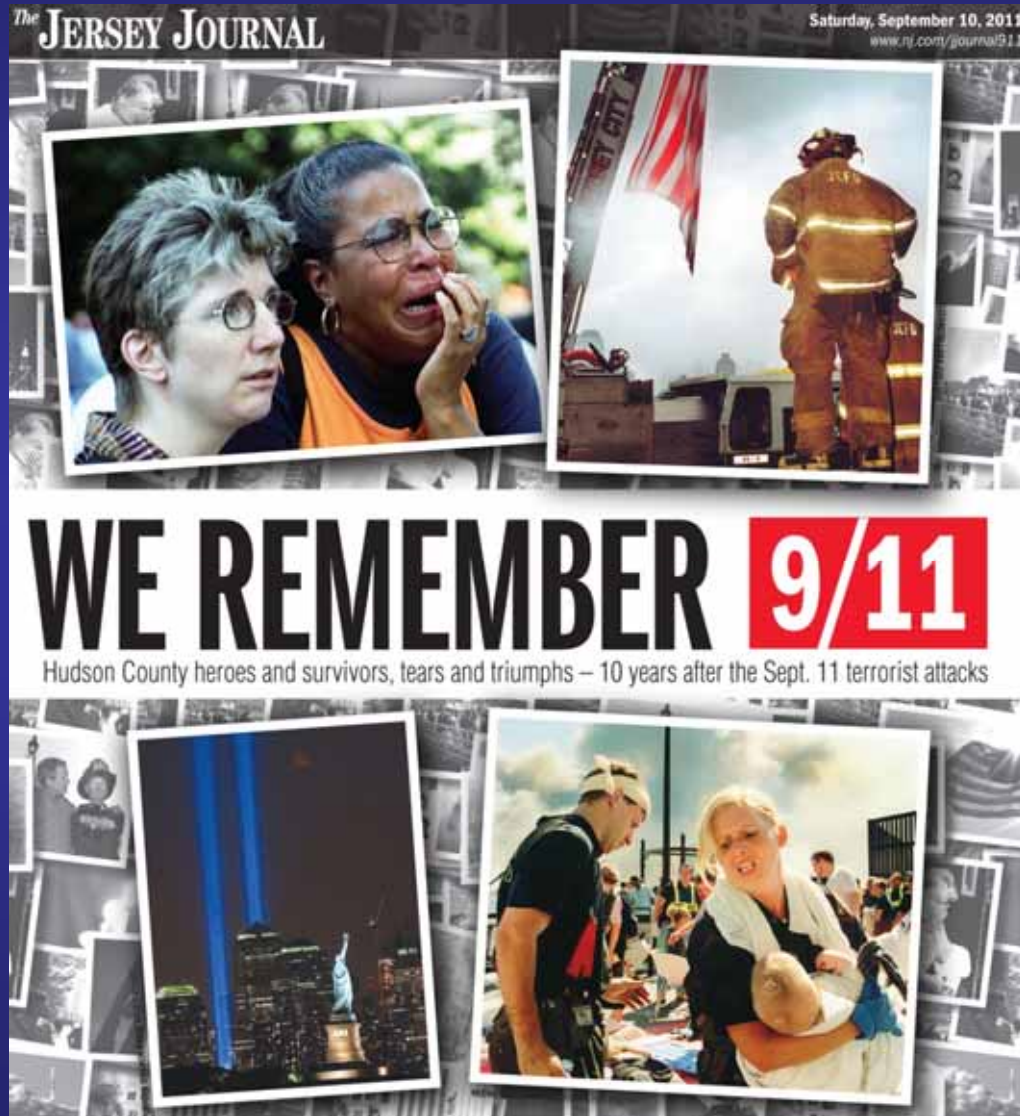
The Daily Journal

“Happy Birthday,
Vineland”

Staff

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D19: Reporting and Writing - Special Issue



First Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Jersey Journal

"We Remember 9/11"

Ken Thorbourne
Reena Rose Sibayan
Sergio Bichao

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 11, 2011

Sunday Star-Ledger

WE DO NOT NEED TO TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED 10 YEARS AGO TODAY. YOU KNOW.

You may no longer recall the exact times of the attacks, what countries the hijackers came from, or how many people were killed in Manhattan, Arlington, Va., and on a field near Shanksville, Pa. But you will never forget where you were when you heard, or the outpouring of grief that followed.

And if you are like many people in New Jersey, you believe the events changed you. Forever. Even if you did not know anyone who died.

First came the shock of hearing a jetliner had plowed into the World Trade Center, under skies so clear and blue it had seemed a perfect morning. Then, when another plane hit, fear. Finally, terror.

The realization that since something unimaginable had happened, it could happen again.

If planes could be turned into guided missiles, couldn't trains or bridges or even clouds become weapons of mass destruction? If office towers were enemy targets, why not schools or hospitals?

These were not abstract questions. Some of us lived close enough to see the smoke billowing from the towers. People went home and held each other. Strangers hurrying home from train stations, or walking their dogs, asked one another "Is your family okay? Do you know anyone who died?"

We were changed, as individuals and a people. Our sense of invincibility and superiority was gone. So was our optimism and faith in the future. We questioned our government's failure to foresee the attacks, yet stuck flags on our cars, felt we really were "one nation" and demonstrated increased respect for the armed forces. "Thank you for your service," we said.

We drank in 9/11 stories of courage and heroism. We grew paranoid and mistrustful of foreigners, and of Muslims, and supported the war on terror.

It's different now. Rumble from a summer storm can still sound like a plane flying too close, too low.

But it hasn't felt as if we were all pulling together for a long time. The economy has replaced terrorism as the top national concern. Public opinion is conflicted about the war in Afghanistan.

People complain about excessive security at airports. Many have buried their memories of 9/11, or at least stopped talking about them. Fundraising for the National Park Service Flight 93 Memorial in Pennsylvania has come up \$10 million short. Some even say they are tired of the annual ceremonies and that, after so long, it's time to move on.

Maybe we have reached the point when 9/11 has become history. We may think we already know all there is to know about it, but we don't. We can study it, and learn from it, for we are better students of history than we were back then. We can also remind ourselves of the vows we made to let the people close to us know we care about them, and live every day as if it could be our last.

The 2,977 people who died from the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, didn't have that privilege.

BY MARY JO PATTERSON, WHO WROTE THE FIRST STAR-LEDGER STORY
ON THE 9/11 TERRORIST ATTACKS, 10 YEARS AGO THIS MORNING.

A reprint of The Star-Ledger capturing the shock and horror of that day in 2001

SPECIAL SECTION

The children of 9/11 are growing up, but shared loss remains an inescapable bond.

PAGE 7

How we chased the ghosts of terrorism, even as we mourned those we lost.

IN PERSPECTIVE

Musicians respond in themes ranging from reflection to retribution.

IN A+E



D19: Reporting and Writing – Special Issue

Third Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Star-Ledger

"September 11, 2011"

Staff

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

9/11

A DECADE LATER

IN MEMORY OF

- Paul Andrea Acquasola
- Daniel Thomas Altius
- Jeremiah J. Azzari
- Bary Azzari
- Grace Anne Cui
- Christopher Edward
- Alford
- Jack Charles Aron
- Richard Avery Aronow
- Michael A. Ascoli
- Ariana T. Babalola
- Michael S. Bahak
- Melissa Shevart Barry
- Paul F. Beattie
- David O. Bergstein
- Joseph J. Berry
- Richard M. Bland Jr.
- Michael W. Bland Jr.
- Thomas M. Bland Jr.
- Ronald Brookhouser
- John E. Bufalaz Jr.
- Keith James Burns
- Thomas J. Cahill
- Gino Luigi Calbi
- Michael T. Carroll
- Alexander Costello
- Christopher Steven Cotton
- Kyung Hee Casey Cho
- Gregory Paul Clark
- Doreen A. Corino-Dulmus
- Denise Court
- John Crave
- Richard Joseph Cudde
- Jack L. D'Amico Jr.
- Daniel A. DeSantis
- Francis X. Downing
- John C. Duffalo
- Robert J. Dwaning
- Christian L. DeSimone
- Anthony Dorrice
- Barbara Dittus
- Stephen Dorf
- Frank Joseph Ortle
- Lisa E.
- Edgar H. Emery Jr.
- Fanny M. Eshbach
- Ronald C. Fazio
- George Ferguson III
- Jessica Louise Fialka
- Tammy J. Flannery
- Lillian I. Frederick
- Gregory J. Freshner
- Barry H. Gluck
- Jeremy Gluck
- John M. Grassano
- Timothy Dennis Grimes
- Gayle R. Grimes
- Donald M. Gregory
- John M. Griffin
- Kenneth Grunwald
- Douglas B. Gunter
- Timothy John Hargrove
- Leonard William Heaton Jr.
- Joseph Francis Huffard
- Ulrich G. Houston
- Naomi Hula
- Zaffira Iba
- Alan K. Jensen
- Shashikan
- Lakshminarayanan Kulkarni
- Shari Kamel
- Jessica Lynn Kane
- Joan Koo Kang
- Deborah M. Kaplan
- Hilary Karamachi
- Joseph J. Keller
- Thomas Michael Kelly
- Andrew Jay-Kim Kim
- Ben Seok Koo
- Chow Kwan Lam
- Michelle C. Lashman
- Paul Lashman
- Melany Woo Lee
- David Prudente Lemagne
- Robert M. Levine
- Craig Norman Libera
- Thomas V. Lisutan Jr.
- Diane Lipari
- Kenneth P. Lira
- Ronald E. Livingston
- Joseph Main
- Daniel F. McKinley
- Thomas H. McGinnis
- Scott Martin McGinnis
- William J. Muehan
- Darman Muehan
- Louise Mendez
- David Robert Meyer
- Michael Matthew Miller
- Richard C. Miller Jr.
- Domnick Mironech
- Rosali A. Mizgal
- Richard Morgan
- Debi A. Morris
- Mona Murray
- James Donald Marshall
- Marc A. Murilo
- Charles Murphy
- Edward C. Murphy
- Frank Joseph Naples II
- Joseph M. Navas
- Felix Nguyen
- Nancy Yuen Ngo
- Richard O'Grady
- Richard O'Neil
- Michael Oyer
- Tyler Joseph O'Neil
- Dominique Ponsolle
- Steven Bennett Paterano
- Angel Roman Pena
- Jim Peroviti Jr.
- Nancy E. Pincz
- Joseph Platado
- Daphne Proietto
- Joseph John Pryor Jr.
- Elizabeth U. Raja
- Shreyas S. Rangarath
- Angel Rana T. Ramesh
- William Rajaj Raut
- Thomas Barnes Reag
- Freda Reisman
- Francis S. Ricciardi
- Paul Ross
- Joseph Roberts
- Lisa A. Roberts
- Martha A. Rodriguez
- Scott Rubin
- James A. Rubin
- Linda Rosenbaum
- Mark Louis Rosenberg
- Richard David Rosenfeld
- Michael V. San Philip
- Karen K. Sarraf
- Steven Francis Sebing
- Jayesh Shah
- Neil G. Shavit
- Hagen Shul
- Craig A. Silverman
- Bruce Edward Simmons
- Kenneth Alan Simon
- Michael Jack Simon
- John P. Skala
- Steven J. Sklaroff
- Yaela Juppmane
- Gina Solovayev
- Katy Takalash
- Michael Anthony Tanner
- Doreen Tarr
- Tamara J.
- Richard J. Tardio
- Glen J. Tarsini
- Walter R. Tarsini
- Francis Joseph Trambak
- And Shoshani Urunkar
- Donal B. Van Loon
- Jon C. Wankovitch
- Scott C. Vassil
- Jerry Weissman
- Christopher Wernig
- Gregory Wustner
- Peter G. Wallace
- Ray Michael Wallace
- Denise C. Westington
- Michael T. White
- Christopher W.
- David James Woodall
- Richard Harmon Woodall
- Myron Michael Wurley
- Matt Yarnell
- Adil Asghar Zahary
- Robert Sam Zammit
- Mark Zangwill
- Michael Joseph Ziss
- Juli Lynn Zippor
- Sabine J. Ziss



