

2018
New Jersey Press
Association
Spring Awards Ceremony
April 26, 2018
Hamilton, New Jersey

**2018
Bernard Kilgore
Memorial Scholarship
High School Journalist of the
Year**

Greta Frontero

Westfield High School
Westfield, New Jersey

Greta also was named 2018
New Jersey High School
Journalist of the Year
by the Garden State
Scholastic Press Association



At this time Dale Gerhard from The Press of Atlantic City along with NJPA Chairman Brett Ainsworth, The Retrospect, will come to the stage to begin the presentation of Photography Awards.

2017 NJPA Newspaper Contest Photography Results

Weekly Awards North Bergen Reporter

**Spot News
Weekly
Division**

FIRST PLACE

**Victor M.
Rodriguez**

North Bergen Reporter

Fire and Ice



Weekly Awards
Ocean City Sentinel

**General News
Weekly
Division**



FIRST PLACE
Kristen Kelleher
Ocean City Sentinel

**Someone Lose A
Watch?**

**General News
Weekly
Division**

SECOND PLACE
David Nahan
Ocean City Sentinel

**Unexpected
Winner**



**General News
Weekly
Division**

THIRD PLACE

**David Nahan
Ocean City Sentinel**

**Queens Make A
Splash**



**Sports Action
Weekly
Division**

FIRST PLACE
David Nahan
Ocean City Sentinel

Almost



**Sports Action
Weekly
Division**

SECOND PLACE
David Nahan
Ocean City Sentinel

Ejected



**Sports Action
Weekly
Division**

THIRD PLACE

David Nahan

Ocean City Sentinel

Will It Or Won't It?

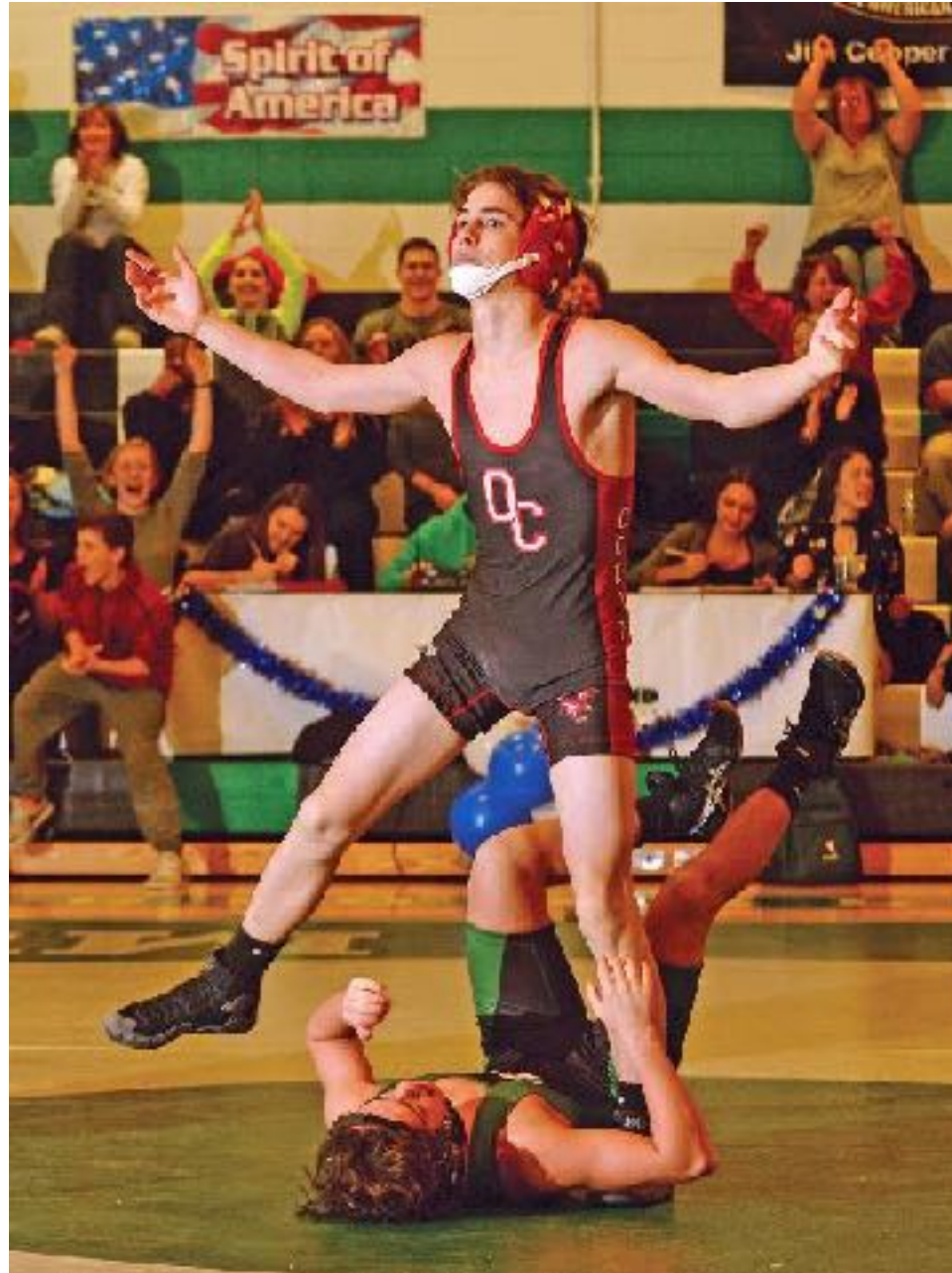


**Sports Feature
Weekly
Division**

FIRST PLACE

**David Nahan
Ocean City Sentinel**

Fastest Pin



**Sports Feature
Weekly
Division**

SECOND PLACE
David Nahan
Ocean City Sentinel

**Hugs For Winners
And Losers**



**Sports Feature
Weekly
Division**

THIRD PLACE
David Nahan
Ocean City Sentinel

Save It, Coach

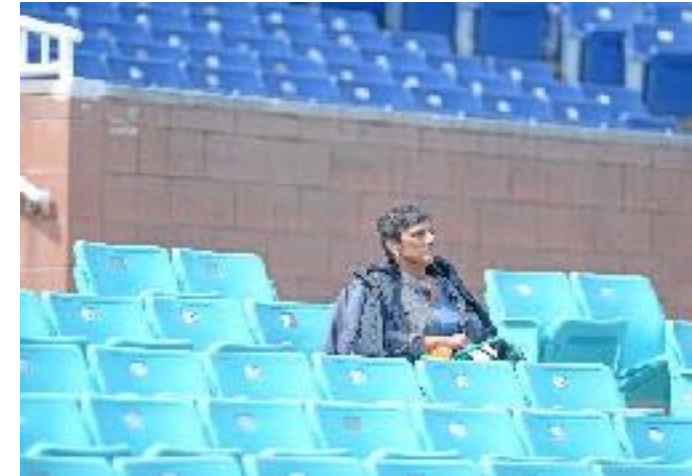


NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

**Sports
Feature
Picture Story
Weekly
Division**

FIRST PLACE
David Nahan
Ocean City
Sentinel

Reclaiming Surf



**Feature
Weekly
Division**



FIRST PLACE
Kristen Kelleher
Ocean City Sentinel

**Sledding With No
Hills**

**Feature
Picture Story
Weekly
Division**

**SECOND
PLACE**

**Kristen Kelleher
Ocean City
Sentinel**

Deaf Pride



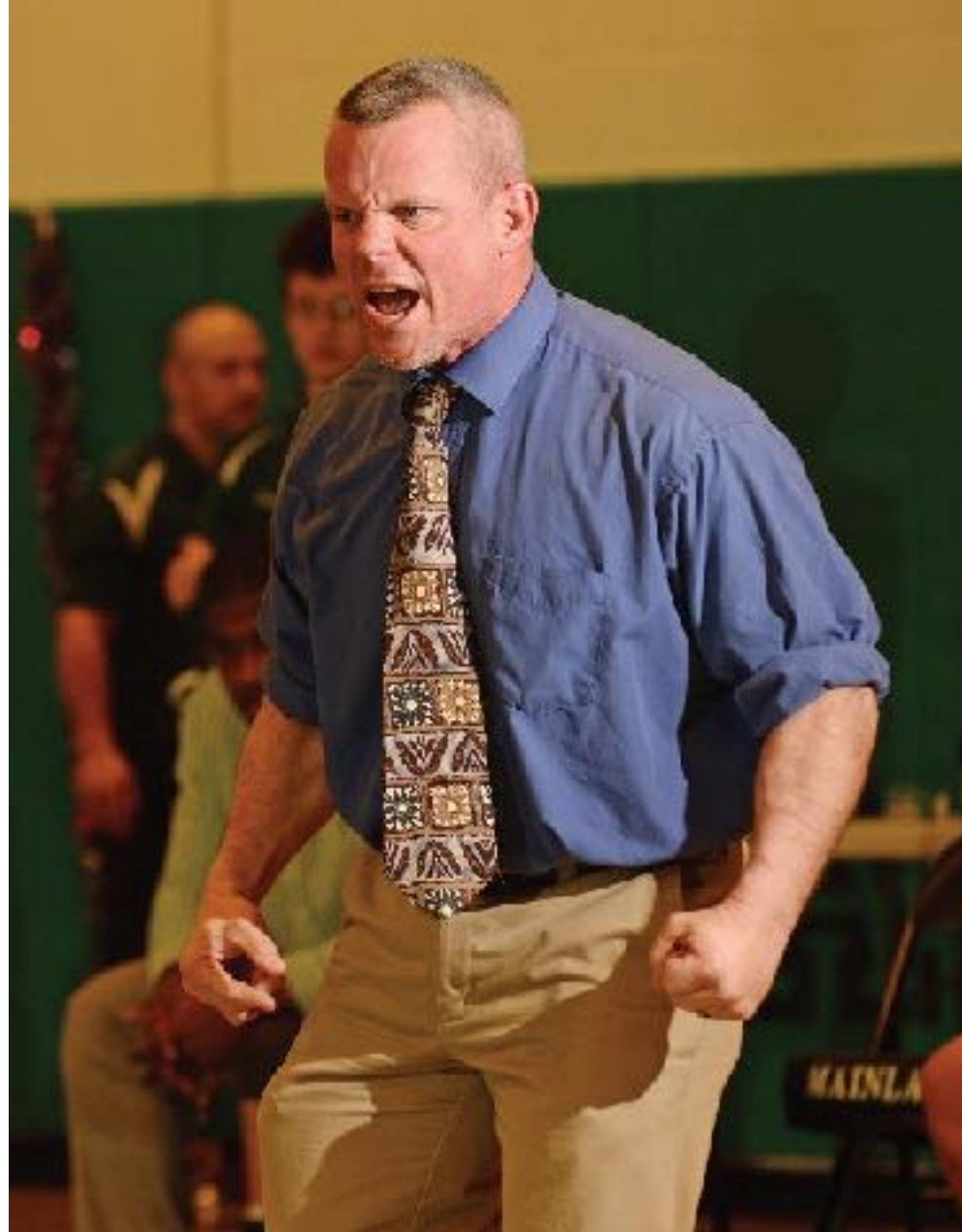
**Portrait
Weekly
Division**

FIRST PLACE

David Nahan

Ocean City Sentinel

Wrestling Coach



**Portrait
Weekly
Division**

THIRD PLACE

David Nahan
Ocean City Sentinel

Lifeguard For Life



**Pictorial
Weekly
Division**

FIRST PLACE

David Nahan

Ocean City Sentinel

American Summer



**Pictorial
Weekly
Division**

SECOND PLACE

**Kristen Kelleher
Ocean City Sentinel**

Ocean Alight



**Best
Portfolio
Weekly
Division**



FIRST PLACE
David Nahan
Ocean City
Sentinel



Weekly Awards The SandPaper

**Spot News
Weekly
Division**

SECOND PLACE

**Jack Reynolds
The SandPaper**

**Flames in the
Night**



**Spot News
Weekly
Division**

THIRD PLACE

**Ryan Morrill
The SandPaper**

**Eagles Nest Airport
Plane Crash**



News
Picture
Story
Weekly
Division

FIRST PLACE

Ryan Morrill
The SandPaper

Surf City Water



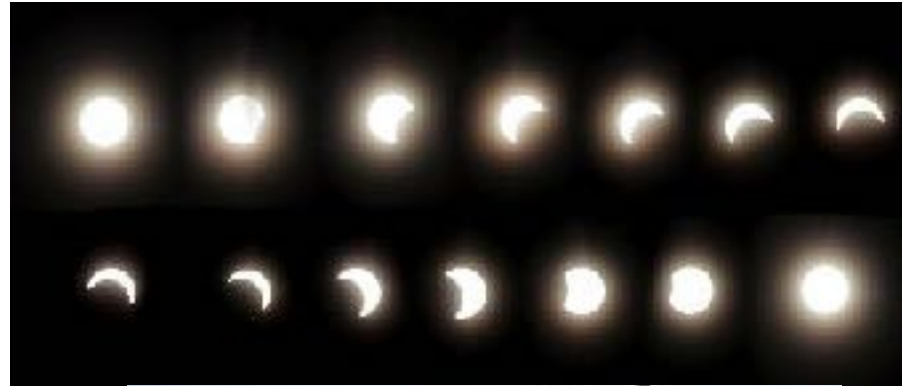
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

**News
Picture
Story
Weekly Division**

**SECOND
PLACE**

**Ryan Morrill
The SandPaper**

**Partial Eclipse Was
a Whole Lot of**



**News
Picture
Story
Weekly Division**

THIRD PLACE

**Jack Reynolds
The SandPaper**

**Service
Remembered**



**Sports
Feature
Picture Story
Weekly Division**

**SECOND
PLACE**

**David Biggy
The SandPaper**

**Challenger Track
Meet at Pinelands**



**Feature
Weekly
Division**

SECOND PLACE

**Ryan Morrill
The SandPaper**

**Starry-Eyed
Wonder**



**Feature
Weekly
Division**

THIRD PLACE

Jack Reynolds

The SandPaper

I've Got Ya



NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

**Feature
Picture Story
Weekly Division**

FIRST PLACE

**Ryan Morrill
The SandPaper**

A Night to Shine



**Feature
Picture Story
Weekly Division**

THIRD PLACE

**Ryan Morrill
The SandPaper**

**Chump's Second
Chance**



**Portrait
Weekly
Division**

SECOND PLACE

**Ryan Morrill
The SandPaper**

**PA Designs in his
Workshop**



**Pictorial
Weekly
Division**

THIRD PLACE

Jack Reynolds
The SandPaper

Baby Terrapin

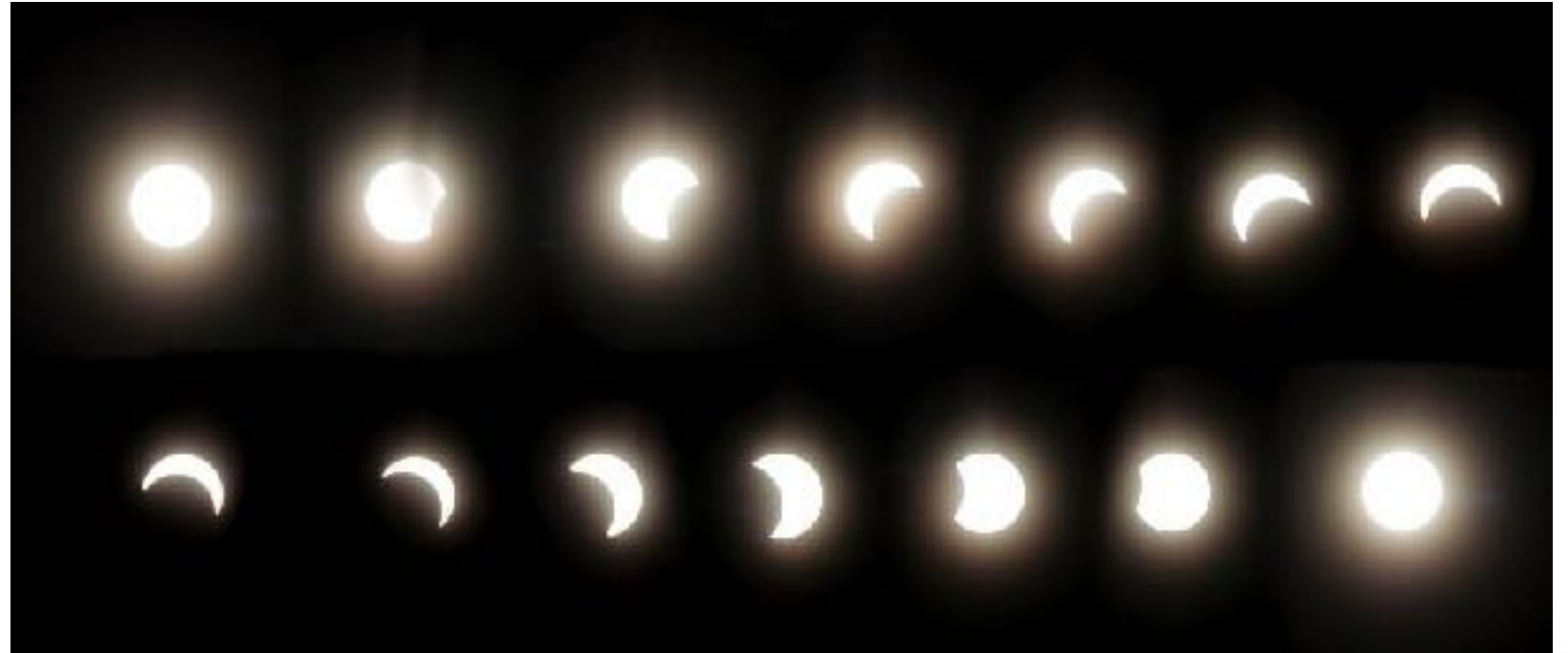


**Illustration
Weekly
Division**

FIRST PLACE

Ryan Morrill
The SandPaper

Solar Pac-Man



**Illustration
Weekly
Division**

SECOND PLACE

**Ryan Morrill
The SandPaper**

Titlxxxx



**Best
Portfolio
Weekly Division**



**SECOND
PLACE
Jack Reynolds
The SandPaper**



At this time we'll ask NJPA associate directors Ed Efchak from Customers by Design and Ron Morano, FirstEnergy/JCP&L to come to the stage to announce the next round of awards.

Daily Awards

Spot News
Daily Division

THIRD PLACE

Bob Karp
Daily Record

No Turns



**Spot News
Daily Division**

SECOND PLACE

**Chris Post
The Express-Times**

Gotcha!



**Spot News
Daily Division**

FIRST PLACE

**Bob Karp
Daily Record**

Total Loss



**General News
Daily Division**

THIRD PLACE

Marko Georgiev

The Record
(Bergen County)

Deported



**General News
Daily Division**

**SECOND PLACE
Anne-Marie Caruso**

The Record
(Bergen County)

I'm going home



**General News
Daily Division**

FIRST PLACE

**Lori M. Nichols
South Jersey Times**

**Philly Naked Bike
Ride**



News
Picture
Story
Daily Division

THIRD PLACE

Joe Lamberti
Courier-Post

Not Forgotten



NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

**News
Picture
Story
Daily
Division**

**SECOND
PLACE**
Tim Hawk
South Jersey Times



News
Picture
Story
Daily
Division

FIRST PLACE

Jake West

New Jersey Herald

Rain at the Fair



**Sports Action
Daily Division**

THIRD PLACE
Warren Westura
New Jersey Herald

Splash in the Sand

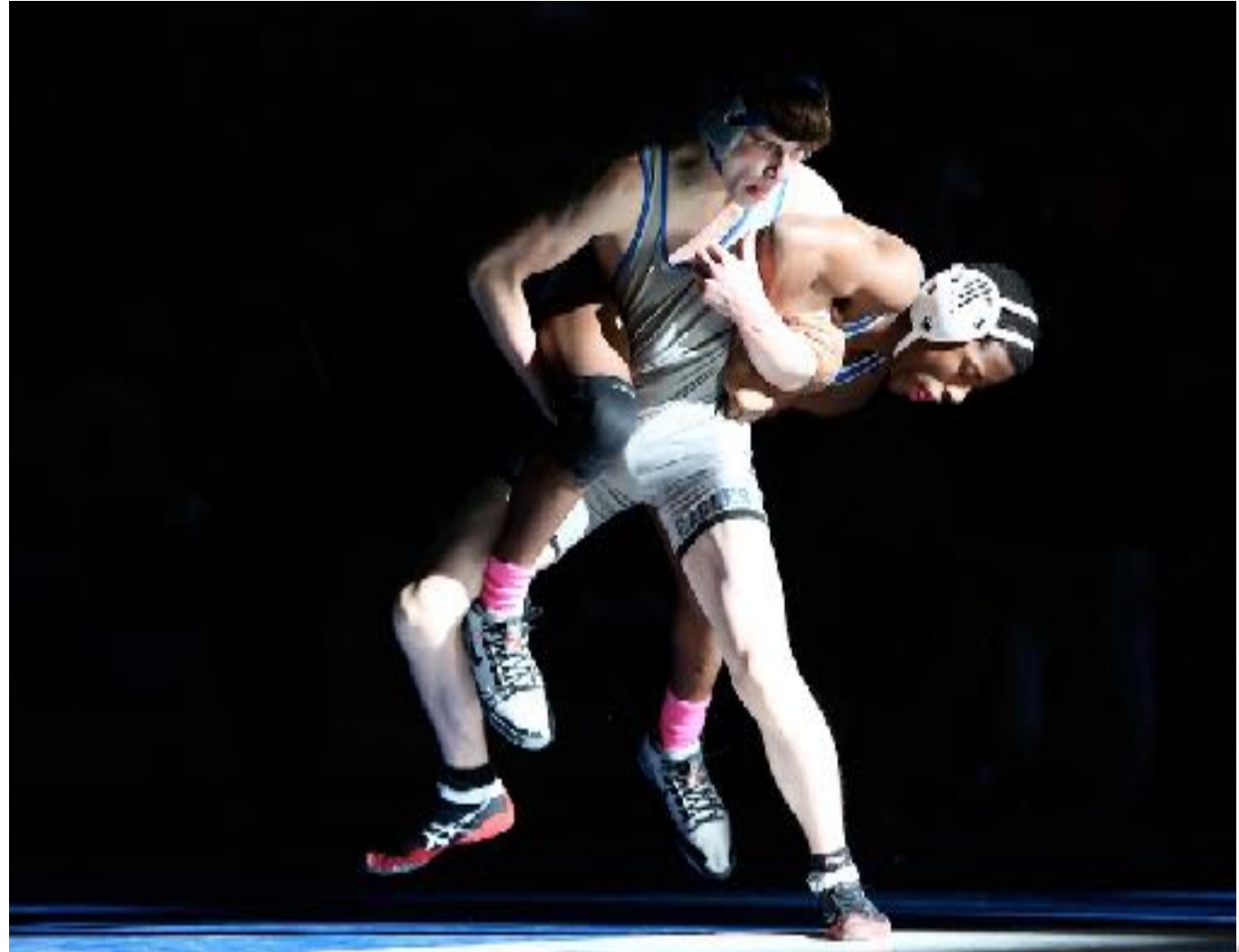


**Sports Action
Daily Division**

SECOND PLACE

Lori M. Nichols
South Jersey Times

The Dance



**Sports Action
Daily Division**

FIRST PLACE

Saed Hindash
The Express-Times

Ouch!



**Sports Feature
Daily Division**

THIRD PLACE

**Saed Hindash
The Express-Times**

We just won!



**Sports Feature
Daily Division**

SECOND PLACE

Peter Ackerman
Asbury Park Press

**Winners and
Losers**



**Sports Feature
Daily Division**

FIRST PLACE

Nancy Rokos
Burlington County
Times

**Wet morning at
the racetrack**



NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Sports
Feature
Picture Story
Daily Division

THIRD PLACE

Dale Gerhard

The Press
of Atlantic City

The Last
Quarter



NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

**Sports
Feature
Picture Story
Daily Division**

**SECOND
PLACE**

**Peter Ackerman
Asbury Park Press**

Island Races



Sports
Feature
Picture Story
Daily Division

FIRST PLACE

Aristide
Economopoulos
The Star-Ledger

High School
Preseason Football
Camp



**Feature
Daily Division**

THIRD PLACE

**Carl Kosola
Burlington County
Times**

Enjoying the Ride



**Feature
Daily Division**

SECOND PLACE

Michael Mancuso

The Times

Moon Walk



**Feature
Daily Division**

FIRST PLACE

David Maialetti

**The Philadelphia
Inquirer**

No Pants



Feature
Picture
Story
Daily
Division

THIRD PLACE

Peter Ackerman
Asbury Park Press

A Special Prom



Feature
Picture
Story
Daily
Division

SECOND
PLACE

Lori M. Nichols
South Jersey Times



Feature
Picture
Story
Daily
Division



FIRST PLACE
Aristide
Economopoulos
The Star-Ledger

**Portrait
Daily Division**

THIRD PLACE

**Chris Pedota
The Record
(Bergen County)**

Love Train



**Portrait
Daily Division**

SECOND PLACE

Daniel Freel

New Jersey Herald

**In the kitchen with
Brittany Frick**



**Portrait
Daily Division**

FIRST PLACE

David Swanson

The Philadelphia
Inquirer

**Letter of the
Grave**



**Pictorial
Daily Division**

THIRD PLACE

**Bob Karp
Daily Record**

White Out



**Pictorial
Daily Division**

SECOND PLACE

Dale Gerhard
The Press of Atlantic
City

Alien Lightning



**Pictorial
Daily Division**

FIRST PLACE

**Peter Ackerman
Asbury Park Press**

Sunrise Somersault



Illustration
Daily Division

THIRD PLACE

Doug Hood
Asbury Park Press

Four Roses



Illustration
Daily Division

SECOND PLACE

Doug Hood
Asbury Park Press

Toffee Cake



**Illustration
Daily Division**

FIRST PLACE

Erin Grugan

**The Press of Atlantic
City**

**A Voice For the
Voiceless**



NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Contemporary
Issues
Daily Division



THIRD PLACE
Aristide
Economopoulos
The Star-Ledger



Lakewood's Growing
Pains



NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Contemporary
Issues
Daily Division



SECOND PLACE
Kevin Wexler
The Record
(Bergen County)



Bergen County Imam



**Contemporary
Issues
Daily Division**

FIRST PLACE

Vern Ogradnek

**The Press of Atlantic
City**

**Living On The Edge
Of Poverty**



NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Best Portfolio Daily Division

THIRD PLACE

Tim Hawk



NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

**Best
Portfolio
Daily
Division**

**SECOND
PLACE**



NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Best Portfolio Daily Division



FIRST PLACE

Peter Ackerman



Photo Best of Show

Best in Show

Bob Karp | Daily Record | “Total Loss”



Congratulations to all of our photo winners.

We'll take a brief intermission and ask Shane Fitzgerald from the Burlington County Times to the stage to begin the presentation of the Editorial Awards.

2017 NJPA Newspaper Contest Editorial Results

Breaking News

Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE

Caitlin Mota,
Terrence T. McDonald,
Michaelangelo Conte,
Joe Shine
The Jersey Journal

Cops Kick, Drag Victim: Video

www.nj.com/hudson

Thursday, June 8, 2017 **THE JERSEY JOURNAL** LOCAL 15

POLICE CHASE ENDS IN FIERY CRASH

COPS KICK, DRAG VICTIM: VIDEO

Jersey City looks to fire officers involved

BY CAITLIN MOTA
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

In a new video of a fiery crash that critically injured a West New York man Sunday night, police officers are seen kicking and dragging the man — who sources say was a victim in the two-car wreck — into the roadway.

The pursuit began sometime around 11 p.m. in the Greenville section of the city and ended about six miles away with an innocent man fighting for his life.

Hours after the video surfaced, city officials said they are looking to terminate the cops involved.

The video, obtained by *Discovery* and shared with *The Jersey Journal*, shows the 28-year-old man emerge from a burning car with parts of his body covered in flames. He is seen rolling on the ground to put out the flames. At the same time, more than half a dozen officers, many with their guns drawn, surround the man.

After *The Jersey Journal* published the video yesterday afternoon, the *Hudson County Press*



In a new video of a fiery crash that critically injured a West New York man Sunday night, police officers are seen kicking and dragging the man, who sources say was the victim of the crash.

with how the officers conducted the pursuit. Investigators have not yet said what sparked the car chase.

"To be clear, we are working with the HCPO and are in the process of identifying the officers on this video. Once we clearly identify all the officers involved we will be seeking termination in addition to any possible criminal penalties in appropriate cases."

Jennifer Morrill
Jersey City spokeswoman

scouter Father Suarez said it "believes with certainty that this man is the bystander from West New York who suffered burns."

Earlier in the day, city officials said there are "serious concerns"

with how the officers conducted the pursuit. Investigators have not yet said what sparked the car chase.

A friend of the victim, who asked not to be identified out of respect for the family, said the 28-year-old was driving home from work when he tried to avoid crashing with Pinkston's speeding car.

The victim is still in the hospital

possible criminal penalties in appropriate cases. At least one cop in the video is seen forcefully kicking the victim in the head and neck area. Other officers are seen stomping on parts of his body. He is then dragged by several officers into the street.

Leo Pinkston, 46, has been charged with aggravated assault and eluding in the crash. Police fired multiple shots at Pinkston about a mile down the road before the crash.

A friend of the victim, who asked not to be identified out of respect for the family, said the 28-year-old was driving home from work when he tried to avoid crashing with Pinkston's speeding car.

The victim is still in the hospital

"fighting for his life" with multiple broken bones and second- and third-degree burns, the friend said. The victim also has a very swollen face, which his friend said he thought was odd. After seeing the latest video, he is certain the man is his friend.

"It was just shocking," he said. "I didn't think a fire could cause that."

No cops have been suspended in connection with the chase, Carmine Dishrow, president of the Jersey City Police Officer's Benevolent Association, said. He criticized Public Safety Director Jim Shaw's decision to confiscate new police SUVs from the district's involved in the pursuit.

"As it should be, this entire incident is being fully investigated," said Carmine Dishrow, president

of the JCPOBA. "Taking swift action isn't always elegant, but this video clearly shows that the officers acted quickly to extinguish the flames, and pull this man out of harm's way."

Suarez encouraged any other witnesses with additional footage or information on the incident to contact her office.

"I'd like to thank the individual who came forward with this video and I'd like the public to know that we welcome their help," Suarez said. "This video is now part of all the evidence we are considering as we investigate the actions of all individuals who were involved with the events of Sunday night in Jersey City."

Journal staff writer Michaelangelo Conte contributed to this report.

Breaking News

Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Staff

The Trentonian

Hell breaks loose: deadly
36-hour standoff in
Trenton



POLITICS » PAGE 6
Candidate: Redo tax structure to pay for transportation



GOV'T » PAGE 11
Before the ax, Comey was pushing Russia probe harder



GOV'T » PAGE 13
What Russia crisis? Trump seeks closer ties in meeting



Breaking News

Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE

Staff

The Record (Bergen County)

NYC Terror Attack

Devils' Boyle appears ready to return. SPORTS

The Record

NORTH JERSEY, N.J. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2017 \$4.00 PER COPY

TERROR IN MANHATTAN

JERSEY CONNECTION

Bergen residents in a city with a far more diverse ethnic mix than the April 19th terror carnage, sitting and killing many people. Tuesday

Suspect in truck attack that killed eight is Paterson resident

By Jordan Jorgensen, Chris Mueller, Mary Wolf and Lisa Williams

City's deadliest incident since 9/11 reminds us that we're vulnerable

By Mike Kelly

Who's Kelly

NEW JERSEY JOURNALISM ACADEMY AWARD WINNER

See A17-18, Page 10A

Breaking News

Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Staff

The Star-Ledger

New Jersey government shutdown

BERKELEY TOWNSHIP

Gov. soaks up sun on beach he closed



Gov. Chris Christie, right, sits with his wife, Mary Pat, on Sunday at Island Beach State Park, which is closed to the rest of the public due to the state government shutdown. Andrew Mills/NJ Advance Media for The Star-Ledger

Andrew Mills for The Star-Ledger

People hoping to visit Island Beach State Park this holiday weekend were not allowed in because of the state government shutdown ordered by Gov. Chris Christie amid the state budget standoff in Trenton. But one family did manage to be there: Christie's. They are using the summer beach houses provided by the state for a weekend down the Shore. An exclusive aerial photo by NJ Advance Media showed Christie surrounded by wife Mary Pat and others. [SEE CHRISTIE'S](#)

Breaking News

Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Staff

The Times

Deadly South Trenton Standoff

TRENTON



Raid goes wrong



Trenton's police officers confront the crew of a shooting that killed a man and wounded three officers at Centre Street and Federal Street on Wednesday. Above, police officers remain behind barricades as the standoff continued. Photo by Michael Hirsiger for The Times of Trenton.

Man killed,
three officers
wounded
when suspect
opens fire on
city street

By Michael Hirsiger and Anna M. Hirsiger for The Times of Trenton

A crowd of more than 100 people gathered at the scene of a deadly shooting in Trenton on Wednesday that killed one man and wounded three officers when a suspect opened fire on a police van. Police said earlier that the suspect — Mercer County Sheriff's Office — was wounded. In the 6:20 a.m. confrontation in the 200 block of Centre Street, an 18-year-old man, believed to be the suspect, was killed by the shooting, police said. Three Mercer County Sheriff's Office officers were injured by "multiple" shots.

Coverage of Government
Art Weissman
Memorial Award
Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE
Pat Johnson
The SandPaper

Portfolio

CURRENTS **Law Now Bans Pets Tied Up Indefinitely**

*Local Woman's Effort
Finally Sees Success*

A grass-roots effort started by a local woman has resulted in a change to the state's animal cruelty laws to prohibit the tethering of a dog outside during extreme weather or extended periods of time.

Beginning in March 2015, Laurin Mary O'Brien of Little Egg Harbor began traveling to municipal government meetings throughout Ocean County and beyond, proposing an update to their animal control ordinances to prohibit tethering or chaining dogs outside for more than four hours and/or at all during extreme weather cold.

She also developed a Facebook page, "Change NJ Animal Cruelty Law 34:55," that attracted the attention of the animal control officer for Cape May County.

Starting with her hometown of Little Egg Harbor and neighboring Tuckerton, O'Brien handed out packets to each government official wherever she went. They included a cover photo of a chained dog and the slogan "A chained dog is a chained dog and a chained dog is a chained dog." Inside were facts about dog chain-tethering, including how it can cause thousands of dollars in damage, getting tangled in chains, jumping fences and being hung.

O'Brien's quest to change the animal cruelty laws in the state started with a bang. During the Christmas season in 2015, she tried hard to get someone in power to help her save a dog that was being chained outside, day and night, even in the worst weather. "I called the animal control officer, the police and the ASPCA, and no-one could do anything because the law was written in the 1800s and updated in the early 1900s and just requires food, water and shelter, and shelter could be a piece of wood nailed to a fence," she said at the time. Later, she said that O'Brien believes because of the extreme cold.

"I searched every time I turned on the news there was another dog frozen to death. It really, really bothered me — especially that the government didn't do anything. So I started a

Coverage of Government
Art Weissman
Memorial Award
Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE
Nanette LoBiondo Galloway
The Current of Ventnor, Margate and
Longport

Mobile food pantry coverage

Ventnor to approve new spot for mobile food pantry

BY NANETTE LOBIONDO GALLOWAY
Staff Writer

VENTNOR – After several months without a place to distribute food here, the Community FoodBank of New Jersey Southern Branch is set to bring back its mobile pantry, giving more than 100 families local access to food.

The Board of Commissioners is expected to approve a resolution at its meeting Thursday, Jan. 19 that would allow the food bank to distribute food at Ski Beach, a park at the end of Dorset Avenue at the bay, which is three short blocks from the former distribution site.

The mobile food pantry truck distributed food in the parking lot of the VFW Post on Dorset Avenue for about five years, but at the end of last summer, the VFW asked it to leave after residents complained that clients were sit-

ting on their front steps and knocking on their doors asking to use the bathroom.

The city stepped in to find a spot that would address residents' concerns and be a suitable site for clients, Mayor Beth Holtzman said.

"At first, they were supposed to go to the ball fields, but that never transpired, because there were a lot of residences nearby," she said.

She said Ski Beach is the perfect spot.

"It can accommodate the truck and is not in very close proximity to homes," Holtzman said. "The volunteers who distribute food assured us they would make sure there is no littering and that the area would be maintained. We are just trying to fix what had become broken."

The location is fairly close to transportation, the mayor said. The New Jersey Transit 505

See PANTRY on Page 4

Coverage of Government
**Art Weissman
Memorial Award**
Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE
**Nanette LoBiondo
Galloway**

The Current of Ventnor, Margate and
Longport

'Duneboggle' turns into

Margate commissioner says 'Duneboggle' has turned into 'Dunegate'

BY NANETTE LOBIONDO
GALLOWAY
Staff Writer

MARGATE — Residents are concerned that the pending dune building project, which they once labeled "Duneboggle," will ruin summer fun for visitors and profits for local business owners at the height of the beach season. One city resident went as far as to tell commissioners

to disconnect their phones before the complaints start coming in.

Resident Steve Woerner told commissioners March 7 that when the machinery rolls in, "there will be a lot of fingers pointed," and mostly in their direction.

Commissioner Maury Blumberg, who vigorously defended the voters' wishes to forego building dunes and testified in federal court that the

See DUNES on Page 22

Coverage of Government
**Art Weissman
Memorial Award**
Weekly, under 6,500

THIRD PLACE
Michael Nunes
The Ocean Star

Portfolio

Dunes to cost \$500 million over 50 years

Total cost of protecting Ocean County towns detailed in DEP agreement

BY MICHAEL NUNES
THE OCEAN STAR

LIVABLETTIE — The cost of protecting coastal towns in northern Ocean County against the devastation of another superstorm has been put at \$500 million, according to an agreement between the borough and state.

Local towns up and down the barrier island are signing agreements with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to pay their share of the federally funded Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Project stretching from the Mus-

supine Inlet to the Barnegat Inlet.

Including initial construction and reimbursement over the next 50 years, the overall cost of the project is estimated at \$904,060,000.

The project calls for a 14-mile dune to be built to an elevation of 22 feet on beaches to be constructed from 100 feet to 300 feet wide and to an elevation of 85 feet, according to a press release from the Army Corps of Engineers, which will build the berm system.