LOVE AND MEMORIES LIVE ON

They are not forgotten, the people who didn't come home that sunny Tuesday. Those left behind reflect on their loved ones and show how the human spirit endures.



To view a video accompanying this special section, visit northjersey.com/V11

D19: Reporting and Writing - Special Issue

Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Record (Bergen County)

"9-11 A Decade Later... Love and Memories Live On"

Staff



SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

COURIER-POST

10 YEARS LATER

September 11, 2001 – September 11, 2011

NEVER FORGET

HIJACKED PLANES TWIN 110-STORY SKYSCRAPERS
AIRPORTS LET'S ROLL U.S. ATTACKED PENTAGON DAMAGED
RADIO TRANSMISSIONS EAST COAST LOWER MANHATTAN TUESDAY HELL ON EARTH

TOWERS
COLLAPSE
MANGLED
STEEL
RUDY
GIULIANI
THE SOUTH
TOWER
DESPAIR
PLUMES OF
SMOKE
9:03 A.M.
BOSTON'S
LOGAN
AMERICAN
AIRLINES
FLIGHT 7
TRAVEL
DISRUPTED
STUNNED
BY TRAGEDY
10:03 A.M.
CANTOR
FITZGERALD
DULLES
INTERNATIONAL
WAR ZONE
TERRORISM
COURAGE
PASSENGERS
LOS ANGELES
THE CAPTION
NATIONAL TV
78TH FLOOR
PINNED BY A
CONCRETE WALL
MASS TRANSIT
STRICKEN CITY
ASH COVERED
SHANKSVILLE
DEADY CALAMITY
COMMANDER
VENESY STREET
CHURCH STREET
WIDOWED
YOUTH BILLY
WE WILL NOT FORGET
WE WILL NOT FORGET
WE WILL NOT FORGET
LINDA MIKRE
WHEN NEW YORK
WAS CALLED INTO

NYC
D.C.
WTC
RISK
FAA
JET
2,977
FEAR
TEARS
DEAD
PANIC
SMOKE
POLICE
WHITE
HOUSE
CHAOS
BEAMS
SHOCK
ATTACK
NATION
BOARD
STRIKE
PILOTS
DEPARTURE
ALERT
DROPPED
RUSHED
NAKED
ENEMY
RESCUE
ATTEMPT
ABYSS
CLOSED
VIGILS
STATE OF
LIBERTY
TOPPLED
SOLEMN
5:57 A.M.
BRIDGE
TUNNEL
LUMPEN
SOLDIER
WIDOWED
DEADLY
STRUCK
HENSEN
JONG
PAPER
LINDA MIKRE
WHEN NEW YORK
WAS CALLED INTO

CREW
MEMBERS
STATE
DEPARTMENT
THE FIRST
PLANE
THE NORTH
TOWER
8:46 A.M.
HEROES
THE SECOND
TOWER
UNITED
AIRLINES
FLIGHT 93
WORLD
FINANCIAL
CENTER
UNITED
AIRLINES
FLIGHT 175
IMMENSE
HUMAN
TRAGEDY
MISSING
NEWARK
INFERNO
WALKING
WOUNDED
FIREBALL
DEVASTATION
UNFOLDS
SENSELESS
EXPLOSION
EMERGING FROM
THE RUBBLE
SCIDE PLANES
A FIELD IN PA.
AFTER A THOUSAND
NIGHT TRAINS
TO THE DEATH
SEPTEMBER 2001
EMERGENCY SERVICES
WELDY ABRAHAM
TOP OF THE BUILDING
DIED WITH HIS
WIFE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001
COURTESY AMERICA

D19: Reporting and Writing – Special Issue

First Place, Daily Over 45,000

Courier-Post

“Never Forget”

Staff

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Better Newspaper Contest 2011

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NJPA Awards

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Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

Gloucester County Times

"Our Sputnik Moment"

"A Massive Strike"

"Rattled"

"Target: New Jersey"

"Coming Home"

Glenn Koppelman

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D20: Design and Presentation - News Page Design Portfolio



Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

Burlington County Times

"Burlington County Times"
"BCT Local"

Colleen Prendergast
Morgaine Ford-Workman

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NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

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www.northjersey.com

THE HEAT IS ON



GENETRIUS DALEVOUS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Children keeping cool on Thursday while playing under the sprinklers in Paterson's Buckley Park.

Residents brace for 2 broiling days

By **NICK CLUNN**
STAFF WRITER

Another two days of 100-degree heat is forecast for North Jersey as a so-called heat dome is expected to continue to make life difficult just about anywhere beyond the reach of an air conditioner.

The mercury in Bergenfield touched 100 degrees Thursday, breaking the old record of 95 set in 1991, said Bob Zill, spokesman for the North Jersey Weather Observers. Newark hit 102, tying a record set in 1977, a meteorologist said.

More of the same is expected today and Saturday, with the forecast calling for highs around 100, though it will feel more like 110 with the humidity factored in, said Joseph Pilling, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service. A forecast high of 91 on Sunday will bring a hint of relief, even though such a reading is still abnormally high for this time of year, he said.

The oven-like feel on Thursday drew parents and their children to water parks and forced laborers to temporarily abandon construction sites. People who care for the elderly — either as family members or as part of their job — paid closer attention to headaches and hydration.

Relatives of patients at the Proskauer Healthcare Center in Wayne complained to management when a power outage knocked out the air conditioning, causing the temperature inside the county-owned center to reach 81 degrees. Passaic County Administrator Tony De Nova confirmed. State health regulations require care centers to keep the thermostat below 78 degrees.

There were no injuries as a result of the heat, and nurses made extra rounds to ensure that patients were comfortable and hydrated, De Nova said.

A senior center in East Rutherford, meanwhile,

Please see HEAT, A8

By the numbers

A sampling of high temperatures from across North Jersey on Thursday:

| |
|-----------------|
| Bergenfield: 99 |
| Hawthorne: 99 |
| Ramsey: 96 |
| Ringwood: 99 |
| Teledora: 100 |
| Wayne: 87 |

Sources: The North Jersey Weather Observers and The National Weather Service.

All-time high?

The average high temperature for July 21, since 1801, is 87 degrees. Below is a look at the top five temperatures for this date.

| | |
|------|-----|
| 1977 | 102 |
| 1991 | 102 |
| 1960 | 101 |
| 1957 | 99 |
| 1904 | 98 |

*Records kept at Newark Airport. Source: National Weather Service.

Find some relief

A list and map of area cooling centers. **A8**

Forecast Triple H



Extreme heat warning. Hazy, hot and humid. Highs near 100.

Tonight and Saturday: Partly cloudy. Lower near 70. Excessive heat and humidity Saturday. **B11**



KEVIN K. BOGALSKI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A thermometer hits 100 degrees in Clifton.