SEE DUNES PAGE 19

Coverage of Government
**Art Weissman
Memorial Award**
Weekly, under 6,500

SECOND PLACE
Jacob Perry
The Bernardsville News
Mosque settlement

BERNARDS TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Mosque settlement scheduled, postponed

By **W. JACOB PERRY**
STAFF WRITER

BERNARDS TWP. — In a tumultuous two-day span last week, the Township Committee scheduled a special meeting to approve a settlement of two lawsuits over the township's 2015 rejection of a proposed mosque, then abruptly cancelled the meeting without explanation.

The possibility of a settlement, as well as the timing of the special meeting on a Friday at the start of the school district's one-

week spring vacation, drew fire from residents in letters and posts on social media.

The terms of the proposed settlement have yet to be disclosed, and while a public notice said the cancelled meeting will be "rescheduled," it did not indicate when.

Mayor Carolyn Corzato, contacted on Friday afternoon, April 21, said she was advised by legal counsel not to respond to media questions on any aspect of the mosque case, including why the special committee

meeting was cancelled and when it might be rescheduled. She referred questions to Township Attorney John Belardo.

Phone and email messages left by this newspaper with Belardo on Friday afternoon, April 21, were not immediately returned.

The lawsuits involve a proposal by the Islamic Society of Basking Ridge (ISBR) to raze a house at 124 Church St., located on 4.3 acres between two homes, and build a

PLEASE SEE MOSQUE, PAGE 5

Coverage of Government
**Art Weissman
Memorial Award**
Weekly, under 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Joshua Jongsma
Verona-Cedar Grove Times

Portfolio



JOSHUA JONGSMA/NORTH WEDGE TODAY
The horn is located in the steeple atop
Verona Town Hall.

Neighbors react to return of horn

JOSHUA JONGSMA
STAFF WRITER, GOVERNMENT

The return of the emergency horn in Verona has not been a welcome sound for all residents, but a fire official promoted the importance of its presence in the township.

The horn, located at Verona Town Hall, sounds for emergency fire and rescue squad incidents in Verona. It also goes off for a test round at 6 p.m. each day. It had been a presence in the township since the 1920s or 1930s, according to former Fire Chief Pat McEvoy, who is also a former chief of the Verona Rescue Squad and has worked in emergency services for more than 40 years.

About a year ago, the horn went down during work to renovate the police desk, McEvoy said.

It has made its return, though, on Jan. 25. In the weeks since then, some neighbors near Verona Town Hall were not happy to hear it.

"We've always hated it, but we couldn't do anything about it," said Martin Shaw, a Gould Street resident of 12

News Writing

Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE

No award given

News Writing

Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Suzanne Marino

The Current of Linwood,
Northfield & Somers Point

Somers Point family mourns
pet mauled on steps of home

Somers Point family mourns pet mauled on steps of home

BY SUZANNE MARINO
Staff Writer

SOMERS POINT — The Karrers lost a beloved member of their family when an unleashed dog mauled their teacup Yorkshire terrier on the doorstep of their West Meyran Avenue home.

On June 11, the Karrer family — Ross and Lisa and their sons Braydon and Bryce — had nothing special going on when a terrible scene played out in front of them.

"I want to wake up and everything be just like normal and all of this is just a very bad dream,"

said Lisa Karrer.

The remains of the family pet sit encased in a small oak box on the table. Lisa Karrer said she filed a police complaint about the attacking dog, which they learned was an Akita, in hopes the owner will be more careful in the future.

The owner of the dog is Anita Puglise, according to police. Puglise, who resides a block away in the 200 block of West Dawes Avenue, did not respond to repeated attempts to obtain comment.

"I don't want anyone else to have to deal with this. My hope is

See PET on Page 11

News Writing

Weekly, under 6,500

THIRD PLACE

Michael Nunes

The Ocean Star

Portfolio



MICHAEL NUNES FOR OCEAN STAR

Divers prepare to set off in search of a powerboat that sank off Bay Head Sandy, May 21, following a collision during the first race of the Point Pleasant Beach Offshore Grand Prix.

Search continues for sunken powerboat

Search area expands in hunt for powerboat involved in fatal crash

BY MICHAEL NUNES
THE OCEAN STAR

POINT PLEASANT BEACH — Authorities are still working to recover a powerboat involved in a fatal accident during beach's 100th Pleasant Beach Offshore Grand Prix.

"We think we have a hit that might be the wreck but we are not sure," Paul Sheehan, president of the Berkeley Township Search and Rescue Dive Team said Wednesday.

The team is assisting the New Jersey State Police in the recovery of the sunken Smith Brothers CRC powerboat, which collided with Repeat Offender during Sunday's race.

"The visibility is nonexistent," Mr. Sheehan said of the waters off Bay Head where the crash occurred. He added that eight divers

have been searching a one square-mile area.

"This is effectively zero visibility diving because you can't see your hand in front of your face."

"Typically in the Jersey Shore area you might have a 10- to 25-foot visibility. Working in the area that we are because it is so close to shore we have zero visibility," he said, adding other factors, such as the tide have made locating the boat difficult.

The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office is the lead agency in the investigation.

At approximately 11:20 p.m. on Sunday, May 21, Point Pleasant Beach Police were called to report a fatal crash, according to a press release from the prosecutor's office.

The 26-foot Smith Brothers CRC, operated by Peter Smith, of Kiverton, and his brother Richard Smith, of Pennsylvania, collided with the powerboat Repeat Offender, which was operated by James Byrne, of Netley

"This is effectively zero visibility diving because you can't see your hand in front of your face."

PAUL SHEEHAN
Berkeley Township Search and Rescue Dive Team

and David Raabe, of Forked River.

Investigators are still unsure why Repeat Offender crossed directly in front of the Smith brothers powerboat. At that point in the race, the boats were making a turn and traveling at 20-40 mph.

Mr. Raabe and Mr. Byrne were struck by the hull of the Smith brothers boat as it passed over Repeat Offender.

Mr. Raabe sustained a serious head injury and was pronounced dead at the

SEE SEARCH PAGE 14

News Writing

Weekly, under 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Derek Allen

The Progress

Caldwell police plagued by pair of lawsuits

Caldwell police plagued by pair of lawsuits

Caldwell lieutenant, policewoman seek litigation against borough, chief

By DEREK ALLEN
STAFF WRITER

CALDWELL — Police Officer Candice Marinaro and Lt. Michael Geary are moving forward with legal action against the Borough of Caldwell and Police Chief James Bongiorno.

Both officers, represented by attorney Patrick Toscano, allege Bongiorno fosters an environment of favoritism, retaliation and racial discrimination.

"When Kingling Brothers and Hartman and Bailey



JAMES BONGIORNO



CANDICE MARINARO

Circus finally closed down after all these years, we did not realize it would re-open in Caldwell, New Jersey," said Toscano. "The fine of \$100 in that small but first

rate department deserve far better from their leaders."

Geary filed to sue Caldwell and Bongiorno in the summer of 2006 for discrimination and acts of retaliation.

Geary is Asian American, and Marinaro is from the Caribbean. Both have worked for the Caldwell Police Department for more than a decade. The complaint papers filed said Marinaro had no disciplinary history to speak of.

PLEASE SEE PAGE 6

News Writing
Weekly, under 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Edward A. Burke
The Progress

Racial slurs, anti-Semitic
text messages sent by
councilman

ROSELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

Racial slurs, anti-semitic text messages sent by councilman

Thomas Tsilonis shared messages with members of the governing body

By EDWARD A. BURKE
CONTRIBUTOR, WRITER

ROSELAND — A text message string containing racial and ethnically insensitive language has called attention to two male members of the Roseland Mayor and Council that were included in the exchange.

Mayor John Duzko and Councilmen Rich Leonard, Peter Smith, David Jacobs, Mark Urdovich and Thomas Tsilonis were listed as part of the chat that received the messages. Councilwoman Nicholas Toli was not.

According to Leonard, the controversial text string ranged from official business, such as setting aside breaks and committee appointments, to informal discussions, such as vacation plans and was similar to a running email chain.

Some portions of the chain between members of the borough's governing body became problematic recently when language used in them employed racial and ethnic slurs.

The Progress became aware of the existence of these text messages last month when members of the Roseland community notified it and said they had seen inappropriate language in recent messages of the Roseland Mayor and Council and felt the voters needed to know.

Roseland Borough has been trying to deal with its affordable housing obligation and the governing body will be voting on the issue and parking it



THOMAS TSYLONIS



DAVID JACOBS



RICH LEONARD



PETER SMITH



JOHN DUZKO



MARK URDOVICH

up on hold to make their usual number of units. Affordable housing is traditionally for low income families. These units also tend to be more diverse, and would likely have a higher percentage of minorities than traditional housing is Roseland.

The content of the text messages sent included racially insensitive language that members of the Roseland community took issue with, particularly when those involved in the exchange are making decisions on behalf of the community on issues like affordable housing.

In pursuing the story, The Progress contacted all members of the governing body and Borough Administrator Jack Watkins via email, requesting copies of the text messages and any other exchanges that included multiple members of the governing body.

Duzko, Smith, Jacobs, Urdovich and Tsilonis did not respond to the request made Friday, Feb. 3. Watkins responded requesting clarification on Wednesday Feb. 8.

Leonard, whose staff has been immersed in borough politics, stored copies of the exchange after meeting with the

Progress staff on Friday, Feb. 3. Leonard was one of the council members included on the text messages and highlighted one exchange that took place over the Memorial Day weekend in 2011.

On The Record
In the social exchange in late May last year, Tsilonis, who is of Czech descent, told Jacobs, who is Jewish, "Dove! how do I become Jewish? I want to be half Jewish," followed by a slang reference to a Jewish girl's fragility, "and half African-American," followed by a word referring to the supposed occupational prowess of African American males.

Jacobs responds with a reference to the ritual procedure that a "Kidd" would have to perform on Tsilonis.

"I am legally changing my name to StravaNigger," replied Tsilonis.

This slurs "hang-out-lim" sent from Jacobs, who then includes "Slit your eye your presumably indebted males."

The interviews

During a follow-up interview with Leonard on Friday, February 4, he mentioned his "disappropr-

ate and not" assessment of the texting that took place between the two councilmen, noting that others to whom he had shown the messages had likely differing comments about them.

When Leonard was asked why he didn't remove the messages from eight months ago, he replied that he did not recall that they had happened then for work, and offered no further explanation.

Telephone interviews with the other five council members and the mayor took place from Sunday, Feb. 5 through Wednesday, Feb. 8.

Tsilonis said he had no recollection of this exchange, but acknowledged that he and Jacobs often converse via text or FaceTime on other venues, during which Jacobs responds to him with teasing remarks over his Great, hairy, Tsilonis son.

After being requested quotes from him, Tsilonis insisted that neither he nor Jacobs harbor any anti-Semitic, anti-African-American or anti-Czech bias.

"I have many African American friends and half the employees in my business are African American," declared Tsilonis.

RELATED EDITORIAL

Please read our take on page 4.

Regarding the possible reason behind Leonard's whitewashing, Tsilonis mentioned that JACOBS is still searching over having four councilmen fall to vote him in as council president during the governing body's reorganization meeting last month. Councilwoman Nicholas Toli had given the sole support to Leonard's candidacy.

The reason Tsilonis gave for rejecting Leonard for council president was allegedly "several conflicts of interest." Leonard supposedly has been involved in, presumably seeking to win, real estate business in the center of town.

"I don't want anyone in council government who has a conflict of interest," said Tsilonis adding that he chose to vote against a council meeting forced to reorganize town.

Jacobs expressed ignorance of the text or what this text was described to him and that he had no recollection of the messages in question. He rejected an offer of having the text messages shared with him, explaining that he had no time because he was about to leave for New York City with his family.

Toli said she had never heard about these text messages, that she was not involved in the string of them, and that her focus on the

PHOTOGRAPH BY THE

News Writing Portfolio

Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Joseph P. Smith
The Daily Journal

95 and counting; Wood digs up time capsule; Children create 9/11 memorial

95 AND COUNTING



Jim's Lunch going strong in Millville for nearly a century

JOSEPH P. SMITH, JOURNALIST

MILLVILLE — At 95 years and counting, Jim's Lunch still cranks out meals that have customers standing at its door before the sun is up.
"I got here at 6" said Millville resident Larry Jones 5th in the A.M. being the normal door opening time Tuesday was opening day in the restaurant's new season, so James wasn't gone when he arrived.
"I don't remember when the old Jim was or his wife home to his wife Lora carrying a three-pound burger bag. Two for him. One for her. (He did make the trip.)
"We still carry yours," said James, a 65-year-old, to

Scott Nigood Millville, left, and Tyler Williams, of Millville shake hands yesterday after a breakfast meal, Tuesday, at Jim's Lunch in Millville. The lunch eatery in town is owned Tuesday for their 95th season. (PHOTOGRAPH BY JOSEPH P. SMITH)

traded it in. "I had to be me to find my father, but my father passed away a couple years ago. Been eating here all our lives."
Cheeseburgers, or "breakfast of champions" to James, are the attraction. The family thinks about them a lot while Jim's Lunch is closed over the summer.
"You'll be surprised all the people that get them here," James said. "You have to wait three and a half months to get them."
Mother and daughter co-owners Nichole Mast and Nichole Mast manned the front service counter on the phone and cash register and daughter on the grill.
"It's good to see all the regular faces back," Nichole said.
"It's like they never left," Nichole said.
Customers on the checkout line peppered the pair

See 4th p, Page 5A

News Writing Portfolio

Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Danielle DeSisto

Burlington County Times

Care package; Transitioning together/Florence couple fundraising to help homeless man

"It's a comfort for the families."



Nurse Ruth Walsh views a team of nurses that come to Nikolai Telle in his home in Deerfield.

Care package

It takes a team to deliver quality nursing at home

BY DANIELA BUSTO
 2/24/2017

ACUN'S LAUREL — Before an son, Nikolai, started receiving home care, Tracy Telle and her husband were forced to leave his home and live in a nursing home. It's a difficult reality for the family.

The couple are still in a search for a solution to their son's care. "It's a relief to have someone who can take care of him at home," Telle said.

"We did a survey and we found out that we were not the only family in our area who was struggling with home care," Telle said.

After 10 years of struggle, the family decided to help manage the need for home care. "There's a sign that says 'Nikolai' and receive 16 hours of care from a team of nurses," Telle said.

Home Care is Care as Partnership. 2017



Home Care is Care as Partnership

During a typical day, a nurse arrives at his home to administer medication, feed him, change his diapers, and assist with his care during the evening hours, so he can sleep through the night.

"We're not paid to be here, we're here for love," Telle said. "It's not our job, it's our family."

"We have been able to see the difference in our son's care. It's a relief to have someone who can take care of him at home," Telle said.

Home Care is Care as Partnership. 2017

News Writing Portfolio

Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Rebecca Everett
South Jersey Times

The law is clear; Pride in
patience; Doomsday
prepper



School policy prevents teen from bringing his service dog to classes



By Rebecca Everett
A 17-year-old student at a local high school is frustrated because his school has implemented a policy that prevents service dogs from entering classrooms.

Ben is frustrated because he is unable to bring his service dog to school. He is working in the Clearfield District, which has a policy that prohibits service dogs from entering classrooms. "This is making it difficult for me to go to school," Ben says. "I have to leave the dog at home."

Ben's mother, Rebecca, says she has spoken to the school district and they have agreed to let Ben bring his dog to school. "I am so happy that we have been able to resolve this," she says. "Ben is a very smart and hardworking student and we are proud of him."

News Writing Portfolio

Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE

Bob Jordan

Asbury Park Press

Babies at risk; Trump's FBI pick
Wray is still at work for Christie;
Vaad met with N.J. before
amnesty

PRESS INVESTIGATION

BABIES AT RISK



An Orthodox circumcision ritual can expose newborns to herpes virus

BOB JORDAN @BOBJORDAN

Potentially thousands of male newborns in Lakewood may be exposed each year to a deadly form of herpes from an ultra-Orthodox circumcision ritual that mandates rabbis use their mouths to suck blood from the fresh cut.

But there is no safety protocol in place to assess and mitigate risks associated with the mouth-to-genital contact — despite four deaths statewide of infants between 1998 and 2015 where herpes simplex virus was found as an underlying cause, an Asbury Park Press investigation found. See [BABIES](#), Page 5A.

A circumcision ritual used by some Orthodox Jews in Lakewood has some worried it puts baby boys at risk of a herpes infection. (AP) 1/17/17

MORE ONLINE

Search "herpes" at [APP.com](#) to see video related to this story.



News Writing Portfolio

Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Susan K. Livio
The Star-Ledger

The last goodnight; Nash heir
perseveres through grief, illness;
Ex-governor tied to cushy
hospital job for pal

A STAR-LEDGER SPECIAL INVESTIGATION



The last goodnight

One more night, everything will be better, she says. For her and other family members, she paid the ultimate price.

By Susan K. Livio

Illustration by [unreadable]

Three days ago, the 10-year-old girl, who had been hospitalized for a long time, was finally able to get up and walk. She was smiling and looking at her mother, who was sitting next to her bed. The girl's mother, who had been hospitalized for a long time, was finally able to get up and walk. She was smiling and looking at her mother, who was sitting next to her bed.

The girl's mother, who had been hospitalized for a long time, was finally able to get up and walk. She was smiling and looking at her mother, who was sitting next to her bed.

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News Writing Portfolio

Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE

S.P. Sullivan
The Star-Ledger

Locked up, fighting back;
Trooper makes deal, avoids
jail; Blind justice, or justice
blinded?



Coverage of Election/Politics

Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE

Rick Mellerup
The SandPaper

Portfolio

34 **CURRENTS**

On the Front Lines In Fight to Repeal, Replace ObamaCare

The SandPaper/teletypecity.com, April 26, 2017

Ret. MacArthur Co-authors Amendment

By RICK MELLERUP
Rep. Tom MacArthur, whose 3rd Congressional District includes the western half of Stafford Township and all of Barnegat Township, has moved front and center in the GOP effort to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, better known as ObamaCare.

House Speaker Paul Ryan withdrew the original Republican plan on March 24 when it became apparent it didn't have enough votes to pass.

His "MacArthur Amendment" is probably what had President Trump blabbering about healthcare again late last Thursday when he said the plan is "getting better and better" and "a lot of people are liking it a lot" and predicted "we have a good chance of getting it soon."

Something for You, Something for Them

The MacArthur amendment is designed to appeal to GOP mockasses by prohibiting discrimination based on gender, guaranteeing renewability



Tom MacArthur
COMPROMISE: U.S. Rep. Tom MacArthur, pictured here speaking before the Barnegat-Westwood Chamber of Commerce, has proposed an amendment that would protect coverage of pre-existing medical conditions.

States could apply for waivers to strip some of those "essential health

Rough Briefs

Coverage of
Election/Politics
Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE
Marilyn Baer
The Hoboken Reporter

Portfolio

Election gossip ramps up

Rumors swirl around possible mayoral candidates for November race

By Marilyn Baer
Reporter Staff Writer

Hoboken residents will elect a mayor and three at-large council members this coming November. Elections in the mile-square

city typically do not fall along Democrat/Republican lines, but among supporters of the incumbent, and their loyal opposition.

And they generally get pretty heated.

This year's election gossip

is off to an early start as rumors have swirled about who will oppose Mayor Dawn Zimmer, who has held the office of mayor

see **ELECTION** page 7



MAYOR DAWN ZIMMER



COUNCILMAN
MICHAEL DeFUSCO



KAREN NASON

Coverage of Election/Politics

Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE

Nanette LoBiondo
Galloway

The Current of Ventnor,
Margate and Longport

Portfolio

Ventnor considers marijuana referendum

BY NANETTE LOBIONDO
GALLOWAY
Staff Writer

VENTNOR — City officials are considering holding a ballot referendum to gauge how residents feel about allowing marijuana to be sold here.

At the Board of Commissioners work session Dec. 14, Mayor Beth Holtzman and Commissioner Tim Kriebel discussed proposed state legislation that would legalize the sale of recreational marijuana in New Jersey.

While neither member of the governing body disclosed their per-

sonal opinion on the issue, they agreed that the city should consider holding a nonbinding referendum to gauge public support for the proposal.

Commissioner Lance Landgraf was absent.

Democratic Governor-elect Phil Murphy pledged during his campaign that he would sign legislation to legalize pot during his first 100 days in office. State Sen. Nicholas Scutari (D-Union) has introduced a bill that legalizes the possession and personal use of up to an ounce of recreational marijuana for anyone over the legal age of 21.

See POT on Page 8

Coverage of Election/Politics

Weekly, under 6,500

THIRD PLACE

John Burton
The Two River Times

Portfolio

Sen. Beck Reflects on Election Loss

By John Burton

RED BANK - "I don't think there is more that I could have done," said Republican state Sen. Jennifer Beck as she offered a postmortem on the Nov. 7 election results that saw her losing her 11th District seat.

Beck, a veteran of the Legislature in both the Assembly and the Senate dating back to 2006, lost her race for re-election this month to Democrat Via Gopal.

Looking back on the race a couple of weeks out, Beck has evaluated the campaign and this year's public perspective that she feels factored into the outcome.

"It was a clear backdash against Gov. Christie," Beck was empathic in her assessment. "It was palpable as we went door to door" campaigning, she said. "It didn't matter if you were a Republican, a Democrat," she offered. "It was a universal dislike of our

sitting governor."

Republican Christie, who is coming to the end of his two-term limit, has a statewide approval rating that has been hovering around 15 percent since the summer months. In her district, which leans Democratic, Beck said Christie's job approval is somewhere in the vicinity of 11 percent. Compounding matters, Beck continued, is the general dislike of President Donald Trump, a Republican, among New Jersey voters. His approval rating stands at about 28 percent in the county, and around 18 in the 11th District. (Nationally, Trump's approval rating is at approximately 35 percent or slightly lower, depending on the poll.) "It was the wave," against Republican candidates affecting races in New Jersey and

Continued on Page 2

Coverage of Election/Politics

Weekly, under 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Joshua Jongsma
Verona-Cedar Grove Times

Portfolio

Verona residents push for a meeting with Congressman Frelinghuysen

JOSHUA JONGSMA
STAFF WRITER

A pair of Verona residents joined an activist group demanding to be heard by their elected official.

Lynn Halsey and Adam Bell are two of more than 2,000 members of NJ 11th for Change, "a grassroots, nonpartisan coalition dedicated to advocating for all citizens of the 11th Congressional District," according to its website. The 11th District includes 54 municipalities in Essex, Morris, Passaic and Sussex counties, including Verona.

Halsey, who has lived in Verona since 2011 and is part of NJ 11th for Change's publicity team, said group members make weekly trips to the office of U.S. Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen in Morristown. Though they've spoken with his staff, and Halsey said they were always "lovely," they've yet to meet with Frelinghuysen himself.

"It's been disappointing because we've really been contacting him as much as possible on the Affordable Care Act and concerns about repealing it without alternatives," she said.

Bell, a Verona resident of three years who works as a photographer and educator at the School of Visual Arts in New York City, said it's important to reach the congressman before any votes take place.

"One of my hopes is that I want to know that he's listening to us and want him to remember he represents all of his constituents," Bell said.

When asked about the congressman's views on meeting with the organization, Frelinghuysen's office issued the following response.

"I make it a priority to meet regularly with constituents in groups and individually – in my New Jersey and Washing-

See MEETING, Page 2A



Members of NJ 11th for Change gather at a Starbucks in Morristown Jan. 12.

COURTESY OF OGBRA CAPLAN

Coverage of Election/Politics Weekly, under 6,500

FIRST PLACE Derek Allen The Progress

Portfolio

West Caldwell 'ringleader' targeted by Congressman

Rodney Frelinghuysen sends letter to woman's employer

By DEREK ALLEN
STAFF WRITER

WEST CALDWELL TWP — Penned in like ink under his signature, Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-11, singled out a West Caldwell woman as a member of an activist group opposing him in a fundraising letter he sent to her employer's board of directors in March.



RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN

The act prompted a watchdog group to file an ethics complaint against the local Congressman Tuesday.

Frelinghuysen's letter, sent to Lakeland Bank board member Joseph O'Donnell, was an attempt to raise funds for his 2018 campaign. In it Frelinghuysen references national and local forces hard at work to stop his agenda. Before going on to mention needing money to combat these forces, he affords an asterisk on the word local that connects to the postscript, "One of the ringleaders works at your bank!"

Attached with the letter was an article in which Sally Avelenta, a senior vice president and assistant general counsel at the Lakeland bank in Oak Ridge, was quoted.

Avelenta eventually resigned from her position.

"There were a lot of reasons to resign, but it was not a result of this. This contributed to my decision to resign," she said. "This was an impulsive, Trump tweet type of thing, and it was not very well thought out. It was a targeted attempt to cause trouble for me."



Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-11, singled out a West Caldwell woman as a member of an activist group opposing him to her employer's board of directors in March.

"There was no other reason to do this except to cause me trouble. I guess this shows another side of him that isn't his cultivated image of a moderate congressman, of everybody's grandpa."

SALLY AVELENTA

Target of Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen's contest

ment's agenda. The group frequently holds protests outside his New Jersey offices.

Frelinghuysen has not held meetings in person with constituents in four years, but has held "town hall-style" meetings over the phone, one as recently as last week.

"He figured out a way to try and intimidate us," said Avelenta. "It's startling. I'm not the most visible member of the group I'm not the person in front. The reason behind

mittee holds a powerful position that runs most federal funding decisions through him. The committee also controls capital grants given to community development banks.

Frelinghuysen's campaign office said in a statement that the note was merely a small part of a personal letter. "The Congressman wrote a brief and innocuous note at the bottom of a personal letter in regard to information that had been reported in the media," according to the statement.

Local News Coverage

Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Staff

The Trentonian



**Local News
Coverage**

Daily, under 20,000

**FIRST PLACE
Staff**

The Jersey Journal

Oct. 6-11, 2017



Local News Coverage

Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE Staff

Asbury Park Press

Oct. 6-10, 2017



Local News Coverage

Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE Staff

The Record (Bergen County)

Local **BERRA HONORED**
This week's guest columnist for every section: Z...

Most Paterson high schoolers fail state math test

Rochelle Park district sued
3rd-grade teacher alleges retaliation

'A long way to go'

Couple who escaped reveal she's pregnant

Bogota lawyer under scrutiny

Local News Coverage

Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Staff

Courier-Post

Sept. 8-12, 2017



Defender's Drexler, 13, and his New Ware company develop a niche

BY JEFF HARTMAN

TEENYBOP: The 13-year-old has taken to heart the motto of his father, "Be a leader, not a follower." Drexler, who is the CEO of his own company, New Ware, has developed a niche in the paintball industry. He has created a line of paintball gear that is both functional and stylish. His company has already secured several contracts with local businesses and is looking to expand its reach. Drexler's success is a testament to his entrepreneurial spirit and his ability to identify a market need.

\$25K reward in slayings of mom, son

into has sites set on Search Florida

COMING SUNDAY

More than 870K in total savings will be more than \$175 in a combination response

SEARCH FLORIDA

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More than 870K in total savings will be more than \$175 in a combination response

Coverage of Crime, Police, Court

Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE Suzanne Marino

The Current of Linwood,
Northfield & Somers Point

Day two of Garreffi trial brings
passengers to the stand; Mainland BOE
remembers athletes lost; Vineland man
gets 10 years

Day two of Garreffi trial brings the passengers to the stand

BY SUZANNE MARINO
Staff Writer

MAYS LANDING — The driver and two passengers who were in the car with Mainland Regional High School freshman Aisling Cooke described the crash that killed their friend Tuesday as the trial of the driver who struck their vehicle entered a second day.

Members of current and past Mainland Regional High School boys and girls soccer teams, coaches and parents filled the courtroom and spilled over into the hall in support of the girls.

Nicholas Garreffi, 43, of Vineland, is accused of vehicular

homicide, assault by auto, reckless driving and three counts of assault by auto. At the time of the crash, Garreffi had alprazolam, also known as Xanax, in his system, for which he did not have a prescription, according to the opening courtroom arguments.

Maddie Williscroft, now a 20-year-old junior at Rowan University, was entering her senior year at Mainland the day of the accident, Aug. 30, 2014. It was her 18th birthday.

Passengers K.B. and G. S., whose names are being withheld by The Press of Atlantic City at the request of family members,

See TRIAL on Page 20

Coverage of Crime, Police, Court

Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Al Sullivan

The Jersey City Reporter

This is ugly; Army vet;
Order returns; Free fire
zone

'This is ugly'

*Three murdered in apparent botched
drug robbery on Fulton Avenue*

By Al Sullivan

Reporter staff writer

On the rainy Tuesday morning after the three bodies were found in an apartment on Fulton Avenue, people hurried by as if nothing had happened.

Some glanced at the crumpled yellow police tape stuffed into the trash on the side of the building, or at the line of TV vans parked at the curb in front.

Hudson County Prosecutor Esther Suarez, in a release later on Tuesday, said that Jan. 16 at approximately 10 p.m., the Jersey City Police Department received a 911 call regarding gunshots fired on Fulton Avenue in Jersey City.

Police officers responded to 101 Fulton Ave. They found an unresponsive male in the entrance hallway with an apparent gunshot wound to his upper torso. The man was later identified as Quadel Chisolm, 31.

Officers entered an apartment and observed two additional individuals, a male and a female, in lifeless condition. The male, later identified by police as Ishear Bailey, 26, had multiple gunshot wounds to his upper torso. The female, Janaya Lee, 25, had multiple gunshot wounds to her upper body.

All three victims were pronounced dead at the scene at approximately 10:15 p.m.

Reliable sources connected to the investigation said "a number" of attackers dressed in black clothing and black ski masks had jumped out of a van and rushed into the apartment in what police believe was an attempted robbery. Police found weapons and drugs inside, part of an alleged large drug distribution network.

One of the two men is believed to have been one of the attackers, and may have been killed in an exchange of gunfire.

see **MURDERS** page 19

Coverage of Crime, Police, Court

Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE

Erika Norton

Advertiser-News North

Anti-Semitic graffiti found at diner days before Rosh Hashanah; We have proven that hate has no place here

Anti-Semitic graffiti found at Airport Diner days before Rosh Hashanah

Community rallies to raise money for owner

BY ERIKA NORTON

WANTAGE — Residents in the Sussex/Wantage area woke up on Sunday morning to news of a grim discovery — the popular Airport Diner had been vandalized with anti-Semitic graffiti and other restaurant property was destroyed.

Days before the holiday of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, black spray-painted Swastikas, "Heil Hitler," and "Kill Jews" could be seen covering the walls of the diner, located on County Road 639 near the Sussex Airport. The shed and outdoor freezer were also broken into, and all of the food products and supplies that were inside were destroyed or thrown into the yard to spoil.

Hundreds of dollars of food and supplies were lost.

But only hours after the news broke of the incident, a GoFundMe online campaign was created to raise money to help the longtime owner of the Airport Diner, Francisco "Frankie" Blanco, pay to repair the damage.

In one day, over \$2,800 had already been raised.

"This community has come together to make it known that hate does not belong here. And it never will," wrote Ashley Craig, the lifelong Wantage resident who created the campaign. "This is OUR town."

Local community responds

"On behalf of the Township of Wantage, I want to provide my heartfelt sadness to the owners and employees of the Airport Diner," Jonathan Morris, the mayor of the Township of Wantage, said on Monday. "This type



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOFUNDME

An online campaign has raised almost \$3,000 to help the owner of the Airport Diner clean up and repair the damage.

of hatred is not tolerated, and I have faith that the NJ State Police will find the individuals responsible for this heinous act. Wantage is a close-knit community, and I ask that we come together to not allow these types of views shape our community."

The Jewish Community Centers of Sussex County, including President of the Congregation Eitz Shalom of Sussex County, Robert Levy, and the Director of Chabad of Sussex County, Rabbi Mendel Dubov, released a joint statement about the incident Monday.

"Actions such as these and their hate-filled messages strike against the heart of everything we as Americans and Jews hold

sacred and true," the statement read. "Acts of this magnitude cannot be tolerated in our communities."

"As residents and neighbors, the Sussex County Jewish Community calls upon our fellow residents and neighbors to stand against all acts of hatred and bigotry wherever and towards whomsoever they are directed."

Other state officials reacted to the news.

Senator Steve Oroho, State Assemblyman Paroos Space, and Assembly candidate Hal Wirths released a joint statement.

"An assault on any member of our community is an assault on

SEE GRAFFITI PAGE 2

Coverage of Crime, Police, Court

Weekly, under 6,500

THIRD PLACE

Michael Booth

New Jersey Law Journal

Coverage of New Jersey State Courts

No Automatic Disbarment for Child Sex Offenses, Court Rules

By Michael Booth

In a ruling that ethics attorneys say is not as startling as it might appear, the New Jersey Supreme Court on Wednesday indefinitely suspended two lawyers and disbarred a third for sex offenses involving children, but stopped short of issuing a bright-line disbarment rule in such cases.

In a 6-1 ruling, the majority declined to mandate the automatic disbarment of lawyers who commit sex offenses involving children, and said matters must be resolved on a case-by-case basis—with particular emphasis on whether the attorney had actual physical contact with the child victim.

“We have refrained from establishing a bright-line rule requiring disbarment in all cases involving sexual offenses against children,” Justice

Continued on page 10

Coverage of Crime, Police, Court

Weekly, under 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Charles Toutant

New Jersey Law Journal

Robert Menendez Trial Coverage and Insights

Could 'Stream of Benefits' Ruling Undercut Menendez's Friendship Defense?

By Charles Toutant

A key underpinning of the defense presented by lawyers for U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez, D-New Jersey, to corruption charges may be undermined thanks to the trial judge's ruling that federal prosecutors could proceed under the "stream of benefits" bribery theory, a number of legal observers are saying.

Defense lawyers have maintained that Menendez, New Jersey's senior senator, received nearly \$1 million in travel, accommodations and campaign contributions from co-defendant Salomon Melgen because the two are close friends, not because Melgen sought to benefit from the power of the senator's office. But U.S. District Judge William Walls' Oct. 16 ruling allowing the prosecution to present the stream of benefits theory invites jurors to see

Continued on page 10

Coverage of Crime, Police, Court Weekly, under 6,500

FIRST PLACE

Yael Katzwer
News-Record of Maplewood &
South Orange

Town releases files from July 5
altercation; TC votes 'no confidence' in
Chief Cimino; Maplewood reach
settlement

NEWS-RECORD

of Maplewood and South Orange

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2017 \$4.00 PUBLISHED WEEKLY FAX: 973.764.2011 E-MAIL: news@news-record.com

Town releases files from July 5 altercation

Concerned residents call for Chief Cimino's resignation due to alleged racial profiling incident in 2016

By Yael Katzwer
Maplewood, N.J. — A town board meeting Tuesday night was a landmark moment for the community, as residents gathered to demand the release of files from a July 5 altercation. The meeting was held in the town board room, and it was the first time since the incident that the community had gathered to discuss the matter. The meeting was held in the town board room, and it was the first time since the incident that the community had gathered to discuss the matter.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF MAPLEWOOD. A GROUP OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS ARE GATHERED AROUND A TABLE, ENGAGED IN A COMMUNITY ACTIVITY. THE CHILDREN ARE WORKING ON CRAFTS, AND THE ADULTS ARE ASSISTING THEM. THE SETTING IS INDOORS, LIKELY A COMMUNITY CENTER OR A SCHOOL ROOM.

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Specialty Writing Portfolio

Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE

David Foster
The Trentonian

Portfolio



Specialty Writing Portfolio

Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Jenny Wagner
Burlington County Times

Lyme disease, tick borne infections on rise; Urgent care becoming the new ER; Assistors prepare for ACA

Burlington County Times

Winner of the New Jersey Press Association's General Excellence Award for six consecutive years (2011-2016)

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Lyme disease, tick-borne infections on rise



NANCY BARKER / PHOTOJOURNALIST
Cheryl Paganelli (left), of Medford, and her daughter, Lisa King, of Mount Laurel, have had Lyme disease and other tick-borne infections, and Lisa is still battling the aftermath. Here, they listen to a presentation by Pat Smith, president of the Lyme Disease Association, at a program in Mount Laurel in March.

By **JENNY WAGNER**
STAFF WRITER

Lisa King remembers feeling something in her hairline that she had to pick out, but she can't say exactly what or when it was — maybe 2012. Like fewer than 50 percent of people who are bitten by ticks, the Mount Laurel resident didn't realize it at the time.

King said she developed a rash over her shoulder and back that her doctor dismissed, but she later learned that rash was the signature sign of Lyme disease and the start of her health problems related to tick-borne infections.

"I've had a pretty rough journey," said King, 55. Lyme disease is caused by *Borrelia burgdorferi* bacteria, which are carried and transmitted to humans by blacklegged ticks, commonly known as deer ticks. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates about 300,000 people are diagnosed with Lyme each year, and the numbers have been on the rise locally and across the country.

The federal agency and most doctors agree that people who are treated early and appropriately usually are fine. But dealing with the disease is more difficult for King and a growing number of people who



Produced by the Veritas Institute

identify themselves as members of the Lyme community.

Some people who have Lyme experience early symptoms, such as fevers, headaches and joint and muscle pain. It can also affect the nervous system and heart. But in the years after King developed the rash, she experienced different symptoms at different times, making it difficult to piece them together.

Infectious disease specialist Dr. Ronald Goren said it's important that doctors recognize the various stages of Lyme and consider them when making a diagnosis.

"For the average case, especially this time of year, we're going to be seeing more of it, and early. It's just a matter of being aware, that it's warm and people get bit by ticks," Goren said. His Northeast Philadelphia practice, Infectious Diseases Associates, works with several area health systems.

The CDC says between 60 percent and 80 percent of people get the rash within a month after being infected with Lyme, but some studies suggest it could be fewer.

See **LYME**, Page **A8**

Specialty Writing Portfolio

Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Rebecca Everett
South Jersey Times

Cop fights back tears; Death of toddler prompts questions; Family of killer offers apology



Specialty Writing Portfolio

Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Jonathan Lai

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Diversity Lacking; Fear for the future; Christie budgets medical training

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Winner of 20 Pulitzer Prizes

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UNIVERSITY FACULTY

Diversity Lacking at Front of Class

Despite some progress, the percentage of professors of color in Pa. and N.J. is falling short of the changing student enrollment.

By Jonathan Lai
PHOTO BY [unreadable]

College enrollment is growing again. Even so, but even on campus, minority students often have to look hard to find professors that look like them.

Historically, even at premier and elite-tier colleges, professors are white, according to undergraduate population data from 50 percent white.