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

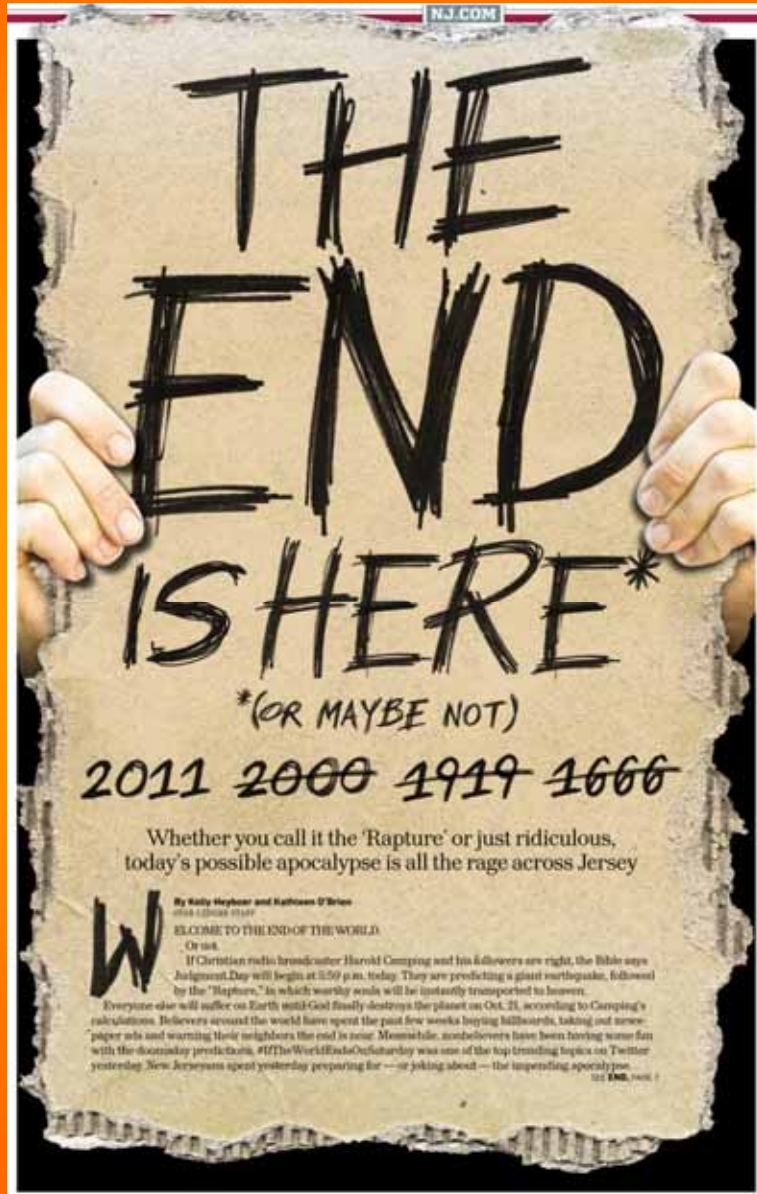
Herald News

- “The Heat Is On!”
- “Relief Still Days Away”
- “Rivers Show No Mercy”
- “The Best Ever!”
- “Gadhafi Death ‘the Last Chapter’”

Scott Muller

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D20: Design and Presentation - News Page Design Portfolio



Third Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Star-Ledger

"The End Is Here"

"N.J.'s Most Devastating Storm Ever?"

"Paterno Fired"

"Running for Cover"

"108 Degrees"

Shawn Weston

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D20: Design and Presentation - News Page Design Portfolio

American dream out of reach

IN BERGEN COUNTY


The median household has an income of
\$89,500
which can afford a home priced at
\$357,500
but the median home price is
\$432,000

What's affordable

Median home prices in Bergen and Passaic counties are beyond the means of a majority of households in each county, despite four years of declining values.


IN PASSAIC COUNTY

The median household has an income of
\$58,000
which can afford a home priced at
\$186,600
but the median home price is
\$319,450



Monthly cost of owning a typically priced home would consume:


35% of median household income in Bergen County



Monthly cost: **\$2,631**

Federal affordability standard is 31%

43% of median household income in Passaic County



Monthly cost: **\$2,069**

Federal affordability standard is 31%

Note: Monthly cost includes mortgage payment, property tax and homeowners insurance.

* Affordability is based on buyers who earn the median income taking an 80 percent mortgage and paying the median property tax in each county. Income is a combination of 2009 household and family figures reported by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Sources: New Jersey Treasury and Banking departments/U.S. Census Bureau. Images by iSTOCK.COM
STAFF ANALYSIS BY DAVE SHEINGOLD GRAPHIC BY JERRY LUCIANI/STAFF ARTIST

North Jersey home prices outpace paychecks

By **KATHLEEN LYNN** and **DAVE SHEINGOLD**
STAFF WRITERS

Mortgage rates are at a rock-bottom 5 percent, and home prices have tumbled as much as 20 percent — making North Jersey homes much more affordable. But the region remains one of the hottest real estate markets in the country. Buying a home — including the cost of property taxes — remains more of a stretch than it was even a decade ago. In a recent analysis of property sales data, *The Record* found that a North Jersey household with the median income is farther away than they were in 2000 from being able to buy a median-priced house — a traditional measure of affordability. Kate and Mark Chabus know this re-

ally firsthand. She's a nurse and he's a chef, with paychecks that put them in the range of Bergen County's median household income of around \$90,000. Because they're expecting their second child, they're about to outgrow their Englewood apartment. They started their house hunt in Bergen County, looking at properties in the \$350,000 range — about

See **HOMES** Page **A-10**

Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Record (Bergen County)

"An American Dream Out of Reach"

"Finally Over"

"Fears of Recession
Fuel a New Plunge"

"9-11...A Decade Later"

"Love and Memories Live On"

Jerry Luciani

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D20: Design and Presentation - News Page Design Portfolio

GO TO NJ.COM FOR LIVE UPDATES ON THE FLOODING

DELUGE LEAVES N.J. AT RIVERS' MERCY

➤ About 775,000 remain without electricity as Irene kills at least four in state.
➤ A million residents return to Shore while tens of thousands flee inland areas.



Paul Crawford, her husband Tom, in life jackets, and Barry and Bill Robinson and their dog Shabby ride an inflatable boat to safety in Dennisville yesterday.

14 PAGES INSIDE

- Inland towns hit with historic floods. Pages 4-5
- Thousands are in the dark as power goes. Page 6
- Across N.J., residents battling mud. Page 7
- Shore hit hard, but not as hard as was feared. Page 8
- Christie leaves the state, and the TV channels. Page 10
- Stories of life and death emerge from the flood. Page 12
- Irene's victims trip up the East Coast. Pages 13-15
- Four pages of color photos. Pages 14-17

BY MARK WARDER | 10/28/08 10:00 AM

I will go down as one of the most damaging storms to hit New Jersey in a century, if not its recorded history. But before Hurricane Irene takes its place in the record books, it has more misery to sow.

The state's rivers, swollen by Irene's relentless downpours, began spilling their banks yesterday, inundating backyards and basements, major highways and downtown streets. Many waterways were still rising, suggesting the worst is yet to come.

Even as a million displaced residents began streaming back to their homes along the Shore, tens of thousands of people began evacuating inland flood zones, a vast expanse stretching from the state's northern border to Trenton.

The number of homes and businesses without power, meanwhile, multiplied by the hour, at one point reaching 928,000. Last night, Gov. Chris Christie said that figure had been reduced to 773,000. Utilities warned it could be more than a week before the last customer is hooked back into the grid.

Transportation, too, is a continuing challenge. All NJ Transit rail service remains suspended today, with the exception of the Atlantic City line, running from the resort to Philadelphia. Bus service will run on a limited weekend schedule. "If you don't have to go to work tomorrow, don't go to work tomorrow,"

AFTER THE STORM

The New Jersey Office of Emergency Management offers these tips for dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Irene:

TRAVEL
 Flood zones may still be in effect, so check before setting off after an evacuation. The Federal Emergency Management Agency website announced tips to avoid hazards and damage after a flood zone. www.fema.gov

JUST COMING HOME?
 Do not return until you are notified after an evacuation. The Federal Emergency Management Agency website announced tips to avoid hazards and damage after a flood zone. www.fema.gov

HELP LINE
 New Jersey 211 offers help accessing basic needs, including emergency food, shelter, clothing and animal care requests. Call 211 or visit NJ211.org.

DRY OUT SLOWLY
 FEMA recommends putting out about one-third of the water each day. If the ground outside is saturated, removing water quickly can damage walls and floors.

DOCUMENT CLEANUP
 Double-check your phone company right away. Document any damage with photos and videos. Keep all receipts associated with cleanup and repair.

FOOD SAFETY
 Do not eat anything that may have touched floodwaters. If you do eat or drink, wash, refrigerate and freeze. Do not discard. If you have been told that this, have been above 45 degrees for longer than one hour. Discard food safety information is available at www.fda.gov.

AVOID THE BEACH
 Shores are still dangerous. Shores are still dangerous. Shores are still dangerous. Shores are still dangerous. Shores are still dangerous.

—Greg Robinson

First Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Star-Ledger

"Deluge Leaves N.J. at River's Mercy"

"Justice Has Been Done"

"Death of a Dictator"

"Rattle & Hmmm"

"The Biggest No in Politics"

Joe Lee





Better Newspaper Contest 2011

**D21: Design and Presentation -
Feature Section
Page Design Portfolio**

NJPA Awards

Grassroots
CONNECTING TO THE NATURAL WORLD

PLAN YOUR SPRING GARDEN NOW
PAGE B4

SPORTS SECTION INSIDE
PAGE B5

DEER IN A THREE-PART SERIES: THE DEVELOPMENT



A healthy undisturbed forest in the Sussex County area is the best housing habitat for deer.

This forest in the state's Delaware Valley Wildlife Management Area is the best habitat for deer.



The trouble with deer

Our forests are degraded, but are deer or people to blame?

As you walk in them, Jersey's forests, it can be said, are the best in the nation. They are the best in the state, where 200 deer per square mile roam and thrive.