The disparity can cause stu-

dents to feel if they don't succeed here because by kindergarten, already there who tells them, the possibility is that that's because you aren't good. You can't belong," said Sharle A. Haskins, the 2016-17 president of Rutgers-Camden and the first black woman in that role.

At four-year colleges in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, about 30 percent of undergraduates

See DIVERSITY on B4F

Specialty Writing Portfolio

Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Ken Serrano

Asbury Park Press

The drug cartel next door; Narcotic nation; Monmouth drug deaths are dropping

The drug cartel next door

Police say heroin traffickers are sliding unnoticed into suburban N.J. homes

Ken Serrano is the Staff Writer at the Asbury Park Press in Asbury Park, N.J.

Oscar Diaz Rodriguez went largely unnoticed on Willingboro's Herbolyn Lane, a tree-lined street of mostly well-maintained, two-story houses from the 1950s and '60s. It "is a quiet neighborhood, but when something goes wrong, the police are here in about 10 min," said Officer Juan Rodriguez, 34, who lives next to the weathered Cape Cod that Rodriguez rented. The guard dogs need to be called, he said. If Serrano Diaz Rodriguez, a 63-year-old retired teacher who has lived in the neighborhood for 13 years, sees a group of men standing by the side of his house in late June, he knows something is wrong. **SEE LAST P., PAGE 2B.**

Officer Juan Rodriguez

More online

Read more about the heroin problem at [ap.5press.com/news](#).

"They want to blend into their surroundings."

More Jersey State Police Detective Sgt. 1st Class Larry Williams

LARRY WILLIAMS
Sgt. 1st Class

JAMES
Lieutenant

JAMES
Troop Sergeant

Interpretive Writing

Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE

Al Sullivan

The Jersey City Reporter

What happened on Tonnelle Ave; Mayor reacts; FBI joins in

What happened on Tonnelle Avenue?

Video of police confrontation raises questions

By Al Sullivan
Jersey City reporter

In response to video that shows Jersey City police allegedly beating and dragging someone from a duty car crash after a long chase last weekend, the Hudson County prosecutor says the matter is being intensely investigated and has asked the public both for help and for patience.

The Tonnelle Avenue incident paid Jersey City its share of national attention for the most part, most of the police have avoided much of the negative publicity that has highlighted confrontations elsewhere in the country and which has inspired the Black Lives Matter movement.

"On Sunday, June 4, shortly after 11 p.m., Jersey City police officers attempted to stop a vehicle in the area of Ocean and Grove streets in Jersey City," said a statement from the office of Hudson County Prosecutor Luther Saenz. "The vehicle had the area and was pursued by officers. The fleeing driver, Luis C. Pabon, age 48, of Jersey City, was allegedly involved in an late, two separate, automobile crashes. The first crash occurred as he allegedly attempted to drive between two lanes of traffic while traveling on Tonnelle Avenue. Multiple shots were fired at the suspect by Jersey City police officers. Several Hudson County Police officers struck into a utility pole causing a fire and injuring an innocent male victim who was also driving on Tonnelle Avenue."

The statement said the victim, Miguel Felix-Rodriguez, age 25, of West New York, was transported by Emergency Medical Services to The Barn Center at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Livingston. He is currently in stable condition.

Pabon, who is African-American, has been charged with one count of shooting, and one count of aggravated assault. He is being held at the Hudson County Correctional Facility for his next court appearance in a detention hearing scheduled for 9 a.m. on Thursday, June 15.

In an update on the investigation issued by the prosecutor's office on Thursday, June 8, Saenz said he investigation into the events of Sunday

night in Jersey City is ongoing.

"I am asking the community to withhold any judgment until the Office of the Hudson County Prosecutor concludes its investigation," Saenz said. "There will be a swift and fair review of all the evidence being accumulated, but it would be irresponsible to make judgments without reviewing all of the facts before us."

He said in order to properly investigate this matter, his office will need to conduct and review multiple crash investigations (including more than five vehicles, review over 15 videos, reviewing several hours of evidence, interview more than 20 witnesses, and conduct a ballistics investigation into multiple shootings.

"We will consider this evidence in its entirety as we investigate the actions of all individuals who were involved with the events of Sunday

night in Jersey City and we are asking for patience from the public," he said.

"There have been many inquiries about a video being utilized by several media outlets concerning Sunday night's police involved shooting in Jersey City," Saenz in a release issued earlier in the week. "I'd like to thank the individual who came forward with the video and I'd like the public to know that we welcome their help. This video is one part of all the evidence we are considering as we investigate the actions of all individuals who were involved with the events of Sunday night in Jersey City. Our investigators have reviewed the video and we believe with certainty that this man is the bystander from West New York who suffered harm, not the individual

see COPS, page 4



AN OVERHANGING CLOUD - Mayor Steven Fulop and high police brass gathered to swear in new police officers last week.



Interpretive Writing

Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Marilyn Baer

The Hoboken Reporter

Hope and Hassels on Main Street

Hope and hassles on Main Street

Washington Street rebuilding generates optimism and critiques



Construction on Washington Street won't be completed until July 2018.

By Marilyn Baer
Hoboken Staff Writer

Hoboken is several months into its 18-month-long reconstruction of its main shopping district, Washington Street. Vehicles lurch and rattle over patched and re-patched pavement, channeled by police into narrow queues used with some to avoid the work zones and construction equipment as they line up pavement, reconfigure intersections, and lay new water pipe.

The \$17.5 million project, approximately an 8.5-mile stretch in 3.4 miles, will replace old water mains, six safety features like street cars, raised pedestrian crossing signals, ADA compliant ramps, and square the patched and patchily overlaid road.

Some residents have raised concerns over the project in letters to the editor to the *Hoboken Reporter* and at City Council meetings, citing traffic woes during construction and questioning the feasibility of being open, though city residents praise the upgrade.

"I think it's going to incorporate a lot of great safety features," said Chris Adam, 55-year resident and president of Hillside Hoboken.

"I mean, I personally haven't had an issue with crossing the street but I do feel for some people it's more difficult, if you're a senior citizen or handicapped or mom with strollers."

"I like the pedestrian safety aspects that will be implemented like the high-visibility crosswalks and bump outs," noted Adam. "We'll make it safer for pedestrians. I have heard a few poor comments, but it tends to be a very vocal minority in the city. I think sometimes change is really hard. If you look at Hoboken 100 years ago, and now, you are looking at the evolution of the street and how it was. In another 100 years it probably won't look the same at all."

On the other hand, a two-year resident Steve said, "The roads are great. I can't even know which way I'm supposed to be driving sometimes. It's like a maze. Also, these long detours. How are traffic going to make sense? I just don't see it."

"I was crossing Hoboken Street going east to go to the PATH," said resident Mary Olszewska in an email. "When the lanes started to turn, a woman from his work zone ran out. She took

Interpretive Writing

Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE

Suzanne Marino

**The Current of Linwood,
Northfield & Somers Point**

**Northfield officials tackle
sensitive issue of add-ons
to bike path memorials**

Northfield officials tackle sensitive issue of add-ons to bike-path memorials

BY SUZANNE MARINO
Staff Writer

NORTHFIELD — The bike path that winds from Somers Point through Linwood and Northfield is dotted with memorial benches and trees purchased from the cities and placed in memory of a special friend or family member or to mark an occasion. Each of the benches has a small plaque spelling out who the bench is in remembrance of

and serves as a respite for walkers. For some the benches are a place to remember or connect with the person memorialized.

Recently those bike path benches have come under scrutiny in Northfield after several complaints came to the attention of Mayor Erland Chau. The complaints centered on people adding things such as plants, flags, pictures or signs and leaving them until, in some cases, they became tattered or unsightly.

See MEMORIALS on Page 21

Interpretive Writing Weekly, under 6,500

THIRD PLACE
Matt Enuco
The Retrospect

School Lunches Could Suffer with Ag Department Changes

School Lunches Could Suffer with Ag Department Change

by Matt Enuco

School lunches already get a bad rap but local districts say a recent change in contract rules could reduce the quality of offerings.

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) issued a memo on June 14 informing school districts of a significant modification to the way districts contract with food service management companies (FSMC). The revision by the NJDA alters the nature of how school districts operate lunch programs for students and could impact the quality of food students receive.

The June 14 memo from Arleen Ramos-Szatmary, NJDA School Nutrition Program Coordinator in June outlined the state's move as a response to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Office of Inspector General (OIG) audit "that identified misuse of Federal funds by school districts in New Jersey..." The memo went further, describing the adoption of a fixed price model, stating "Fixed costs will lead to improved integrity, transparency, and accountability in the use of Federal funding."

A subsequent memo on July

went on to explain that moving to a fixed price per meal would demystify audit trails for SEAs.

The NJDA did not respond to a request for comment.

Under a fixed-price basis PSMCs would have to make adjustments to their meals in order to stay within the budget. If food prices fluctuate too much students could receive "applesauce instead of apples," said Coleman, explaining how if apples are too expensive FSMCs will pivot to a cheaper derivative. While large districts may be able to handle these costs,

tract - a measure of bureaucracy districts avoid under the reimbursable model.

Moreover, since the New Jersey Department of Education prohibits school districts from running a deficit in their meal programs, shortfalls must be addressed in the school budget, falling upon local taxpayers to cover the gap.

Local school districts are not sitting on their hands, though. Audubon, Haddon Heights, Haddon Township, Oaklyn and Collingswood adopted an NJASBO recommended resolution rebuking the measure

and districts statewide have caused enough of a stir that the Department of Agriculture forced the full-scale adoption of the fixed price basis back to the 2019-2020 school year.

In the follow-up memo from July 31, the NJDA stated "The launch of the Fixed Price Contracts will be postponed to SY 19-20. Fixed Price Contracts will be required for all SEAs by SY 20-21." The document also introduced a voluntary pilot program for school business administrators to gain experience with fixed price contracts and provide feedback to the NJDA.

The Retrospect, Friday, November 10, 2017, Page 27

Interpretive Writing Weekly, under 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Charles Toutant

New Jersey Law Journal

NJ, 'World's Medicine Chest', Seen as Likely Site of More Pharma Litigation in Wake of 'Bristol-Myers'

223 N.J.L.J. 1959

NEW JERSEY LAW JOURNAL, JULY 3, 2017

15

NJ, 'World's Medicine Chest', Seen as Likely to Be Site of More Pharma Litigation in Wake of 'Bristol-Myers'

Continued from page 1

that California courts lacked general jurisdiction over suits by nonresident users of the blood thinner Plavix, will send some plaintiffs scrambling for new venues, lawyers said. And they added that New Jersey's status as home to numerous major drug companies could prompt more plaintiff lawyers from around the country to file their cases in this state's courts.

Already the court's ruling has prompted a St. Louis judge to declare a mistrial Monday in suits by one Missouri resident and two from other states claiming that Johnson & Johnson's talcum powder caused users to develop cancer.

The Supreme Court case concerns suits by 36 California residents and 592 residents of other states who filed complaints in California Superior Court alleging that Plavix damaged their health. The nonresident plaintiffs did not allege that they obtained Plavix through California physicians or sought treatment in California. Bristol-Myers has some operations in California but its business activities are mainly in New Jersey and New York, the justices said. For a court to exercise specific jurisdiction over a claim, there must be an affiliation between the forum and the underlying controversy, particularly an activity or occurrence that takes place in the forum state, the justices said in the 8-1 opinion.

"This is all about preventing the practice of forum-shopping and it's about preventing a plaintiff from joining a corporate defendant to a state court case where a defendant cannot reasonably be expected to be haled into court," said Neal Wilkes of Ballard Spahr in Clancy Hill, who represents defendants in drug-defect suits. "Courts have established a bright-line rule: the only time you can hale a corporate defendant into a particular state court based on general personal jurisdiction is where that state is the home of the corporation," he said.

Courts in New Jersey and elsewhere see some filings that lack a connection to the forum state, just as in the California case, although it's difficult to estimate how widespread the practice is, said Wilkes. By its nature, the pharmaceutical industry is nationwide, and the ruling will impact a variety of cases, he said.

In Missouri, where Johnson & Johnson has tried five cases over allegedly cancer-causing properties of its talcum powder, and in four of those plaintiffs prevailed. In those cases, Bristol-Myers paid those verdicts in jeopardy or appeal, said Wilfred Cummings, a McCarter & English lawyer who represents drug companies in products liability suits — a fact he noted that New Jersey is likely to see more drug cases filed as a result of the court's ruling.

"New Jersey is known as the medi-

cine chest of the world. More than a dozen of the largest pharmaceutical companies are located in New Jersey. So many pharmaceutical companies are, in the words of the Supreme Court, fairly regarded as home in New Jersey, subject

'New Jersey is known as the medicine chest of the world. More than a dozen of the largest pharmaceutical companies are here.'

to suits by residents and nonresidents alike. Plaintiffs' lawyers who are looking to file large inventories of cases in a single state, where their large inventory might be more plaintiffs who hail from various states, can file in New Jersey because they're subject to general jurisdiction," Cummings said.

Christopher Pineda, of Cohen, Pincus & Kohn in Red Bank, who files drug suits in behalf of plaintiffs, said he does not believe many New Jersey cases will be deemed in jeopardy as a result of the Supreme Court

ruling. He trusts the ruling's impact on New Jersey will not be significant but some cases that might have otherwise been filed elsewhere may end up in this state's courts.

"I don't see a major sea change in terms of the kinds of cases that are filed here. You may see more out-of-state residents file [in New Jersey courts] if they feel they have nowhere else to go," Pineda said.

New Jersey could see more filings of drug suits because plaintiffs' residency doesn't matter if the defendant is based in this state, said Adam Slater of Mazur, Slater, Katz & Treiman in Roseland. Slater represents plaintiffs in suits over alleged side effects of blood pressure drug Fortovion and over alleged defects in potato wash made by Johnson & Johnson subsidiary Kirkwood.

"The only impact on New Jersey is there will be more cases filed in New Jersey going forward," Slater said. "Anyone can sue J&J in New Jersey," he said.

Filing suits in a state where neither party has a nexus, a practice at the center of the Supreme Court case, is not commonplace in New Jersey, Slater said.

"For me, in New Jersey, I would say this is business as usual. It doesn't change what we're doing," Slater said of the decision. ■

Interpretive Writing

Weekly, under 6,500

FIRST PLACE

Charles Toutant

New Jersey Law Journal

**As Legalization Looms, 3
Things Lawyers Need to
Know About Stoned
Driving**

As Legalization Looms, 3 Things Lawyers Need to Know About Stoned Driving

By Charles Toutant

New opportunities and challenges await New Jersey lawyers if Governor Phil Murphy makes good on his promise to fast-track legalization of recreational marijuana. If legislation permitting the sale of marijuana to persons over 21 is signed into law, lawyers best positioned to benefit from the new law will be those ready to take on a case laden with scientific issues.

Unlike the state's medical marijuana program, which is limited to people with certain health conditions, the recreational pot law will permit the sale of the drug to anyone 21 and over.

A handful of legislators has criticized Murphy's plan for swift action, calling

Continued on page 19



Feature, Lifestyle, Entertainment Portfolio

Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Cheryl Makin
Courier News

They survived; Students share
sweet message; Local Vietnam MIA
remembered

THEY SURVIVED



Photo of Holocaust survivors leads to reunion more than 70 years later

CHRYL MAKIN COURIER NEWS

Michael Borstein was only four years old when he was liberated from Auschwitz. He survived along with his grandmother Sara, frail and sick, but alive.

Upon his release he posed — showing the photographer his teeth of course at home — along with other liberated children in a photo that has become iconic among all the losses of the Holocaust.

Never did he think that photograph led — as you can see — to a reunion with a man he had never met. On June 12, Borstein, 77, then President, 26, of Highland Park was Sarah's husband, 72, of his own age, and together for a "big brunch" at the home of Borstein's daughter, Debbie (deceased) Borstein, in North Carolina.

"We began. It was really a great moment," said Borstein, who first saw the photo in the book "Big Brother" in 1981. "It was a happy moment. Of course we knew and these were my sisters, but never it was possible."

Both Borstein and his wife are on the cover of the recently released "Survivors' Lives" a memoir of Borstein's experience during the Holocaust. Friedman's story is

in Milton J. Nathanson's "Surviving Auschwitz: The Story of the Small," published in 2003 and made into a TV special presentation.

"We didn't know if people would still care to hear about it as of the Holocaust," Borstein said. "It's encouraging to know that it still means so much to people. It was just so ironic that cover for the book. If that's, we would have never had the reunion."

It was real serendipity

The Borstein Ladies and Friedman, the reunion was an inspiring one for many facts. For each, the photo was familiar but to their childhood. Borstein put the photo in the book of "Auschwitz: The Story of the Small" in 2003.

"I remember when the Holocaust ends in the photo, always wondered what the other children were doing there," said Friedman, who first learned of the existence of the book in 1981. "It was a happy moment. Of course we knew and these were my sisters, but never it was possible."

Both Borstein and his wife are on the cover of the recently released "Survivors' Lives" a memoir of Borstein's experience during the Holocaust. Friedman's story is

see NJPA 04, Page 5A

The photo was the subject of a book by Michael Borstein in the book "The Story of the Small," published in 2003 and made into a TV special presentation.

Feature, Lifestyle, Entertainment Portfolio

Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Caitlyn Stulpin
South Jersey Times

Slice of life; Politics makes an
odd pairing; a big milestone
for a fantastic four

**A big milestone
for a fantastic four**
Graduation day is a joyous, and poignant, occasion
for quadruplets, as college and a separation await.



The four girls of the quadruplet family, from left, Kelly, Kaitlyn, Kaitlyn and Kaitlyn, pose for a photo before leaving their high school senior prom on Friday, June 16, 2017, in South Jersey.

By Caitlyn Stulpin

After what they say, the Stulpin sisters were learning through the tears of their mothers about a tragedy that will change their lives. The girls, who were born as quadruplets, are now facing a separation as they prepare to leave their high school senior prom on Friday, June 16, 2017, in South Jersey.

The four girls of the quadruplet family, from left, Kelly, Kaitlyn, Kaitlyn and Kaitlyn, pose for a photo before leaving their high school senior prom on Friday, June 16, 2017, in South Jersey. The girls, who were born as quadruplets, are now facing a separation as they prepare to leave their high school senior prom on Friday, June 16, 2017, in South Jersey.

"It's sad in a way because my youngest girls are grown up, but they're good girls and I'm so proud of them."

—Mother

Feature, Lifestyle, Entertainment Portfolio

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SECOND PLACE

Melanie Burney

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Dream Goes On; Her Diploma at 96; Family

Never too late to graduate



Melanie Burney, 96, is shown in a photo from the Philadelphia Inquirer. She is wearing a blue patterned top and glasses. The photo is part of a feature story about her receiving a high school diploma at the age of 96.

Her Diploma at 96

When Melanie Burney, 96, was a young girl, she dropped out of school to help run the family farm during the Great Depression. She started working in the year her school bus rode to LaSalle Junior High school, she took a diploma.

"I was the 11th and I wanted to be on the bus going to school," she recalled. "I went to one of the buses."

After graduating from eighth grade in 1944, Burney was unable to continue her education. She was needed to help support the family by working the fields on the farm in Lancaster, Pa. In 1945, when she had a few extra dollars, she bought a few extra vegetables.

Burney never got a chance to get her diploma — until now, nearly 50 years later. This time after her only grandson in school took the High School diploma, she took the High School diploma, she said. She said it was a long wait, but she said it was worth it.

"I don't see the point of it," she said. "I heard and proud I would get it."

Burney and grandson at the



Melanie Burney, 96, is shown in a photo from the Philadelphia Inquirer. She is wearing a blue patterned top and glasses. The photo is part of a feature story about her receiving a high school diploma at the age of 96.

Philadelphia Junior Center and Schuylkill Center in Lancaster, a program that provides high school courses and testing, helped provide her a new chance to graduate. The graduation of 10 and the center is encouraging young people to continue their education to pursue their dreams.

"The program is the oldest one in the state and passed the high school proficiency test" in New Jersey with its history, tradition and chief executive of the center, which serves its members including Burlington, Camden and Gloucester. She is an inspiration. He says she has.

It took more than 4,000 hours of study to complete the program and earn her high school diploma, according to David Scott, Jr., a spokesman for the New Jersey Department of Education. He says she did not miss that day.

"Absolutely, I am not aware of any other programs completing the requirements for a New Jersey state-approved high school diploma in that old or high school," he said.

Burney, who lives in "Lancaster, Pa." will receive her diploma this day at a ceremony celebration at the center on Oct. 20.

Feature, Lifestyle, Entertainment Portfolio

Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Christopher Maag The Record (Bergen County)

Demarest teen turns family tragedy to light



ALL IS BRIGHT



Wander State of Mind
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS
TRANSFORMED A TRAGEDY...

Daniel Eisenberg never planned to create one of the brightest, best-recognized and most technologically sophisticated residential Christmas light displays in the New York tristate area. His idea, ever glowing, was 500,000 strings of 100,000 lights, with 100,000 lights and a whole lot of other things that will be mentioned.

The whole thing just kind of happened.

"It's like dying, like a party," Daniel said, looking outside at his light display from the basement of the house in Demarest. "Every year, I grow bigger and bigger, to the point where it got pretty insane."

That's the thing with a little bit of...

See GARDEN STATE, Page 6A



Daniel Eisenberg, 17, shows he turned his front yard, ten in Demarest into a massive coordinated light show. It uses 100,000 Christmas lights, all of them blinking in time with music, which Daniel broadcasts on a low-wattage radio station from his basement. PHOTO BY VISUAL CONNECTIONS/ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

On the Web

Daniel Eisenberg talks about directing 100,000 strings of lights in his basement. www.100klights.com

"It motivates me to be happier and stay positive and think of my mom in the best way possible."

Daniel Eisenberg, Demarest, 17-year-old

We'll take a short break while NJPA editorial committee member David Nahan of Sample Media, and NJPA board member, Mike Jameson, Burlington County Times, come to the stage to announce the next round of awards.

Feature Writing

Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE
Kristen Kelleher
Ocean City Sentinel

Mother turns educator after daughter's drug use, recovery

Mother turns educator after daughter's drug use, recovery

By **KRISTEN KELLEHER**
Sentinel staff

EGG HARBOR CITY - Recovery from substance use disorder is the beginning of life, according to Tracy Smith, founder of the speakers bureau, Speakers for Change.

Smith, of Egg Harbor City, has tried to see this new life through the recovery of her daughter, Kayla Grammer, from the same disease.

Grammer's drug use started in eighth grade and escalated to heroin in high school, according to her Speakers for Change biography. She eventually became homeless.

Today, Grammer attends college, works in the treatment field, recently celebrated three years of sobriety, and has an active social life.

Through her daughter's recovery, however, Smith's life changed equally dramatically.

A former American Express executive, Smith founded Speakers for Change about a year ago to spread education and inspire change through affordable speakers.

In the year since Smith founded it, Speakers for Change has spread nationally.

Included among the company's speakers are Darryl Strawberry, a former Major League Baseball player who is now a minister and author, and Justin Luke Riley, the CEO of Young People in Recovery, who former President Obama spoke with at the National RX Drug Abuse Summit in 2016, among many others.

See *Speakers*, page A10



Kristen Kelleher/SENTINEL
Egg Harbor City's Tracy Smith, founder of Speakers for Change.



Feature Writing

Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Matthew Salvatore
The Coast Star

Portfolio



Feature Writing

Weekly, under 6,500

THIRD PLACE

Jay Cook,
Tina Colella

The Two River Times

Rumson Letter Carrier Says Goodbye To Route, Hello To Retirement



After 37 years on the mail, Rumson letter carrier, Jim Fosetta, completed his final route on April 27 in style. (Tina Colella)

Rumson Letter Carrier Says Goodbye To Route, Hello To Retirement

By Jay Cook

RUMSON — Jim Fosetta has been delivering it and adding up working years at Rumson and about 30 years. To the people he greets at doors, he stands out in his white mail, light personality and distinctive Jersey City accent.

But on April 27, he made the most memorable delivery of all — his last one. It was his last day as a post office letter carrier, and he had a long and a good one. He had a good way to get his mail to those he's come to know through the years.

That morning he dressed for work as usual in his field post: his shirt and slacks. One at the post office at 8:30 a.m., Fosetta got to his Cook's Grill. He swapped it out in a fitted black t-shirt — complete with a patch by his left chest pocket — and a pair of black gloves. He took a couple of minutes to get his mail sorted and out for delivery.

"I had back on it and you know what was pretty tricky with it," Fosetta said. "I had a job. I'm going to get a pension and most of all, I worked in a really good town."

Fosetta began his postal career on April 25, 1987. He



There are 37 years of Rumson mail, which means there's Rumson and the Letter Carrier of 37 years.

He got into his name, James was a best offer when he was in Jersey City and his brother Frank was a letter carrier in Middletown in 30 years.

"This day, 30 years, I made the best choice," Fosetta said. "And I didn't have to say no."

For the last 30 years he's walked the same streets and delivered the same mail for his job. Beginning on Silver Road, he walked from Coopers to Green to Riverside to Delaware and back, then

to power lines, to the street, to the street, to the street, to the street.

On Oct. 3, 2012 the day after Super Storm Sandy made landfall along the Jersey Shore, he walked to work carrying mail while everyone else was still recovering from the damage. He was the only one who was still working that day. He was the only one who was still working that day.

He remembers the day when he was the only one who was still working that day. He remembers the day when he was the only one who was still working that day.

"A lot of people are really sad about it," he said. "I had a letter carrier's association to the profession. They want to do the job."

Over the years, Fosetta has seen a lot of changes. With all the technology, scanning and tracking associated with mail delivery, he believes the

changes are good.

Feature Writing

Weekly, under 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Jay Cook

The Two River Times

Horses Guide Disabled Vets from Combat to Calm



Shirley Shales, a volunteer at the Shales Center, stands with a horse during a demonstration of the Shales Center's Equine program in Florida.

Horses Guide Disabled Vets From Combat to Calm

Story and photos by Jay Cook

MIDDLETOWN — Well off the beaten path, far away from the constant bustle of city streets, is a quiet, rustic place. It's a farm designed to give the mind for those who need it most.

And the source of help here being provided is not the following might be: Security Station, from Texas to Ohio, a Middletown horse farm is dedicated to using program to help veterans suffering from PTSD and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Founded by Rose Shales in 2015 the program provides a retreat for veterans living in Veterans Affairs hospitals and recovery communities. They spend a day with horses on a farm or one-on-one with difficult situations.

Shales' great-grandson, personal therapist with Shales' horses, Shales said as someone who has worked with veterans with an additional method of therapy beyond the usual occupational therapy they are receiving. She said it's an invaluable experience.

"The horses seem to be the medicine," Shales said. "It's



Shirley Shales, a volunteer at the Shales Center, stands with a horse during a demonstration of the Shales Center's Equine program in Florida.

on Oct. 5 for a visit to Shales' farm.

Part of the farm's mission is to help veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. After making his way to the stable, he moved from stall to stall, spending a few minutes with each of the

horses. Shales said the program works well because it's not a clinical environment. During a visit, he'll take through the woods after working on an individualized "walk" run with the horses and Shales' volunteer staff.

large, red-tipped blackbirds - in memory of a close friend who had cerebral palsy who suffered from PTSD.

"I would love to see more of a connection. There are looking to veterans who

Continued on page 2

Feature Writing

Weekly, under 6,500

FIRST PLACE

Jacob Perry,
Charlie Zavalick
The Bernardsville
News

The Holy Oak of Basking Ridge

'HEART OF THE COMMUNITY'



Photo by Debbie Weisman

Bob Gilbert, head arborist at Kelling Tree Care in Basking Ridge, applies a chainsaw to the 600-year-old oak tree at the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church in Bernards Township on Monday morning, April 24.

SORROW AS 'HOLY OAK' COMES DOWN

By W. JACOB PERRY
STAFF WRITER

VIDEO, PHOTOS ONLINE

Please see videos and more photos of the great tree coming down at bernardsvillenews.com

BERNARDS TWP. — It was something no one ever expected to see or want to see, but scores of people turned out Monday morning to watch workers begin the dismantling of the iconic oak tree at the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church.

Having died last summer after being

an estimated 600 years, it was no longer the holy tree that stood as a community landmark. But plans to remove its storied branches and cut down its thick trunk carried a certain finality.

No longer would people be able to point to the tree as a site where Gen. George Washington and the Continental Army are said to have rested during the American Revolution.

"It has been a source of stability and strength," the Rev. Dennis Jones, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, said the gathering outside at 8:19 a.m., as the tree workers finished their equipment. "It has been a symbol of belonging and inclusion. We celebrate its life."

Shortly afterward, arborist Bob Gilbert of Basking Ridge-based Kelling

PLEASE SEE TREE, PAGE 2

Sports Writing Portfolio

Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Jane Allison Havsy
Daily Record

Portfolio



ALEXANDER FLEE THE DAILY RECORD
Olympic gold medalist and world champion wrestler Jordan Burroughs, center, teaches kids starting positions during a clinic at Buxton Athletic Training Center in Randolph.

Wrestling champ brings his tips home

Gold medalist Burroughs
gives back to Jersey kids

JANE HAVSY
DAILYRECORD.COM

RANDOLPH - When Jordan Burroughs looked over a crowd of young wrestlers at Buxton Athletic Training Center in Randolph on Sunday morning, he saw himself looking back more than 100 times over. Burroughs grew up in Sickslerville, discovering wrestling in a town enamored of basketball and football.

Burroughs demonstrated fundamental maneuvers, including his trademark blast double leg. As the wrestlers rolled on a foam mat, he circled to offer technique tips - or just a fat bump.

"I was one of those guys, going to wrestling camps, trying to get my favorite wrestlers' autographs," Burroughs said during a break, as his 3-year-old son Beaton raced a remote-controlled car through the wrestling room.

"This journey has been unbelievable. I never imagined I'd be in this position, to be the role model for my son to look up to, in sport and in life."

A wrestler since he was 5 years old, Burroughs won a 2006 NJSLAA title at Winslow Twp. High School, where the gym now bears his name. He was a two-time NCAA champion and three-time All-American for Nebraska. Considered to be one of the best pound-for-pound wrestlers in the world, Burroughs won Olympic gold in London in 2012, and also competed in Rio. He also has four world titles, adding another last month in Paris.

Burroughs made sure to offer a few words to nearly everyone in the room over the four hours of training. Jeff Buxton - the former Blair Academy wres-

Sports Writing Portfolio

Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE

John Lewis

Burlington County Times

Holy Cross' Bruneau; Pope takes teachings to new places; Unstoppable

Holy Cross' Bruneau runs for a cause



By **JOHN LEWIS**
STAFF WRITER

Something about Bruneau just piqued his interest. "It started during my sophomore year," his Holy Cross Academy senior said. "My mom and I were on vacation in San Diego and we just happened to walk by this event. There were all these people, men and women, working hard." So Bruneau and Lara Bruner did some asking around, learned some details and on she was born.

"It turned out it was an event to raise awareness for domestic violence," he said. "My mother said to me 'you should do something like that' and I thought it was a good idea. It's a good cause, but I really didn't have a connection to it."

He did have a desire to raise the funds and put in the work. It was just a question of where to apply that effort. He'd lost an uncle to bladder cancer a year earlier, so Bruneau decided that was the fight he wanted to join.

This is how the Run for Your Cause was born. Bruneau hosted a 5k race at Holy Cross in the spring of 2015 that raised \$2,300, which went toward the fight against cancer. The 2016 event raised \$3,900.

"He came 'cause at the time of doing a 5k," said Sergio Torres, the Lions' girls soccer coach and Holy Cross Student Council Moderator. "But it was Bruneau who went and did it. He's a mover. He just asked me 'do you have any other things where he needed to have an adult present?'"

Bruneau's been able to connect his cause with the American Cancer Society's Run for Life. He works for that cause, and he's able to use Run for Life resources to help promote.

For the third event, which will take place on the Holy Cross campus on Sunday, May 21, Bruneau wants to kick the whole effort into overdrive. The Holy Cross community has already embraced the event, but there's a large community he'd like to bring in.

There will be alive E.J. Rita's water ice and concessions available. All participants receive race t-shirts and a custom Flywrap — an anti-pain running headband/bandana, customized for the race.

By **JOHN LEWIS**, Page 2A

Esau Erlaus of Holy Cross Academy (left) presents a check for \$2,300, the proceeds from the 2016 Run for Your Cause, to a representative from the American Cancer Society.

Sports Writing Portfolio

Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Tom Rimback

Burlington County Times

Three-mendous;
Goalies follow circle of life;
Longtime BCT sports editor retires

Longtime BCT sports editor retires

By TOM RIMBACK

WILLISGRICH — Wayne Richardson never worked a day in his life, all his dreams will tell you so. He was not retired from the Burlington County Times sports editor mumbled into his mic, work at a stadium at Wilmington's Kennedy High School. An assistant manager for the Gryphons' sports teams, he soon found himself writing freelance stories for the BCT.

Richardson started Friday, having not a moment to rest in his job. He is the man who loved what he did right until he packed the timeclock clocking in.

"The first game I ever covered at Kennedy High School, again Camden, Weymouth and up to the first school I'll see from the BCT," former sports editor Haver Malmstad said. "We started taking little, and that was it." It was 1975, at the first game I ever covered.

Richardson also spent more than four decades on the BCT, starting in the sports department and eventually serving as sports editor, news editor and finally every job in between. It was Malmstad who first saw Richardson's potential in Richardson.

When Richardson took the reins of the sports department, Richardson became his assistant.

"There was never for it," Malmstad said. "By just time, we had worked together for about 10 years at the paper. It was ready for it, I'd just finished. I saw him in a very good situation."

From calling in results at a high school, to freelance writing during his college years, to a job at the local paper within walking distance of his childhood home, Richardson found

So Richardson said, "I'm out."



CAR BIRDA PHOTOGRAPHY
Longtime Burlington County Times sports editor Wayne Richardson, who has been at the paper 40 years on Friday, celebrates his retirement.

Sports Writing Portfolio

Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE

Jerry Carino
Asbury Park Press

Portfolio

APR/COM ASBURY PARK PRESS

college basketball

Seton Hall-Villanova more than just a fantastic game



JERRY CARINO
COMMENTARY

NEW YORK — Here, after the final buzzer, was the reason why you love college basketball. It's not the roaring fans who turned Madison Square Garden into a 20,000-seat powder keg for two hours.

It's not the potential for crazy upsets, like Seton Hall pushing second-ranked Villanova to the brink Friday after losing to the Wildcats by a combined 52 points in the regular season.

It's not Nova's Josh Hart and the Hall's Angel Delgado, the two best players in the Big East, taking turns with the ball in their hands during the frenetic final seconds of the conference tournament semifinal.

It's this: After Hart hit his shot and Delgado missed his, giving Villanova a 35-33 triumph, Seton Hall's big man crumpled to the ground in tears. Hart didn't celebrate the Wildcats' vengeance for losing to the Hall in last year's final.

He came over to Delgado and picked him right up.

"I told Angel, 'You're a heck of a player and just keep going,'" Hart said. "You've got a bright future. We felt this feeling last year and I said, 'You have this feeling now, NCAA Tournament time, don't have this feeling again.'"

Villanova took last year's gut-punch and turned it into a national championship drive. That might be a lot to ask of these Pirates, but take this to the bank: They're poised to advance in the Dance next week.

Pain is a great motivator, and after outpacing Villanova for 29 minutes, the Pirates showed they have the guts and the talent. Now they have some extra motivation.

"We'll bounce back. We'll fight back," Willard said. "It's who we are. It's what we've done."

The Hall was left for dead six weeks ago, after falling to 5-5 in conference play. No more Isaiah Whitehead, every-one said, means no more success. Well, so much for that. This is a true team, and it was on display for the nation Friday.

There was Delgado, the best center in the country, who had two and three



Seton Hall's Angel Delgado, bottom, is cradled by teammates after the Pirates lost to Villanova in a Big East Conference Tournament semifinal Friday at Madison Square Garden.

Wildcats hanging on him yet still managed eight points and eight boards.

There was Dasi Rodriguez, always a first-rate athlete, who played with All-Big East poise and tallied 34 points and six rebounds while playing lock-down defense.

There was Myles Powell, a freshman who shoots like a senior. His nine first-half points on 3-of-5 3-point shooting staked the Pirates to a 27-20 lead at the break.

There was Ish Sarago, whose sprained ankle is killing him but logged 27 minutes of endurance duty anyway.

There was Khadon Carrington, who overcame a rough night to convert a 3-point play on a run-back in traffic, giving the Pirates a one-point lead with 1:40 left.

And there is unheralded Madison Jones, who slowed down the uber-talented Jalen Brunson just enough to give the Hall a chance.

The Hall did just about everything right. That's why this hurt so bad.

That's why Delgado collapsed on the court.

That's why, in the best of the moment, Hart's gesture was so remarkable.

"They've represented this league at the highest level," Willard said of Hart and fellow senior Kris Jenkins. "Shows you what a great program Jay (Wright) has."

Look, the Pirates privately feared about late critical calls that went Nova's way. But they also realized they were part of something special. Especially that scene at the end.

"That's what the game is about," Carrington said. "Angel's a competitor. Josh is a great competitor. I've always thought that."

Willard's right. Seton Hall will bounce back. There is a long history of conference tournament pain spurring Big Dance gain.

When that happens — and it says here when, not if — the tough calls and Delgado's missed layup will fade in memory. His moment with Hart will remain.

"Something like that never happened to me in my life," said Delgado, barely about to get the words out in the postgame locker room. "He showed class. I'm never going to forget it."

Staff writer Jerry Carino (jcarino@gannett.com)

Sports Writing Portfolio

Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Steve Politi

The Star-Ledger

Yanks rock Cleveland; Talent comes in to play; The creek that connects

ALDS GAME 5: YANKEES, REDS 2

YANKS ROCK CLEVELAND



The Yankees' 14th consecutive win is accounted for by Yankees' ace pitcher CC Sabersia's two-run home run — his second home run of the game — in the third inning of Game 5 of the American League Division Series in Cleveland. (AP Photo/Chris O'Rourke)



Steve Politi *Sports*
@stevepoliti

CLEVELAND — So you want to replace a legend? It's not an easy job. For the Yankees, it's not just about replacing a legend, it's about replacing a legend who has won 18 World Series titles.

Cleveland had a performance that will go down in history. In the 1954 World Series, the Yankees' ace pitcher, Whitey Ford, pitched a perfect game. It was the only perfect game in Major League history.

It was the only perfect game in Major League history. It was the only perfect game in Major League history. It was the only perfect game in Major League history.

It was the only perfect game in Major League history. It was the only perfect game in Major League history. It was the only perfect game in Major League history.