The best source of the highest deer densities appears to be the part of Sussex County, and the best source of the highest deer densities is the Sussex County Wildlife Management Area, where 200 deer per square mile roam and thrive.

The best source of the highest deer densities appears to be the part of Sussex County, and the best source of the highest deer densities is the Sussex County Wildlife Management Area, where 200 deer per square mile roam and thrive.

Deer/human interactions in New Jersey

400 deer were the latest available and current census when collected in 2009.

1.7 million
Number of people visiting the state's parks in 2009.

\$537 million
Spent on deer hunting in New Jersey in 2009.

30,866
Number of deer/human collisions in 2009.

\$814
Cost per deer for the state's wildlife management system in 2009.

\$1,000-\$2,000
Cost per deer for the state's wildlife management system in 2009.

South Jersey deer have the highest density of any state in the nation.

Conservationists argue that the loss of high-quality forests and wetlands on the edge of urban development is the primary cause of the problem.

Because the many deer have eaten oak acorns, the state's wildlife management system is struggling to keep up with the demand for acorns.

At the New Jersey State Park in Parsippany, part of the problem is the loss of high-quality forests and wetlands on the edge of urban development.

When someone close to you has an emergency, no emergency room comes close to ours.

EMERGENCY CARE WORTH GOING THE EXTRA MILE FOR.

MorrisStown Medical Center
EMERGENCY CARE WORTH GOING THE EXTRA MILE FOR.

D21: Design and Presentation – Feature Section Page Design Portfolio

Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

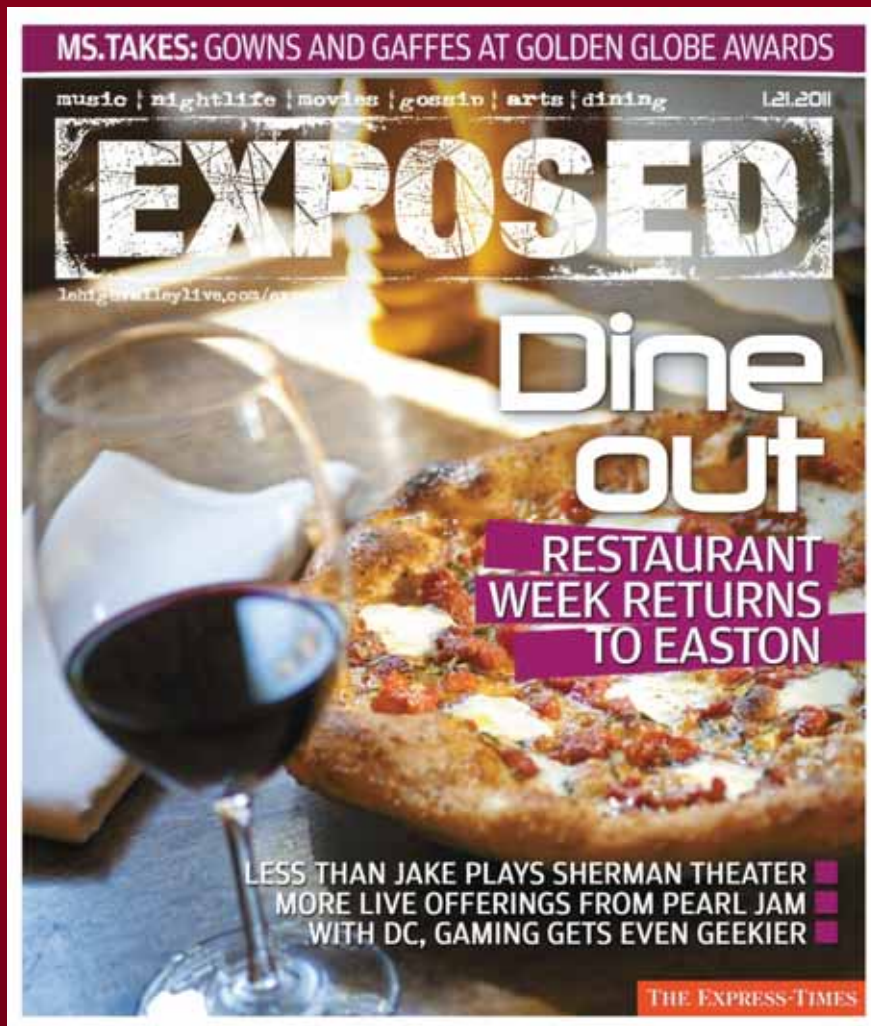
Daily Record

“November 17, 24
December 1, 15, 29”

Elizabeth Thompson



D21: Design and Presentation – Feature Section Page Design Portfolio



Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Express-Times

"Dine Out"

"Get the Look"

"To Be or Not to Be"

"If Looks Could Kilt"

"Shoot to Thrill"

James Moening

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

The collage is titled "The End of our Journey" and is a retrospective feature on the Harry Potter series. It includes a winding path of yellow and green that leads from the year 2011 at the top to 1998 at the bottom. Along this path are images of the Harry Potter books and movie posters for each year from 1998 to 2011. Interspersed are quotes from fans, some accompanied by small circular portraits of the fans. At the bottom of the collage, there is a small photo of a man speaking at a podium, with a caption identifying him as James Rodriguez addressing fans at a NYC premiere. The text "A magical experience: up close with the Potter stars at NYC premiere" is placed above this photo. The overall design is colorful and nostalgic, celebrating the decade of the series.

More Potter memories, D4

By PREMIERE, Page D4

D21: Design and Presentation – Feature Section Page Design Portfolio

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

Burlington County Times

"Reality"
"Food"

Tom Raski

D21: Design and Presentation – Feature Section Page Design Portfolio

Third Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Record (Bergen County)

Better Living

Haworth teen a TV mean girl

By VIRGINIA ROHAN
STAFF WRITER

Elizabeth Gillies is not a diva. She just plays one on TV. The Haworth teen is nothing but charming as she chats on the phone about jail, the girl-nd character with attitude she plays on Nickelodeon's "Victorious."

"She's not the typical mean girl," says Gillies. "Last season, she was obsessed with cutting things up – her hair, French fries... I've been lucky. She keeps getting weirder and weirder. I couldn't play a nonstop mean girl!"

In this weekend's "Party with Victorious," Gillies and the rest of the "Victorious" gang team with the cast of Nick's "Carly" for what the network is billing as "a special television event."

"It was just a blast having all these amazing an act," says Gillies. "Everyone is going to be so thrilled to see the two casts interact." The movie stars Carly (Miranda Cosgrove), the Seattle girl who starred last year's WebTV show called "Carly," is dating a boy named Steven, who divides his time between his divorced parents in Seattle and Los Angeles. Tori (Victoria Justice) of "Victorious," an aspiring singer at Hollywood Arts, a performing arts high school in L.A., also has a new boyfriend. There and he's the same guy Carly is seeing. When the father comes to suspect that Steven is a two timer, she plans a trip to Los Angeles to catch

See **GILLES** Page F-4

Women

■ Add a finishing touch to your ensemble with the **Craft & Rainier Floral Piggy Straw Hat**, which has a feminine floral accent, matching trim and wide brim. \$25. Sold at Kohl's stores in Paramus, Clifton and Woodland Park or online at kohls.com.

Men

■ Go retro with the **Goovin Brothers Haremwood Gray Rip-up Fedora** with contrasting gingham hat band. \$45. Sold online at goovin.com or sgoopin.com.

Teens

■ Model a winning look in this **Multi-Tone Checkered Straw Fedora**, which is shown in straw/black and has a gingham ribbon accent. \$26. Sold at Kohl's stores in Paramus, Clifton and Woodland Park or online at kohls.com.

Kids

■ The **Wallaroo Hat Company's Shark hat** comes with a drawstring to keep it on kids' heads and sturdy cotton knit fabric to last all summer. \$16. Sold at the Manogarden Plant & Flower Exchange in Paramus and Humphrey's Group in Haworth or online at wallroohats.com.



HATS

FOR SUMMER

Protection is key in the summer to avoid looking like a lobster. But who says you can't be stylish while keeping yourself shaded? Embrace the sunshine with the new straw and wide-brimmed hats, or the retro fedoras, now at local retailers and online stores. —ALEXIS TARRAGI, STAFF WRITER

For more hats, see Page F-3

- “Hats for Summer”
- “Concierge Services Make Shore Rentals a Snap”
- “Shake It Up with Bold Gin Drinks”
- “Gordon Ramsay’s Gear”
- “Faux & Fabulous”

Elaine Isaacson

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION



D21: Design and Presentation – Feature Section Page Design Portfolio

Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Star-Ledger

“Fake News, Real Influence”

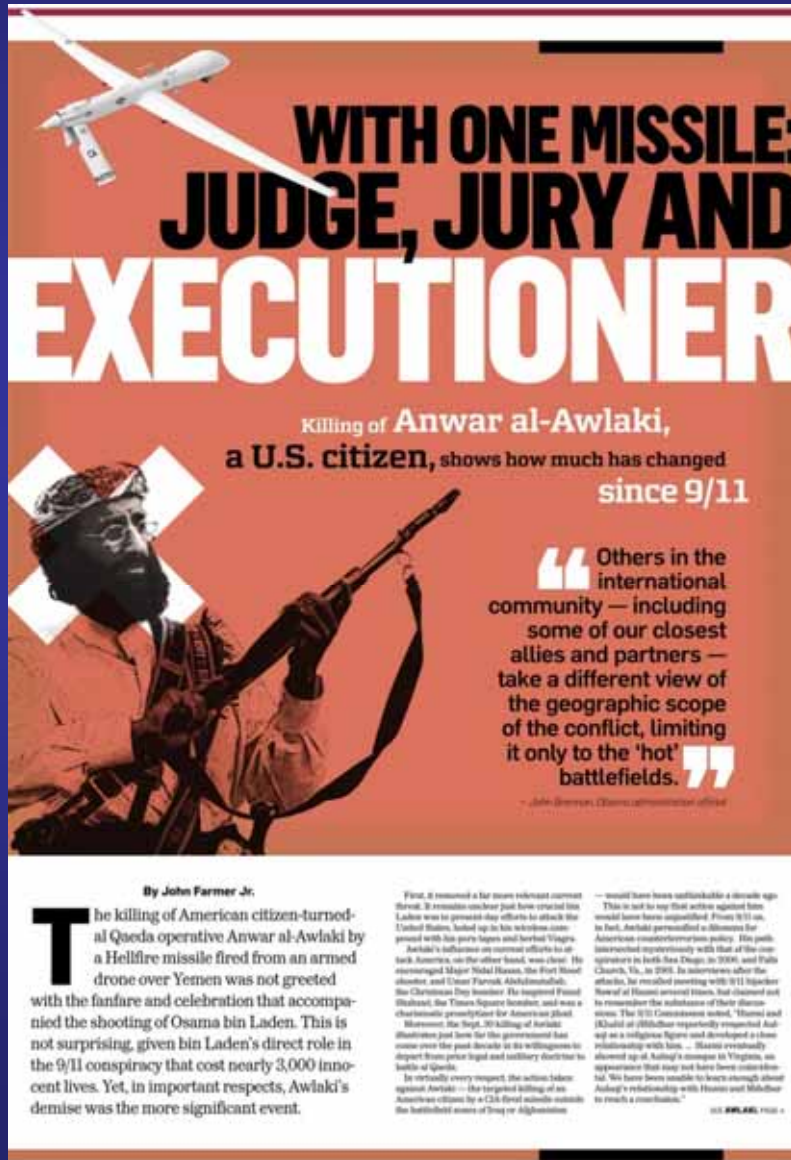
“Could a Nuclear Disaster Happen Here?”

“Montclair Rock City”

Shawn Weston

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D21: Design and Presentation – Feature Section Page Design Portfolio



First Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Star-Ledger

“With One Missile:
Judge, Jury and Executioner”
“His Second Stage”
“Reading, Writing and Radical”
“The Kid Stays in the Pictures”
“A Day at the Beach”

Neville Harvey

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION



Better Newspaper Contest 2011

D22: Design and Presentation - Sports Page Design Portfolio

NJPA Awards

Sports

LABORED TALKS

NBA PLAYERS, OWNERS MEET FOR MORE THAN 10 HOURS WITH A FEDERAL MEDIATOR



MFL SETS

Rex's Jets relieved to get win

Victory over Dolphins wasn't pretty, but needed

SUNDAY'S GAME



JETS VS. DOLPHINS

7 PM, CBS

"Losing, especially in this business, it's tough."

MARKELLE NEWS

BY MICHAEL



Jets wide receiver Santonio Johnson celebrates after scoring a touchdown during the fourth quarter Monday.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL OUTLOOK

Rutgers-Louisville features matchup of freshman QBs



GARY NOVA

QUARTERBACK

"This is a big game and we're excited about it."

BY MICHAEL



Rangers, Cardinals should deliver on field, but will anyone watch?

Ready for PRIME TIME?

St. Louis first baseman Adam Lind (left) and Texas outfielder Nelson Cruz (right) are part of the Dodgers who will be on display in the World Series.



St. Louis Cardinals (10-7) at St. Louis, Wednesday 7:15, CBS
Texas Rangers (14-10) at St. Louis, Wednesday 10:15, CBS
St. Louis Cardinals (10-7) at St. Louis, Thursday 7:15, CBS
Texas Rangers (14-10) at St. Louis, Thursday 10:15, CBS
St. Louis Cardinals (10-7) at St. Louis, Friday 7:15, CBS
Texas Rangers (14-10) at St. Louis, Friday 10:15, CBS
St. Louis Cardinals (10-7) at St. Louis, Saturday 7:15, CBS
Texas Rangers (14-10) at St. Louis, Saturday 10:15, CBS

St. Louis Cardinals (10-7) at St. Louis, Sunday 7:15, CBS
Texas Rangers (14-10) at St. Louis, Sunday 10:15, CBS

D22: Design and Presentation – Sports Page Design Portfolio

Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

Daily Record

“Daily Record Sports Pages”

Kiersten Schmidt





SECTION C • MONDAY, OCT. 31, 2011

BCT SPORTS

Eagles (6) Throw Cole (10) punts into the back of Cowboys' (26) Terry Allen in the second quarter on Sunday night.



Eagles 34, Cowboys 7

Next game: Nov. 7 on Sports, 8:30 p.m.

BY THE NUMBERS

| | |
|---------------------|------|
| Philadelphia Eagles | 34 |
| Dallas Cowboys | 7 |
| Philadelphia Eagles | 13-0 |
| Dallas Cowboys | 1-10 |
| Philadelphia Eagles | 10 |
| Dallas Cowboys | 1 |
| Philadelphia Eagles | 10 |
| Dallas Cowboys | 1 |
| Philadelphia Eagles | 10 |
| Dallas Cowboys | 1 |

Down with Dallas

The Eagles improved to 13-0 after the bye week under coach Andy Reid by blowing out the Cowboys.

PHILADELPHIA — Bill Ryan was inspired as nothing more than a "weekend and his Dallas Cowboys defense, which he slightly overhauled, working more than twice as hard.

The Eagles turned a near-perfect first half into a dominating 34-7 victory over their NFC East rival in front of a nationally televised sell-out crowd at JPMorgan Chase Stadium. The triumph was the Eagles' second straight and snapped a five-game losing streak at home, a club that had lost five of its last 11 games.

It also beat both Reid-coached teams in consecutive victories over a 100-yard rushing attack in the fourth quarter.

Both teams are now 1-6, two games behind the Giants, with a rematch scheduled for December 11 in Dallas.

San Antonio River columnist Chad Green wrote that Ryan's assessment of the Eagles being a "strong team" by selling them the all-league team. "They did well, he said they would beat the Eagles' star QB. He, of course, and some other national pundits like that.

Well, Ryan's defense was unable to back up these broad statements, with the Eagles making his defense — and Ryan himself — look foolish. By scoring on a 28-0 halftime lead.

The Eagles had four possessions and carried 100 yards for points. The first three possessions were for touchdowns: a 12-yard catch by Jeremy Maclin, a 2-yard run by LeSean McCoy, and a 1-yard reception by Brent Celek. The final possession ended with a 21-yard field goal from rookie kicker Tim Lincecum.

The Eagles didn't have to punt for the first time since they were last 12 minutes to go in the game.

Quarterback Michael Vick was on target in a 10-play opening half. He was 10-of-14 for 187 yards with two touchdowns. He also ran for another 97 yards on the victory.

Vick finished the game with a career-best 10th 100% field on 11 completions in 18 attempts for 279 yards.

PHILADELPHIA: 34-7 DALLAS: 7
PHILADELPHIA: 13-0 DALLAS: 1-10
PHILADELPHIA: 10 DALLAS: 1
PHILADELPHIA: 10 DALLAS: 1
PHILADELPHIA: 10 DALLAS: 1

Stewart closes in on Edwards with win

PHILADELPHIA — Three-time world champion Stewart closed in on Edwards with a win at the 1000-mile triathlon in Philadelphia on Sunday.

Stewart, 34, won the triathlon in 10 hours, 11 minutes and 11 seconds, finishing 10th in the overall standings. Edwards, 35, finished 11th in 10 hours, 12 minutes and 11 seconds.

Stewart's victory was his 10th in the triathlon, and he has won the triathlon in Philadelphia in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011. Edwards has won the triathlon in Philadelphia in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Stewart's victory was his 10th in the triathlon, and he has won the triathlon in Philadelphia in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011. Edwards has won the triathlon in Philadelphia in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011.



making the right calls and adjustments all day long. "I don't think we had the best race on paper, but we had the most determined guy out there."

Johnson, for much of the day, looked like he might be the one making a huge move on the podium, but he was unable to do so. Edwards finished in the 10th and 11th spots, respectively.

The victory was his 10th in the triathlon, and he has won the triathlon in Philadelphia in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011. Edwards has won the triathlon in Philadelphia in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Houston gets leg up on the Union

PHILADELPHIA — The Philadelphia Union (1) got a leg up on the Houston Dynamo (2) in the opening game of the season on Sunday.

The Union, coached by Bruce Arena, won 1-0 in the opening game of the season on Sunday. The Dynamo, coached by Bruce Arena, lost 1-0.

The Union, coached by Bruce Arena, won 1-0 in the opening game of the season on Sunday. The Dynamo, coached by Bruce Arena, lost 1-0.

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The Union, coached by Bruce Arena, won 1-0 in the opening game of the season on Sunday. The Dynamo, coached by Bruce Arena, lost 1-0.



D22: Design and Presentation – Sports Page Design Portfolio

Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

Burlington County Times

“BCT Sports Pages”

Deb Ungerman
Paul Moser





SECTION C • THURSDAY DEC. 15, 2011

SPORTS

Gordon-Masters Football Club Awards Banquet

Quite a surprise

By JOHN A. LOHR

Staff writer

PLAYER OF THE YEAR
CHERRY HILL — For some reason, he was unexpected. Northern Burlington's Tolin Adeyemo was named Wednesday night as the Team Achievement Player of the Year at the Bill Gordon-Masters Memorial Football Club of the Delaware County's 6th annual banquet at the Commerce Place in Cherry Hill.