AL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

Game 1 Yankees at Red Sox, Tuesday, 7:05 p.m. ET

Game 2 Yankees at Red Sox, Wednesday, 7:05 p.m. ET

Game 3 Yankees at Red Sox, Thursday, 7:05 p.m. ET

Game 4 Yankees at Red Sox, Friday, 7:05 p.m. ET

Game 5 Yankees at Red Sox, Saturday, 7:05 p.m. ET

Game 6 Yankees at Red Sox, Sunday, 7:05 p.m. ET

Game 7 Yankees at Red Sox, Monday, 7:05 p.m. ET

Game 8 Yankees at Red Sox, Tuesday, 7:05 p.m. ET

Column Writing

Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE

Rick Mellerup

The SandPaper

Facing Murder and Mayhem in Norman Rockwell Country; Bombs Away: Can the President Keep a Leash on His Generals

The SandPaper/Wednesday, March 22, 2017

SandBox

Been There, Done That

Facing Murder and Mayhem In Norman Rockwell Country

By RICK MELLERUP

The residents of the tiny town of Arlington, Vt., population 2,317 in the 2010 census, could finally unlock their doors last week after a 31-year-old man was arrested for the murder of 81-year-old Helen Jones, whose body was found in her home on Jan. 4.

Timothy J. Butler, who had once mowed the elderly woman's lawn, was arraigned and pleaded not guilty last Thursday, charged with first degree murder and a felony county of burglary into an occupied dwelling armed with a dangerous or deadly weapon. Arling-tonians, who had packed a town meeting with state police in January, saying they were concerned about their safety not only because of the murder, but also because of a string of burglaries that police said were drug-related, could breathe easier.

Murders, even the brutal stabbing of an old woman, aren't uncommon in this country. But they are uncommon in Vermont, which had only 16 homicides statewide in 2016. And they are especially uncommon in Arlington,

which, after all, is in Norman Rockwell Country.

My earliest memories were formed in Norman Rockwell Country between the ages of 3 and 5 when I lived in another tiny town, Petersburg, N.Y., population 1,525 in 2010 and probably smaller in the late 1950s. It is located near the border of both Massachusetts and Vermont, 31 miles from Arlington, where Rockwell lived from 1938 to 1953, and 38 miles away from Stockbridge, Mass., where he lived from 1953 until his death in 1978.

Indeed, that area was the art capital of the United States in the late 1950s. Another American artist, Anna Mary Robertson Moses, better known as "Grandma Moses," lived in the New York town of Hoosick Falls, only 12 miles from my home. Abstract impressionists such as Jasper Johns and Jackson Pollock may have been all the rage with highbrow critics, but Rockwell and Moses were the king and queen of American art as far as the larger population was concerned. The former was an illustrator whose paintings graced the cover of *The Saturday Evening Post* 322 times over the

Column Writing

Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Len Bardsley
The Coast Star

Portfolio



SPORTS TALK BY LEN BARDSLEY

A more realistic Christmas wish

The ad started running a couple of weeks after Halloween.

If you watch any NFL games you have probably seen it over a dozen times by now.

It starts with a young boy waking up on Christmas hoping for his 'dream' gift, but every time he looks out the window it is not there.

Finally as an adult he wakes up to find that brand new car is actually in the driveway on Christmas.

I was pleased that my 17-year-old son felt the commercial was realistic.

Daniel felt, what kid would grow up wishing for a \$30,000 sports car?

Maybe a toy car, but a real car?

It is interesting watching the Christmas commercials for the last two months of the 'Holiday season' these

are few gift commercials that promote people to get off the couch and outside.

I remember growing up the traditional top Christmas gift was always a bicycle.

I was thrilled when I got my first Christmas bicycle, until my neighbor let me know it was his old bike.

That Christmas morning, however, it was the best gift ever for a six-year-old, even if it wasn't totally new. It was new to me at the time.

Since that Christmas a long time ago, every year one of the highlights is giving or receiving something that gets me or my family moving.

The feeling of going outside sometime on Christmas day with something new, never seems to get old and it never is going to be a car.

Our first couple of years together, I tried to get my wife Nancy something active we could do together.

One year it was cross country skis and another year, rollerblades.

My dream gift as a couple, if we had more storage space, time and money would not be a car, but a tandem bicycle.

As for my children, the highlights included a goal that could be used for both hockey and soccer and kid rollerblades for their years ago.

If our dog Rosie did not rip through new toys so quickly, she would probably get a few more entertaining outside gifts as well.

As a parent, one of the impacts of all the children gifts was an accumulation of clutter and more chaos in the house.

It seemed like you were tripping over boxes and toys for the next several days following Christmas until we could find room for the new presents.

It seemed like almost a necessity to have a few active gifts to get ride of the claustrophobic feeling too many gifts created.

Now that Katie and Daniel are older, there are no longer piles of toys under and around the tree.

We still try to include something that will keep them active, however.

These days both my wife Nancy and I always seem to exchange some kind of outdoor gear, so the idea of either walking the dog or running or cycling during the chilly winter month is not as torturous.

We never want excuses not to go outside.

This year the item on top of my wish list was a Garmin bike computer. I lost my last one somewhere near West Hurley Pond Road in a ride in September.

It was the perfect birthday gift a few years ago and really helped push me to increase and track my cycling miles the past two years.

If a Garmin is under the tree this Christmas there is a good chance I will be out the door on my bike a few hours later, just like I was over 40 years ago when that bike was under the tree.

Sure I would take the car from the television commercial if you insist, but I would be more excited if it came with a bike rack holding a sleek two-wheel ride that only needed my fitness to fuel it.

Len Bardsley covers sports for The Coast Star. He can be contacted at 202-221-0695 or via email at lbardsl@thecoaststar.com.

Column Writing

Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE

David Nahan

Ocean City Sentinel

Newspapers have duty to report on social ills, Outcome of Lentz trial should shift focus as clouds of suspicion start to dissipate

EDITOR'S DESK

By David Nahan

Newspapers have duty to report on social ills

Downplaying opioid epidemic is not in our best interest

Editor's note: A co-worker received a pointed email from a businessperson in Cape May concerned about the series our newspapers have been running on the opioid epidemic and its impact on our communities. In short, it questioned whether the prominence it received would deter people from wanting to invest in this area. To put the person's issue, "I get it, we all get it ... there is an epidemic here but do you have to advertise it week after week ... on the front page? Does anyone at the paper have common sense?????" The following column is a slightly edited version of my response.

Dear Businessperson,
A co-worker passed along your email about the opioids series our four newspapers are running in Cape May and Atlantic counties.

I understand that you have fear the series is putting Cape May in a bad light.

I believe your fears are misplaced and out of date.

I also believe you don't understand the mission of the Cape May Star and Wave and its sister newspapers in Ocean City, Upper Township, Somers Point, Linwood and Northfield. Beyond that, you have neglected the timing.

Let me get to that last point first, the timing.

We are running this series on opioid addiction in the winter because that is when our newspapers are read primarily by local residents.

The Star and Wave and Ocean City Sentinel, in particular, both have readers read-

in abandoned houses; they're from well-off families raiding the medicine cabinet.

We cannot turn our heads or bury them in the sand because someone might fear it could hurt tourism.

That would be akin to acting like the fearful leaders of Amity Island, the fictional town in the movie "Jaws" that tried to keep a killer shark under wraps.

And that takes me to enticed thinking.

In this time of social media, if you want to spread bad news, try to hide it from public view.

The brave are those who step up and address problems, who take action and acknowledge no one is immune from a national problem. That is why



we have applauded the Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders, which began having public sessions about heroin abuse a few years ago. Ocean City High School is adopting a policy on administering opioid antidotes to save lives if the need arises.

Who would have thought a steel boards in a tourism-based economy would be so forward thinking?

Our newspaper series, which continues only for a few more weeks, is being done in the spirit of exposing a problem to the light to help solve it and to make sure those people unaware of it are made aware.

Prejudging opioid addiction doesn't exist or downplaying it is evidence that can lead to more tragedy for addicts and their families.

Just this week on Facebook, a well-known businessperson

Column Writing

Weekly, under 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Mike Condon

The Citizen of Morris County

Here's What I Think I'll Say;
Hey, It's a Job, I Guess

Here's what I think I'll say...

Mike Condon



The writer is the editor of The Citizen, serving the business, Devils Valley, Dover, Middlesex, and Somerset counties in the Pocono Mountains. He can be reached at 202-785-0200, ext. 722 or at mcondon@citizenofnj.com

I think I'll be able to provide a little 'insider information' that might make these fine professionals just a little bit more able to relate to their patients. It's also a way for me to give something back.

I'm a worrier. I bedeviled them with questions and my worries for a straight month. Every single one of them was right; and their positive attitudes made a difference.

I think I'll mention that unlike heart attacks, strokes remain, at least in part, sort of a mystery. There's lots of information out there. If you look, and if you are paying attention. But when the ER doc first said "you are having a stroke," I was shocked. I couldn't move my left arm or leg at all, but my first thought was "I'm too young." My second thought was that this would change everything, and that life would never, from that second on, be the same again. I couldn't have been more wrong on both counts.

It will be interesting to meet and speak with other "survivors." (I hate that term. I better mention that too who are, in many cases, even younger than I am old. Who would have thought that was common.)

But, they all told me stroke patients are younger and younger; and that it can be caused by something as simple as stress. Think about that one for a minute. For me, it was high blood sugar, and was 100 percent diet related. More than a year later, I feel fine.

Yes, I think I've got this. I think I'll able to provide a little "insider information" that might make these fine professionals just a little bit more able to relate to their patients. It's also a way for me to give something back.

And, I like that idea too. So the political barons show will just have to wait until next year.

I really want to convey something that 80 percent of the population has no way of knowing.

At least that was my first thought when I began to ponder, precisely what I will say when I speak before a group of nurses on April 29 about my stroke last year.

I agreed readily to discuss my personal experience at a forum designed, I gather, mostly to help train nurses about strokes. It will be held at Morristown Medical Center, where I was taken a bit more than a year ago after suffering what turned out to be a minor stroke on Jan. 25 of last year.

First, I wrestled with the decision on whether or not to be one of the speakers... for about two seconds. But I did have two choices. I could accept the invitation to speak about the subject I've written about enthusiastically for a year, or I could attend the annual gathering of political memorabilia collectors held in New Hope, Pa., each April. It's a fun show, and with a just passed presidential election, I could surely beef up my collection. Then, the kids usually enjoy strolling the shops of New Hope and Lambertville, and having lunch at an outdoor restaurant.

But, I think the cause is innocent. And the first thing I want to tell the medical professionals is what it actually feels like. That's something you can't know unless you've experienced it. Fortunately for me, I recognized something was wrong fast, and got help pronto. I got to the hospital fast enough to receive a medication called TPA. It broke up the clot fast,

and today I am 100 percent, no residual effects whatsoever. That's not always the case.

But here's what I liken it to. Imagine taking your left arm, and attaching two bowling balls to it, as dead weights. Put them in a canvas bag, loop your arm through it, and try to move that arm. That's what a stroke feels like. There is no pain. It's just extremely tough to move your muscles. At first.

Gradually, it gets better, depending on how long the clot remained in place. For me, it wasn't long. But again, I got lucky.

And, imagine the frustration that, while you are attempting to lift said bowling balls using only the strength, or lack of, with your arm, the other arm is perfectly fine. Restriction free and enjoying unlimited recreation. You see, a stroke affects only one side of the body. For me, it was the left side, which happens to be the side I must use for writing, eating, etc.

Next, I think I'll discuss how carb-loaded my diet

was, and how I pretended to myself that nothing could go wrong, since I don't drink, smoke or use any drugs stronger than an aspirin. What's the worst that could happen? So I ate heavy and healthy food.

Now some 40 something pounds lighter, I have cut way way down on carbs. And that includes all the good stuff pasta, bread, pizza, bagels, muffins. You know, the usual suspects.

In doing so, I have more energy and generally feel better. I'm not perfect, but you don't have to be. Moderation is the key just like with most other things in life.

Next, I think I'll talk about the very positive effect that doctors, nurses and the physical and occupational therapy experts had at both the hospital, and at the affiliated Atlantic Rehabilitation Institute.

They literally, every single one of them, told me from the first second I was there that I would be fine, that I would walk out of there, better and stronger than ever.

Local Sports Coverage

Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Staff Courier News

Oct. 6-10, 2017

The collage displays two pages from a newspaper's sports section. The top page is the main sports page, featuring a large action shot of a Rutgers football player in a red jersey running with the ball. The headline reads "Lewis has first 'wow' moment at Rutgers" with a sub-headline "QB learns from CSR's speed on defense". To the right of this main photo is a vertical column titled "Pincus' Week 5 football picks" with a sub-headline "Several Tays are on tap". Below the main photo is a smaller photo of the same player. The bottom page shows a baseball game in progress with the headline "Indians confident, but Yanks are dangerous underdogs".

Local Sports Coverage

Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Staff

Burlington County Times

Sept. 8-12

The collage displays various sports coverage from the Burlington County Times. The top page is a sports section with the 'SPORTS' logo and a headline 'New faces, same result' accompanied by a photo of a football player in a blue jersey. Below this is a page titled 'Reaching for history' featuring a photo of a young boy. The bottom left corner shows a page with the headline 'All NFL games will air online'. The bottom right corner shows a page with the headline 'Stephens rallies' and a photo of a tennis player celebrating.

Local Sports Coverage

Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE Staff

The Press of Atlantic City

Sept. 8-12

SPORTS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

THE PRESS OF ATLANTIC CITY • 1000 ATLANTIC CITY BLVD. • ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. 08401 • TEL: 856-841-1000 • FAX: 856-841-1001

Eagles owner backs Pederson against outside criticism

PHILADELPHIA — Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie on Wednesday backed head coach Chip Kelly against outside criticism of his performance. Lurie said he has confidence in Kelly and his coaching staff, and that he will continue to support them through the season. Kelly, who has led the team to a 10-6 record in his first season, has faced criticism from fans and media alike for his offensive strategy and his decision to bench quarterback Carson Wentz. Lurie said that he has seen Kelly's coaching style and that he believes it will lead the team to success in the long run. He also said that he will continue to support Kelly and his staff, and that he will not be making any changes to the coaching staff at this time.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER PREVIEW

Changes at the top



Two young men on a soccer field, one pointing towards the field.

New Middle, Marlton coaches look to keep wins coming

MIDDLEBOROUGH, Mass. — Middleboro State College coach Mike Smith and Marlton coach Mike Smith are looking to keep the wins coming in the upcoming season. Smith said that he has a lot of confidence in his coaching staff and that he believes they will be successful in the long run. He also said that he will continue to support his staff and that he will not be making any changes to the coaching staff at this time. Marlton coach Mike Smith said that he has a lot of confidence in his coaching staff and that he believes they will be successful in the long run. He also said that he will continue to support his staff and that he will not be making any changes to the coaching staff at this time.

WASH STATE FOOTBALL

Absegami, Cedar Creek look for new team leaders

Absegami and Cedar Creek are looking for new team leaders in the upcoming season. Absegami coach Mike Smith said that he has a lot of confidence in his coaching staff and that he believes they will be successful in the long run. He also said that he will continue to support his staff and that he will not be making any changes to the coaching staff at this time. Cedar Creek coach Mike Smith said that he has a lot of confidence in his coaching staff and that he believes they will be successful in the long run. He also said that he will continue to support his staff and that he will not be making any changes to the coaching staff at this time.

Both teams lost several leadership positions in the offseason, but they are confident that they will be able to replace them with new leaders. Absegami coach Mike Smith said that he has a lot of confidence in his coaching staff and that he believes they will be successful in the long run. He also said that he will continue to support his staff and that he will not be making any changes to the coaching staff at this time. Cedar Creek coach Mike Smith said that he has a lot of confidence in his coaching staff and that he believes they will be successful in the long run. He also said that he will continue to support his staff and that he will not be making any changes to the coaching staff at this time.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER IT AUGUSTE TONY'S JOY OF GOALS

St. Augustine plays well in season opener

St. Augustine played well in its season opener, defeating its opponent by a score of 2-0. The team was led by captain Mike Smith, who scored both goals in the game. Coach Mike Smith said that he was very proud of his team and that he believes they will be successful in the long run. He also said that he will continue to support his staff and that he will not be making any changes to the coaching staff at this time.



A group of soccer players on a field.

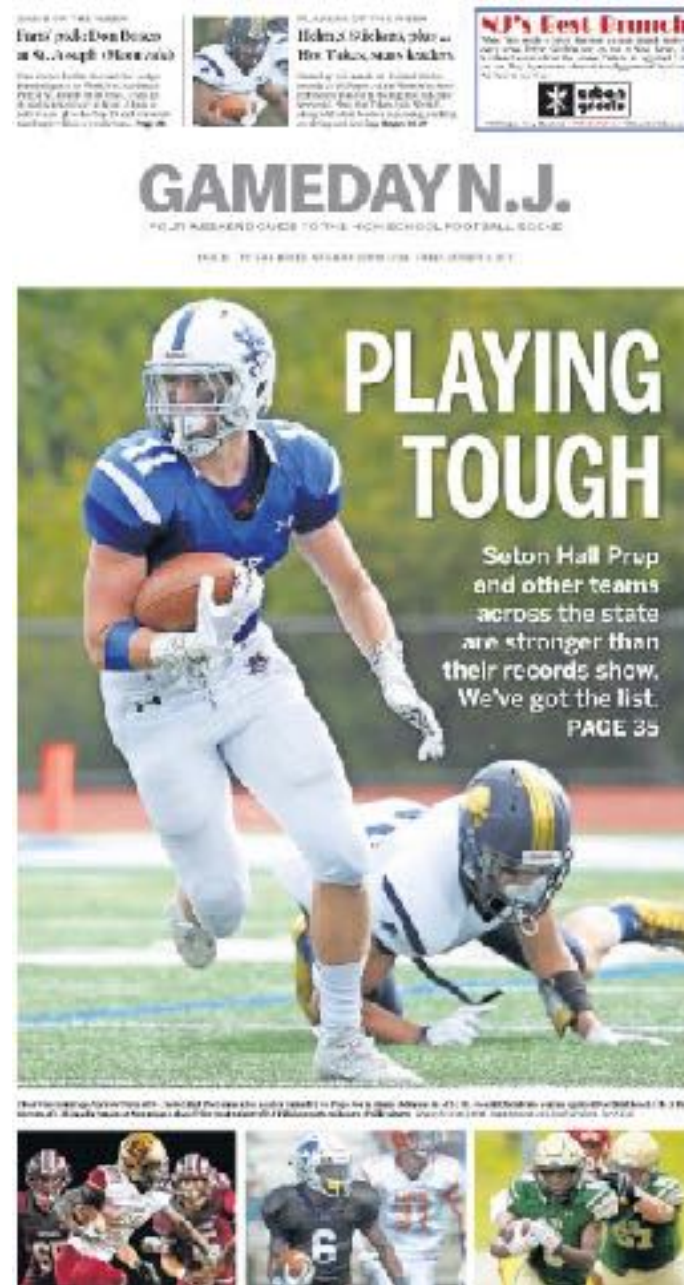
Local Sports Coverage

Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE

High School Sports Staff
The Star-Ledger

October 6-10, 2017



Local Sports Coverage

Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Mark Tribble, Josh Friedman
Courier-Post