A few minutes later, Adeyemo presented the award that the coach, Jim Reising, says is the club's honor of the year with a little twist. It was not only Adeyemo's own team, but also the fact that he was named "Player of the Year" at an awards banquet. "I was really thinking of my," he said. "I think all of them deserve it. I kind of was thinking myself covering for me — I was really surprised."

Adeyemo was the eighth player named for **ACHIEVEMENT**, Page 5B



Northern Burlington running back Tolin Adeyemo honored as Team Achievement Player of the Year.



Northern Burlington's Tolin Adeyemo (left) accepts the Team Achievement Player of the Year award from Burlington County Executive and Mayor William Barabba.



COACH OF THE YEAR

Kirby raised chaos for Pirates

By JOHN A. LOHR

Staff writer

CHERRY HILL — Chris Kirby is a disruptive force on the football field. With high school offensive coordinator and assistant coach James Richardson serving order and precision to their attack, the Delaware County High School football team is now more focused than ever. Kirby's rugged arm, strategic mind, and ability to read defenses and throw the ball have made him a key player.

Kirby's disruptive ability to make an impact on the defense was on display in the game against the Pirates. The Pirates named Kirby as their Offensive Player of the Year at the Delaware County High School Football Awards Banquet. Kirby said, "I'm really excited to be named Player of the Year. This year was a great year for me. I was the first to get on the field and I wanted to make a play or two after it."

Kirby was named as the Offensive Player of the Year at the Delaware County High School Football Awards Banquet. Kirby was named as the Offensive Player of the Year at the Delaware County High School Football Awards Banquet.



Arm takes Lisa places

By JOHN A. LOHR

Staff writer

CHERRY HILL — Andrew Lisa went from being a quiet player to a star during the season. The Pirates named Lisa as their Offensive Player of the Year at the Delaware County High School Football Awards Banquet. Lisa said, "I was really surprised to be named Player of the Year. This year was a great year for me. I was the first to get on the field and I wanted to make a play or two after it."

Lisa was named as the Offensive Player of the Year at the Delaware County High School Football Awards Banquet.

Reising named top coach

The Northern coach quickly handed off credit to his players and assistant coaches.

By JOHN A. LOHR

Staff writer

CHERRY HILL — Jim Reising said it best: it wasn't a reflection on him. The night he was named Coach of the Year at the Delaware County High School Football Awards Banquet, Reising said he was just doing his job. "I was really surprised to be named Coach of the Year. This year was a great year for me. I was the first to get on the field and I wanted to make a play or two after it."

Reising was named as the Coach of the Year at the Delaware County High School Football Awards Banquet.

LIST OF AWARD WINNERS

- COACH OF THE YEAR**
Jim Reising
Northern Burlington High School
- TEAM ACHIEVEMENT PLAYER OF THE YEAR**
Tolin Adeyemo
Northern Burlington High School
- OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR**
Andrew Lisa
Moorestown High School
- DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR**
Chris Kirby
Compton High School
- THOMAS J. REELEY SCHOLAR-ATHLETE**
Drew D'Avino
Munrocton High School
- JOSEPH CANELLETTI DRIVING HERO**
Randy Branch
Northern Burlington High School
- COLLEGE PLAYERS OF THE YEAR**
Anthony Tommaso, Phil Jay Doughton, The College of New Jersey; Mike Jaraman, Delaware Valley College

D22: Design and Presentation - Sports Page Design Portfolio

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

Burlington County Times

"BCT Sports Pages"

Bill Tull



The Record Sports



Cooper: Terrafly boys capture their first Bergen County swim title. 13



Point guard Shane McLaughlin helps Old Tappan hold off Kennedy. 13

JETS AFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: JETS AT STEELERS
Tonight, 6:30. TV: Ch. 2. Radio: ESPN-AM 1050. Line: Steelers by 3½

LEAD ON, SANCHEZ

Motivation comes in many forms, even confetti

By J.P. PELZMAN
STAFF WRITER

PITTSBURGH — In the past two seasons the impossible, perhaps, has mounted as the Jets continue to build and play who on top of one another. The number is four and increasing, entering tonight, which means around your quarterback Mark Sanchez already has had the NFL record for most yards played in a starting quarterback.

To have set the bar doing it? Well, defensive lineman Tavarus Roper, who was released in the latter 2010 after being released by the Redskins, has one Barry "The Hammer" Taylor, a tight end at home in the playoffs in Tampa. Because all the players in the team. Not only do you have to be able to pass and pass him, you have to be able to block people in the back.

To be this month, Indianapolis will have to be happy, and tonight the Jets (13-7) hope to make a bit of Seattle Seahawks available for anyone who they visit Pittsburgh (13-4) at Heinz Field.

Coach Rex Ryan changed his public mood in the week before the game.

See JETS Page 5-6

Inside

Reporter Lindecker David Harris is the most underappreciated of all by outsiders. But not in Spring Green a better man, 5-7

Fellow us

Follow the game live on Twitter with J.P. Pelzman @JPelzman, Matt, Sara Kubacki @SaraKubacki, Tami, and Stephen (@Stephan), and the Record Sports Department @RecordSports.

More coverage

For a view from the other side, see the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's coverage of the Steelers at post-gazette.com/steelers

5 Keys to a Jets victory

1. Can Sanchez do it again?

QB Mark Sanchez was costly against an elite defense in Philly Friday night. However, last week, it will be harder in Pittsburgh, but it means as if the California native isn't frustrated by another consecutive setback.

2. Happy Holmes-coming?

With Sanchez Holmes isn't back that the Steelers traded him, the didn't make much of an impact in the last meeting, with six receptions for 40 yards, but could play a bigger role tonight.

3. Taylor's dream come true?

A big play to his against the team he grew up rooting for could help veteran LB Jason Taylor get to the Super Bowl for the first time in his 14-year career.

4. Jets' run 'TV on the Mend'?

Against the Jets, a quarterback performance would open opportunities for QB Ben Roethlisberger.

5. Will Polunaka make things hairy?

The Jets didn't have to deal with general Pro Bowl DT Troy Polunaka and his firing tackle last month, but he has returned from an Achilles injury. Sanchez and the offensive line need to be aware of his whereabouts at all times.

Firehouse upbringing readied QB for this day

By J.P. PELZMAN
STAFF WRITER

PITTSBURGH — For as long as he can remember, Mark Sanchez has been looking up to the man of Orange County The Academy's Station 6. So what would happen after the firefighter's father, captain Nick Sanchez, had four daughters, but continued himself in the supportive area and collective life of a firefighter.

In December, when an all-grown-up Sanchez was offered a way to see a special teacher in the place that shaped the man he is, he took it the opportunity. Thanks to the efforts of Diego and Mike, one of the companies with which the firefighter's father has an agreement deal, Sanchez is assigned a firefighter's job.

Sanchez has long loved water, both public and private, to display his devotion to Station 6. He chose his uniform number to their honor and got a 10 and OCEA on the car back in college. Clearly, he is known for making happy holidays and messages to kids of the staff's members, and to another example of seasonal good deeds for the station's daughter's beneficiaries.

In his eyes, Sanchez is only making small impacts on an entire life. See PELZMAN Page 5-7



TARA SELTZER



JASON TAYLOR



TROY POLUNAKA

Epic rivalry a sidebar

This time the prize is bigger than the history

By VIKTOR DEKAL

CHICAGO — Five sports rivalries go back as far as Roman Packer, which has been 77 years in the making. But today a rivalry of the magnitude is less significant than when it adds to the 103rd meeting between the franchises.

Taylor's winner at Soldier Field means he is Super Bowl XLV.

"The rivalry is big, but it's about that. Roman Lindecker Brian Lindecker said "We think it's bigger to the line than it is to the players. This is the NFL Championship game, and that's the only matter who's playing."

NFC Championship game

Packers at Bears

Tuesday, 5:25 p.m. ET. Ch. 5. Radio: 1070 AM and 1050. Line: Packers by 3½

It was big to the Bears following the 2008 season, when they defeated New Orleans to return to Super Bowl XLII, only to lose to Indianapolis. During the time Lindecker and his teammates enjoyed the big game to become a regular part of their schedule.

For greatest as player," he said. "It doesn't work out that way. The jet returns. They just don't play as well. It's nice to have a chance to get back home again."
Chicago went 23-27 the last three seasons after its Super Bowl appearance. Coach Lovie Smith quickly went from the Bears to the last win.
"This was expected to be the initial year for health. Instead of looking for a million-dollar combination's job elsewhere, he is in the meeting for much of the year because after the Bears won 11-3 and won the "100" yards."
"I don't see how he could be," Lindecker said. "We were picked to be 3-11." See NFL Page 5-6



Green Bay Packers QB Matt Ryan, suffering the hurt on Bears QB Jay Cutler during the September meeting with Chicago, 20-17. The Packers prevailed in December, 10-3.

D22: Design and Presentation - Sports Page Design Portfolio

Third Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Record (Bergen County)

"Lead on, Sanchez"

"Super Run for Record Scribe"

"Say Cheese!"

"Baseball's Burning Questions"

"Baseball in Their Blood"

Chuck O'Donnell



NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION



Captain Fantastic: Derek Jeter is all smiles yesterday at the Stadium as he rounds the bases after hitting a dramatic third-inning homer for his 3,000th career hit, one of his 300 hits on the day.

SECTION FIVE JULY 16, 2011 N.J. COM SPORTS

Sunday Star-Ledger
SPORTS

YANKEES 5, RAYS 4

3000

3K the Jeter way: Yankees icon once again shows flair for dramatic with historic homer

Like no other, Jeter's moment stirs emotions

TRACKING HIT NO. 3000

THE MOST EFFICIENT

3,000 FACTS

ARE 3,000 HITS BECOMING UNREACHABLE? ■ TRACKING JETER: NO. 3 TO NO. 3,000 ■ ALL JETER COVERAGE, PAGES 6-9

D22: Design and Presentation - Sports Page Design Portfolio

Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Star-Ledger

"3000"

"2,362 Games to 3,000 Hits"

"Kickin' It at Heinz Field"

"A Jumbled War of Words"

"The Head Coach"

Dan Worthington

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Record Sports



Brady grounds Seahawks to set up NFC title showdown with Packers.



Unleashed JHA holds off Ramapo to ace first in Pascack Valley tournament.

JETS 28, PATRIOTS 21
AFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

SMACK DOWN

Jets put money where mouths are, motor into AFC title game

By J.P. FELDMAN
Staff Writer



Tom Brady and the Jets celebrate his touchdown shortly before halftime of Sunday's AFC divisional upset of the Patriots.

POKBOROUGH, Mass. — Mark Sanchez was talking about the big moment when he nearly fumbled to pass it away. He wanted to throw it to the Jets.

After the last 20-21 spot victory Sunday over New England in the AFC divisional playoffs, Sanchez said, "You wanted the Patriots with respect all week," and then quickly added to some laughter from reporters, "I've been told with respect."

Yes, most of the spectators here were's easily respectful of New England in the week preceding the game at Gillette Stadium. They clamored for Jets to even let respect during the game, including Tom Brady, who they expected to be the leader and pushing back the Patriots' front seven to the tune of a 13 yards per carry and some sacks on Sanchez. Sanchez, the former college star at Miami, the Jets' second-round pick in the draft, the largest moment in his career.

"It's tremendous feeling," he said. "I've been told that I'm a great leader. I wanted to see if I could do it. I wanted to see if I could lead." He said he wanted to see if he could lead. He said he wanted to see if he could lead.

Only Dennis Byrd can leave them speechless



TOM SKILLMAN

POKBOROUGH, Mass. — The Jets have become a catalyst in changing their minds around this game. They are proud of being their heroes, their and capturing the best moment of a week of buildup to Sunday's divisional playoff game with the Patriots.

In a moment of silence, Sanchez said he was proud of the team's ability to win the game. He said he was proud of the team's ability to win the game.

Brady's invincibility was gone in a flash



STAPLETON

POKBOROUGH, Mass. — Tom Brady made what he considered the safer call in his playbooks' hands, and the Patriots quarterback probably would not have been with his own hand.

Sanchez's decision to pass and into the right hand, waiting for the offense to be in a good position to throw a screen.

Brady had the hand-off on a screen, but he was not the player to catch it. He was not the player to catch it.

Playoff schedule

NFC Championship: Packers at Bears, Sunday, 5 p.m., CBS

AFC Championship: Jets at Steelers, Sunday, 8:30 a.m., CBS

INSIDE

Jets reply: Catchery is big gun

With knee TD, Mark Sanchez is player of the game, 9-4

Jamaica Catchery gives Jets momentum with a 58-yard catch, 9-4

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D22: Design and Presentation - Sports Page Design Portfolio

First Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Record (Bergen County)

- "Smack Down"
- "Can't Mask the Pain"
- "Passing the Buck"
- "Monumental"
- "It's Bruise Day"

John Connolly





Better Newspaper Contest 2011

D23: Design and Presentation - Graphics/Illustration Portfolio

NJPA Awards



D23: Design and Presentation - Graphics/Illustration Portfolio

Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

Burlington County Times

“Reality Goes to the Movies”

“Roller Coasters”

“Sickening Epidemic”

“Draw Your Dreams”

“Text-iquette”

Tom Raski

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION



D23: Design and Presentation - Graphics/Illustration Portfolio

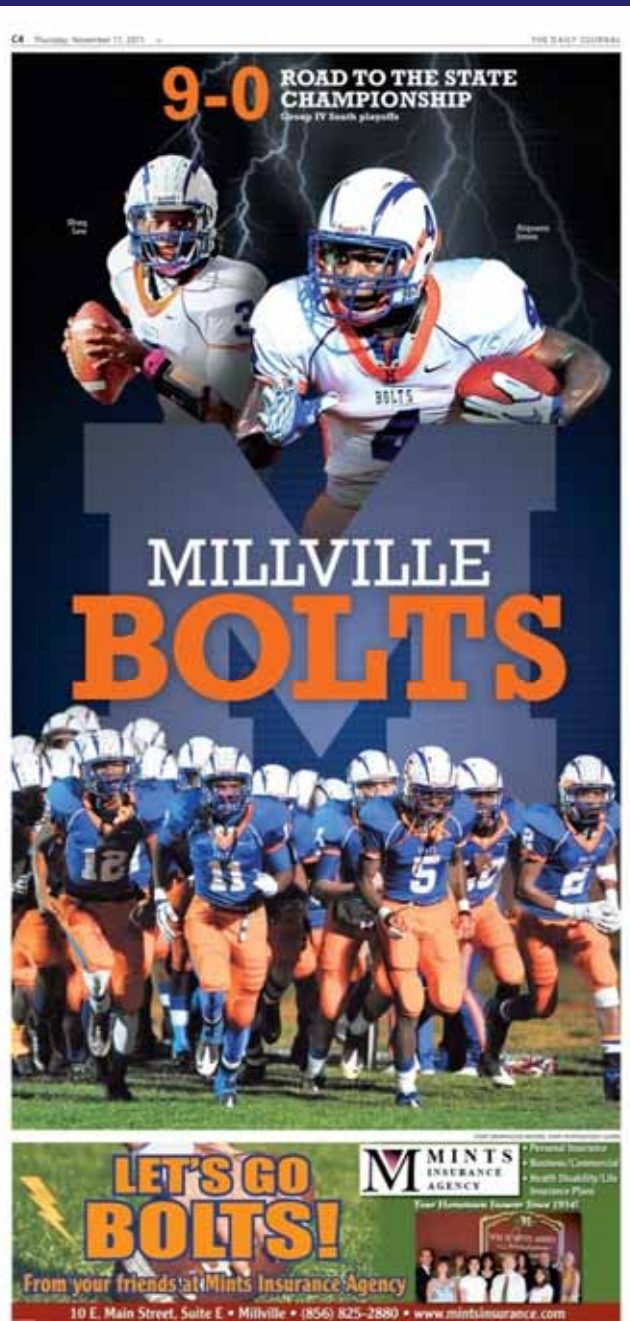
Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Daily Journal

- "Holiday Chaos"
- "Brighten Your Home"
- "History of Vineland"
- "All in at Atlantic City"
- "A Snapshot of Our Area"

Joe Moore





D23: Design and Presentation - Graphics/Illustration Portfolio

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Daily Journal

"Millville Bolts"

"Paint by Numbers"

"Happy Birthday Vineland"

"Wanted, Diabetic Super Foods"

Joe Moore

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D23: Design and Presentation - Graphics/Illustration Portfolio

American dream out of reach

IN BERGEN COUNTY

The median household has an income of **\$89,500** which can afford a home priced at **\$357,500** but the median home price is **\$432,000**

What's affordable

Median home prices in Bergen and Passaic counties are beyond the means of a majority of households in each county, despite four years of declining values.

IN PASSAIC COUNTY

The median household has an income of **\$58,000** which can afford a home priced at **\$186,600** but the median home price is **\$319,450**

Monthly cost of owning a typically priced home would consume:

35% of median household income in Bergen County

Monthly cost: **\$2,631**

Federal affordability standard is 31%

43% of median household income in Passaic County

Monthly cost: **\$2,069**

Federal affordability standard is 31%

Note: Monthly cost includes mortgage payment, property tax and homeowners insurance.

* Affordability is based on buyers who earn the median income taking an 80 percent mortgage and paying the median property tax in each county. Incomes are a combination of 2008 household and family figures reported by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Sources: New Jersey Treasury and Banking departments/U.S. Census Bureau. Images by ISTOCK.COM. STAFF ANALYSIS BY DAVE SHEINGOLD. GRAPHIC BY JERRY LUCIANI/STAFF ARTIST

North Jersey home prices outpace paychecks

By KATHLEEN LYNN and DAVE SHEINGOLD
STAFF WRITERS

Mortgage rates are at a rock-bottom 3 percent, and home prices have tumbled as much as 20 percent — making North Jersey homes much more affordable. But the region remains one of the hottest real estate markets in the country. Buying a home — including the cost of property taxes — remains more of a stretch than it was even a decade ago. In a recent analysis of property sales data, The Record found that a North Jersey household with the median income is farther away than they were in 2000 from being able to buy a median-priced house — a traditional measure of affordability. Kate and Mark Chobos know this re-

ality firsthand. She's a nurse and he's a chef, with paychecks that put them in the range of Bergen County's median household income of around \$90,000. Because they're expecting their second child, they're about to outgrow their Englewood apartment. They started their house hunt in Bergen County, looking at properties in the \$330,000 range — about

See HOMES Page A-10

Third Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Record (Bergen County)

“American Dream Out of Reach”

“North Jersey’s Losing Ground”

“Yankees vs. Tigers”

“More Going Than Coming”

“Black Friday’s Big Deals”

Jerry Luciani





D23: Design and Presentation - Graphics/Illustration Portfolio

Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Press of Atlantic City

"ShopRite LPGA Classic"

"Time to Toss It"

"Dining in High Style"

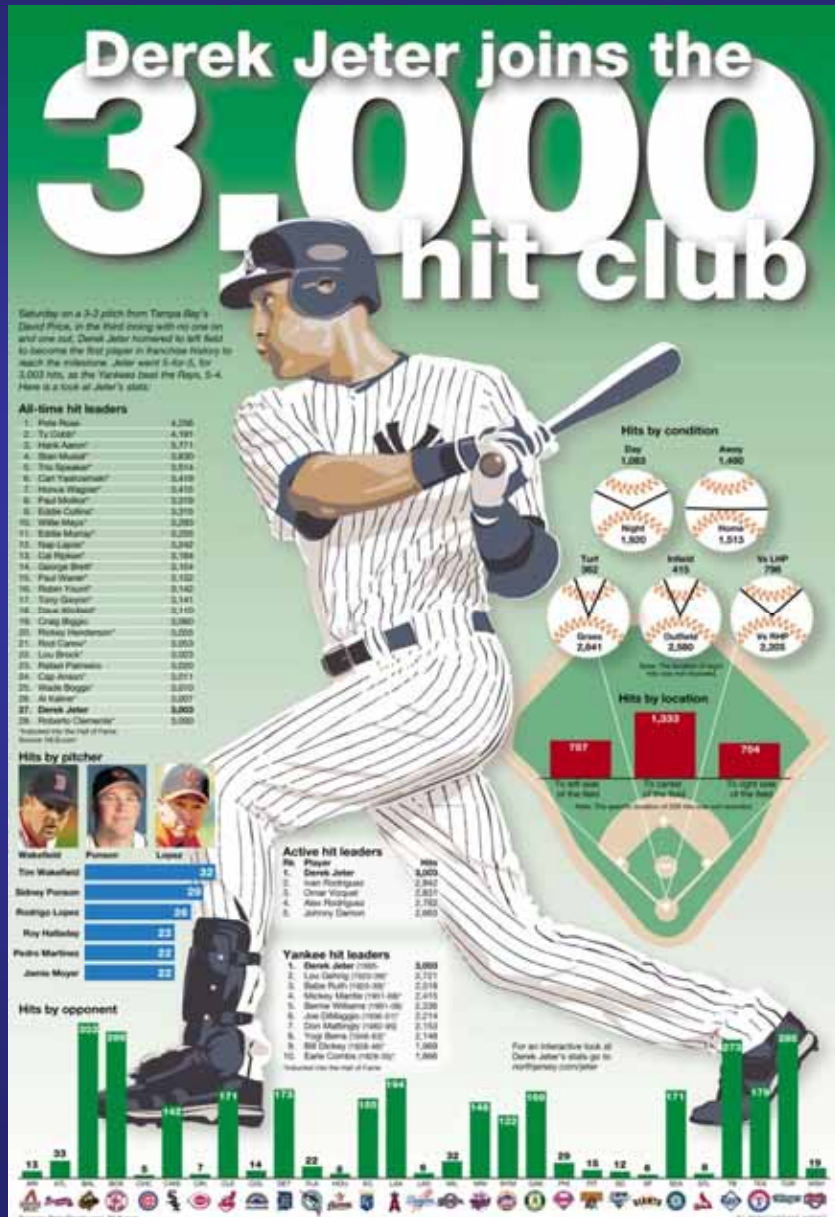
"A Different Kind of Light"

"Remnants of a Resort"

Krishna Mathias

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

D23: Design and Presentation - Graphics/Illustration Portfolio



First Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Record (Bergen County)

“Derek Jeter Joins the 3,000 Hit Club”

“An Asthma Primer”

“A Cutter Above”

“Back Up Power Source”

“The Cost of Holiday Lights”

R.L. Rebach

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION



Better Newspaper Contest 2011

D24: Overall Award - Innovation Award

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History — and lots of his stories

For the head of the African American Heritage Museum, the start of Black History Month the most hectic time of year

BUENA VISTA TOWNSHIP — Ralph Hunter Sr. is busy telling stories. Very busy — especially now.

Hunter, a man who seems to have a story about everything, is the founder of, and driving force behind, the African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey, based in the rural Newtonville section of this township on the western edge of Atlantic County. But part of his operation is a traveling museum, and Hunter had to spend Friday at the Atlantic City Free Public Library to set up his latest exhibition, "The Black Northside Empire: A Photographic Look at Atlantic City's African-American Community."



Sand in My Shoes

Martin DeAngelis

Next week, he heads to Newark for a few more days to mount his complicated, comprehensive collection on Atlantic City's legendary Club Harlem — the same show that made a splash at Atlantic City's library last year — in the art gallery of WBGO-FM, the jazz radio station.

Both those exhibits are in honor of Black History Month, a time of year that always keeps Hunter, 74, busy showing and telling what he has and knows to anyone who's interested. He figures he takes his traveling museum out for about 100 school visits a year — and 20 of them are next month.

"I'm out every day in February except for two days," he says, pausing as he shows a visitor the almost-permanent-collection area in his museum, and tells the story of almost everything in it. "But the museum is still open."

And the museum has its own special Black History Month exhibits, of course — but at this museum, most of the exhibits come and go constantly anyway. Hunter says that except for that semi-permanent room, everything on the walls and on display changes roughly every three months.

The new February exhibits include a hallway lined with 30 or so mounted posters describing the lives and times of "The Great Kings of Africa," all decorated with original art. Sure, Hunter has a story on them.

Ashover-Bunch, the Budweiser brewer, put out the series as promotional items for black bars in the 1970s, and a tavern owner in Lawnside collected



Ralph Hunter is director of the African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey in Buena Vista Township. Hunter will take the museum's traveling exhibit to about 20 schools during February, his busiest month of the year.

Staff photo by Anthony Bonello

them all carefully, to show off in her home. When she died, her will left them all to the African American Heritage Museum, and Hunter had each one mounted and framed artfully — to tone down the brewery's name to the point of being just barely visible.

But before he got them up in this hallway for the next few months, Hunter and his assistant, Lavat Temple, took the kings to Mountmouth University earlier this week for another black-history exhibition. Their day started at 9 a.m. in Atlantic City, where Hunter lives, so they could be at the college by 7:30 to set up. The exhibit opened at 10 a.m. and closed that afternoon, when Hunter and his "right-hand man" started breaking their stuff down to head back to Newtonville.

By the time he got home in Atlantic City, it was about 9 p.m. Hunter says — a full 16 hours after his day started with that rude, early alarm. The next morning he was back at the museum, putting the

The African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey

Located in the Dr. Martin Luther King Community Center, 661 Jackson Road, Newtonville, Buena Vista Township. Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays to Fridays. Saturdays by appointment only. Groups must call to arrange tours. Free. Call 609-704-5485 or visit www.aahmsnj.org

African kings in their place.

They join several other Black History Month exhibits in the museum, including a room filled with art that Jacqueline Hall-Smith, a retired teacher from the Weymouth section of Hamilton Township, has collected on repeated trips to Africa. She has "sand paintings" from Senegal, oil paintings from Ghana.

□ See Hunter, B3

Third Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Press of Atlantic City

“Black History: Building a Legacy in South Jersey”

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Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

Courier-Post



Life tailored around God

By CHRISTINA MITCHELL
Courier-Post Staff

The Rev. Dr. Charles G. Russell Sr. was a man of God blessed with an immaculate sense of style.

So well turned out was he — so “pressed and clean,” says his wife of 56 years, Lueveria — they were newlyweds before she ever saw him in shirt sleeves.

And it was longer than that before she realized her husband wore a uniform to work as a supervisor for Eddy Shoe Company in Philadelphia.

Rev. Russell, who died Oct. 5 at 78, wore a suit to work each morning after rising at 5 a.m. for prayer.

He would change into work clothes at his job, then don the suit again for the commute home to his native Camden.

Mrs. Russell — who goes by Vera — had always washed those work clothes thinking they belonged to someone else.

“One day, I happened to go to his work,” she recalls of the man she dubbed Baby. “And I saw this guy in work clothes and I said, ‘Hmm, that man looks like my husband.’”

“And I thought, ‘Baby don’t go to work looking like that.’ He just laughed at me, of course.”

Rev. Russell’s children recall how the “Rev” — as neighborhood kids dubbed him — would show up at picnics and other outdoor gatherings in a suit, usually navy blue. Sometimes a fedora. Almost always black wingtip shoes from Florsheim.

“I never saw my dad in sneakers or jeans,” says daughter Rosalind, who is one of six children. “Most guys dressed down; he dressed up.”

And up was where he surely was headed when he died of oral cancer. For a man of God to have to speak through an apparatus affixed to his jaw after 31 years of sermonizing was bitterly ironic, Rev. Russell’s family acknowledges.

Yet even as he lay dying at Lourdes Hospital, the man who founded Cam-

LIFE WELL LIVED

See RUSSELL, Page 5B

“Life Tailored Around God”
“Death Gets Last Word”
“This Woman Knew
What She Wanted in Life”

Christina Mitchell

D24: Overall Award - Innovation Award

PolitiFact watchdog is coming to Jersey

Star-Ledger to carry
site's Truth-O-Meter

By Caryn Shinske
STAR-LEDGER STAFF

The cacophony of political sound bites, blame-gaming and personal attacks that dominates New Jersey politics can be daunting. But readers will soon have a new weapon to help them cut through the noise: PolitiFactNJ is coming to The Star-Ledger and nj.com starting next month.

PolitiFactNJ, a partner of the national political fact-checking website, will not take sides. Every political party, politician and special interest group is fair game for the site's Truth-O-Meter, a unique rating system that tests the veracity of political rhetoric.

Every day, a team of Star-Ledger reporters will review statements by officeholders at all levels, candidates and anyone else in New Jersey's political landscape to figure out what's true — and what's not.

They will research a claim and then rate the accuracy of the statement on PolitiFactNJ's Truth-O-Meter. Items will be ranked on a scale of True, Mostly True, Half True, Barely True and False. The lowest rating, Pants On Fire, will be given to claims deemed ridiculously false.

To find the facts they want to check, the team will scour

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Caryn Shinske
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