Oct. 6-10, 2017



Sports Writing Portfolio

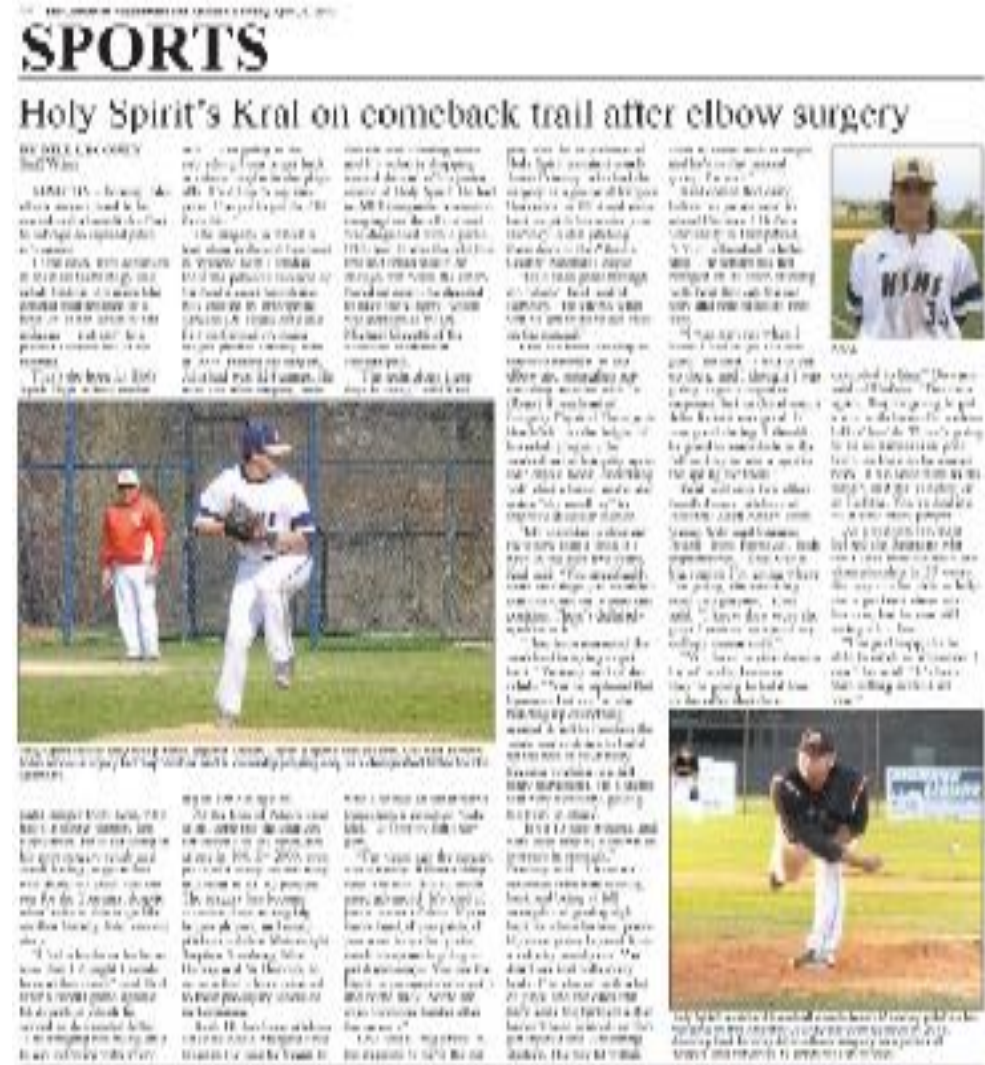
Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Bill LeConey

The Current of Absecon & Pleasantville

Portfolio



**Sports Writing
Portfolio**

Weekly, under 6,500

No awards given

Scholastic Writing Portfolio

Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Bill Evans

South Jersey Times

Minno Mania; pitman maintaining game with Clayton; Williamstown's Schauer never let hearing deficit hold her back in softball

Sports

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WRESTLING PREVIEW

MININNO MANIA

Wrestling twins — Dante and Antonio — energize Gateway's program and its fans as they head into their final season



TOP PHOTO BY PHOTOFEST; BOTTOM PHOTO BY PHOTOFEST. PHOTO BY PHOTOFEST. PHOTO BY PHOTOFEST. PHOTO BY PHOTOFEST.

MININNO MANIA

Friends and family will be cheering for Gateway's wrestling twins, Dante and Antonio, as they head into their final season. The twins have been a staple of the program since they were freshmen, and they have helped the Gateway program...

The pair started their wrestling careers in high school and continued at Gateway. They have been a source of pride for the program and its fans. They are looking forward to their final season and the support they will receive from their friends and family.

"I'm eager for this season, and I know there's a good future for us."

Scholastic Writing Portfolio

Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Stephen Edelson
Asbury Park Press

Life lessons on the mat;
Overcoming adversity; 1953
Freehold team is a lesson



The Freehold team's lead wrestler, Matt Howard, is seen at the state wrestling tournament.

LIFE LESSONS ON THE MAT

BY STEPHEN EDELSON
LOCAL REPORTER

ONLINE
The Freehold team's lead wrestler, Matt Howard, is seen at the state wrestling tournament.

Freehold's Matt Howard, a 1953 state champion, is seen at the state wrestling tournament. Howard, who is a member of the Freehold wrestling team, is seen at the state wrestling tournament. Howard, who is a member of the Freehold wrestling team, is seen at the state wrestling tournament.



The Freehold team's lead wrestler, Matt Howard, is seen at the state wrestling tournament.

Scholastic Writing Portfolio

Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Jerry Carino

Asbury Park Press

Superstars give back; Bench 2 officials who left game; Frauenheim legacy still alive and well



Ranney basketball superstars Bryan Antwine and Scottie Lewis talk about Saturday's all-star charity basketball game, Hoops for the Homeless, at Ranney School in Tinton Falls.

SUPERSTARS GIVE BACK

A heartbreaking encounter on the street inspired charity event

JERRY CARINO
8/10/16 10:57 AM

Scottie Lewis was getting dinner with his basketball team outside a Chipotle in Atlanta when something caught his attention.

"It was a family asking people for food," he said. "Two parents, two girls and a boy."

This was during the Under Armour Association Finals in July, a high-profile event featuring some of the nation's elite high school players. Lewis was there with Team Ric, a Stone-based power on the Amateur Athletic Union circuit.

Several teams were eating at the Chipotle, and Lewis saw a coach snap at the father of the unfortunate family.

"The coach was being really rude," he said. "So I gave my food to them."

Mike Rice, the former Rutgers head coach who serves as

"I want to use my voice I've built through basketball to try to make a difference. I want to give back."

SCOTTIE LEWIS
8/10/16 10:57 AM

Robert P. Kelly Award

Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE

Hannington Dias
North Bergen Reporter

Secaucus lures amazon; Roque's son democratic chair



A rendering of DT Allen's proposal for Amazon's HQ2 by Secaucus Junction. The company submitted their entry for Amazon's search for a new global headquarters in October.

Secaucus landowner tries to lure Amazon

*Company submitted proposal
for global HQ site by
Secaucus Junction*

By Hannington Dias
North Bergen Editor

Ever since Amazon — the on-line retailer headquartered in Seattle — announced in September that it was seeking requests for proposals (RFPs) for a second corporate headquarters, more than 200 American cities have submitted proposals, including Eugene and Camden. A construction company that owns land in Secaucus also has entered a proposal for the project.

DT Allen, a Midland Park, N.J.-based contracting company, submitted an entry for HQ2 by Secaucus Junction in October. The Secaucus Reporter has learned Mayor Michael Ghannouchi and the company's vice president, Doug Allen, confirmed last week that the company submitted plans.

Robert P. Kelly Award

Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Rebecca Panico

Union County Local Source

Linden examining legalization of recreational pot; Internal docs show disciplinary past of Hillside police chief

4 — December 7, 2017 — Union County LocalSource

Linden examining impending legalization of recreational pot

By Rebecca Panico
Staff Writer

Linden officials are preparing for New Jersey's possible legalization of recreational marijuana, establishing a committee to examine the potential impact of the move and whether the municipality should permit the sale of the drug within city limits.

Low-elect Phil Murphy has made the legalization of these 31 and other

issues related to recreational use.

His committee plans to call on local agencies to examine issues such as traffic and pedestrian safety, and how a dispensary near a school would impact the district, Brown said.

"If you have people who are under the influence of alcohol or marijuana, it's increasing the risk of" accidents, Brown said.

A state school in June by the state,

nesses are effectively banned in an entire city," she said.

The group is also concerned with "making sure that the licenses and licensing qualifications aren't burdensome so that it doesn't benefit or privilege out-of-state interests."

NJLGR would like to see additions to the bill, including automatic expungement for convictions of possession of

small amounts of marijuana. The current bill would not allow people to grow marijuana, something the NJLGR would like to see change, Unarmu said.

Murphy, the governor elect, has pledged to sign a marijuana legalization bill in his first 100 days of office.

Brown plans to have the research results of Linden's committee available around February or March.

Robert P. Kelly Award

Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE

Rebecca King
Atlantic City Weekly

Take her or leave her;
One nasty women

AC WEEKLY®

INTERVIEW

MORE FUN: ACWEEKLY.COM

Take her or leave her

Idina Menzel's Borgata concert to be honest, intimate and a little 'Frozen'

By REBECCA KING

About every 10 years, an Idina Menzel project makes history. She exploded onto the theater scene in 2004's Broadway smash hit "Rent" as the vivacious performing artist Muvvin. "Rent" went on to win a Pulitzer Prize and remains one of the longest-running Broadway shows in history. In 2003, "Wicked" approached to a theater legend with Menzel winning a Tony for the lead role of Elphaba. It continues to break its own box office records in New York and in satellite productions all over the world. And in 2013 she became the voice of Queen Elsa in Disney's "Frozen," the highest-grossing animated film of all time.

While consistently lending her talent to megahits, Menzel has simultaneously decreased the median age of her fan base, attracting scores of teenagers in black witch hats and little girls toting Elsa braids. That said, Menzel gives us warning her most recent tour, which will come to Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa 8 p.m. Saturday, May 20, will sometimes cross over into PG-13 territory.

"I'm a woman in her 40s, so in order to remain true to myself and authentic, I can't completely cater to a young crowd," Menzel says. "The demographic at my shows are pretty broad, so I usually just kind of give a disclaimer to moms that there might be a few raunchy moments and to just cut me a break and remember that I'm in my 40s. I hope I don't offend people too much."

Those "raunchy" moments are born of Menzel's refreshing candor onstage. The pleasure of seeing her live isn't in complicated dance numbers, Vegas-style glitz or mod-pit energy. Menzel instead cultivates an intimate evening. The venue becomes her living room, the audience her confidants — she doesn't shy away from slipping off her shoes, reporting any and all wardrobe malfunctions to the crowd or dropping a few f-bombs while retelling a funny story. And then there's that powerhouse voice.

When asked if she ever tires of singing fan-favorite songs like "Defying Gravity" and "Let It Go," Menzel is full of gratitude.

"I know people think that, but I don't. I think you develop a muscle when you do theater eight shows a week that helps you find nuance in every single show to keep it new and fresh for yourself. I find that to be a really wonderful challenge — discovering new things all the time," Menzel explains. "And songs like 'Defying Gravity' and 'Let It Go' resonate so strongly with young people. I have a responsibility and a pride on stage — how many people get songs like that in their lifetime? It's a nice reminder on stage to know that things are going well and how lucky I am."

In between her 10-year home runs, Menzel has starred in several theater productions like "If/Then" and movies like the Lifetime remake of "Headless" was a regular on shows like "Uke" and



Idina Menzel is consistently lending her talent to megahits.

www.njpa.org

released a few solo albums. Her most recent, "Idina," is simultaneously raw and uplifting, written at a tumultuous time in Menzel's life.

"I always choose songwriters and producers that inspire me and that are more talented than I am. And I get in a room with them, and I regurgitate all of my thoughts and ideas and emotions, and they help turn it into some beautiful songs," she says of creating her albums. "It's just the personal stuff that's different each time and what story you're telling. This particular time there were some big dueling forces. My professional life was booming and exciting. I was on Broadway, and 'Frozen' was a

huge success, and I was singing at the Oscars and the Super Bowl. And simultaneously I was going through a divorce and dealing with lawyers and mediation and all that stuff. It was a lot of contradicting forces. It gave me a lot to write about."

Menzel's Borgata show will feature new songs from "Idina," as well as a few from her previous albums, covers and the empowering showstoppers she's known for — a repertoire that has grown with every strong female character she's played on stage and screen. As to how she came to be cast in so many inspiring roles, Menzel is baffled, but proud.

"That's one of those chicken or egg

questions that I think (the roles) about all the time. I think they choose me. Certainly 'Wicked' wasn't at the point in my career when I could choose a role like that. I had to audition several times, and work hard to get it. Maybe once people see you in something like that, that's empowering for women, they think of you for the next similar project that has similar themes ... I'm not going to look a girl horse in the mouth. I'm proud of that," she says, adding with a laugh. "Though, it would be nice to do a romantic comedy with just a cute dude once in a while."

IDINA MENZEL
WHEN: 8 p.m.
Saturday, May 20
WHERE: Borgata's
Event Center, 1
Borgata Way,
Atlantic City
HOW MUCH:
Tickets, priced at
\$95, \$105 and \$135,
can be purchased at
Ticketmaster.com
MORE INFO:
TheBorgata.com/
IdinaMenzel.com

**Robert P. Kelly
Award**

Weekly, under 6,500

No awards given

Business/Finance Writing Portfolio

Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Rebecca Everett
South Jersey Times

Why hospital deal fell apart;
waterfront site; Another dry town
opens first brewery

HADDONFIELD

Another dry town opens first brewery

Rebecca Everett | For South Jersey Times

Gibb's Tavern offered refreshment to residents more than 200 years ago, before Haddonfield became a dry borough. In fact, it wasn't even a borough then.

This year, five residents plan to return the former Gibb's Tavern space — long used as a storefront — to a use close to its original purpose.

Kings Road Brewing Co. should be open by the fall, serving beer made on site at 127 Kings Highway East, said Bob Hochgerel, head of the Markam Arts Center and one of the nanobrewery's founders.

Hochgerel said the Zoning Board of Appeals ruled Tuesday that it was an allowable retail use because the business would sell products made on site, much like a coffee shop.

Nanobreweries have been popping up in New Jersey's dry towns under new licenses the state began offering in 2012. The license allows local breweries, wineries and distilleries to sell alcoholic beverages that are made on site, even in dry communities.

Hochgerel said that anyone who has spent any time in Haddonfield knows that while it doesn't issue liquor licenses, there are frequent opportunities to imbibe. "We have to weigh our thoughts on that," he said of the dry town designation.

Anyone in Haddonfield wanting to have a beer outside of a special event has to either bring their own, purchased out of town, or head to a bar or restaurant elsewhere. That's business Haddonfield would like to keep, he said.

"We did a lot of research. We talked to nanobrewery owners, mayors, economic leaders," he said. "What they told us is that their nanobreweries have absolutely been a boon in these communities. They help keep traffic in town and they tend to bring traffic in from outside the community."

Mayor Jeffrey Kasco agrees that the brewery will be good for business. "It will attract a certain clientele to Haddonfield," he said of craft beer enthusiasts. You have a beer, he said, "then you end up at the pizza place, or Starbucks, or at a shop nearby."

Kasco said the establishment will close by 10 p.m. and won't be like a traditional bar or liquor store. "We still don't have those, and I don't think we will anytime soon," he said.

Hochgerel said "98 percent" of the feedback he has heard about the project has been positive.

WHAT IF?

The partners in Kings Road Brewing Co. are Hochgerel, Victoria Jensch-Carreras, Jeff Farrell, Peter Gagliardi and Chris Thomas. Together, they have more than 150 years in Haddonfield and 10 kids here, he said.

Hochgerel said the nanobrewery was born out of a discussion last year about restaurants closing in Haddonfield. They were also talking about Devil's Creek Brewery opening in nearby Collingswood and Kelly Green Brewing Co. opening in Pitman — both dry communities. "We said, 'If we could have that here, it could really make a difference in our downtown.'"

Business/Finance Writing Portfolio

Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE

Dave Sheingold

The Record (Bergen County)

Portfolio



Business/Finance Writing Portfolio

Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Joan Verdon

The Record (Bergen County)

Portfolio

Toys 'R' Us now playing catch-up

Former giant lags in retail's changing game

JOAN VERDON
STAFF WRITER, BERGEN COUNTY

Perfect timing helped Toys "R" Us grow from a single, tiny store into an international powerhouse over the course

of 69 years.

The company got its start selling cribs and carriages just as the baby boom was about to explode. It expanded into toys as those babies grew and it realized dolls and trucks produced more repeat business than baby furniture. It opened the first toy superstores just as the age of hot toys fueled by TV ads was dawning.

But the company that billed itself as

"the center of the toy universe" now finds itself behind the times in the digital age and challenged by a retail world that is playing by a whole new set of rules.

It must refinance \$400 million of its crushing \$5 billion debt next year with lenders who have grown less patient about waiting for results and who are less confident about the future of tradi-

See **RETAIL**, Page 6A



THE RECORD
Toys "R" Us is weighing its options as it faces \$5 billion in debt.

News Column

Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE

Shane Fitzgerald

Burlington County Times

Now as much as ever, a free independent press matters; Under fire, MacArthur sticks to campaign pledges; Invite someone different home for dinner

COMMENTARY

Invite someone different home for dinner

Commencement speeches run the gamut. They can make you laugh. They can make you cry.

They can make you sleep. They can make you think.

David O. Brown's speech at my son Ryan's graduation ceremony at the University of Texas last week made me think. And it made him think, too.

Brown, the former Dallas police chief, garnered substantial praise for how he handled the situation after five of his police officers were gunned down last July during a peaceful Black Lives Matter protest. He also has been heralded for his community policing philosophy.

One childhood event changed his world.

"I was in the first generation of kids raised in Dallas during desegregation in 1971," Brown said. "I was 11 years old. No one spoke race. None of the white kids spoke. None of the black kids spoke to me. It was a very difficult time for an 11-year-old to try to figure out this race thing.

"I wanted to be back in my old

school, and nobody wanted me at that school for the first three months, until one of my sixth-grade friends, Mike Schulenberg, who was white, invited me home for dinner.

"He lived blocks from the school. I missed my school bus home. I walked over to his house with him to have dinner. I walk in the door, and his mom comes and looks at me. She looks at Mike and calls him into the kitchen. Maybe the students will have to Google 'Guess Who's Coming to Dinner,' but I thought I was Sidney Poitier in 'Guess Who's Coming to Dinner.'

"They whispered, and they talked, and I felt uncomfortable. I started to walk out, and his mother came out with pot pie and sat down for dinner. And the first thing I thought is, 'Man, white people sure eat dinner early.' It was like 3 o'clock. My mom's not going to cook till 7."

"Mike and I became best friends in sixth grade. We ran for school president and vice president. We were elected, and all the black kids and the white kids became friends and started speaking to each other. Mike and I are friends to this day."

Fast-forward a few years after Brown boarded a bus to start college at Texas. He noticed a young, scared, hungry white kid named Lance and sat next to him. They hit it off, laughing and joking. Brown eventually shared with Lance the sack lunch his family had given him for the bus ride. It was a time two scared young men were venturing off into the world. For a few hours, they were each other's only friend. They lost touch on such a big campus, but they never forgot each other.

Shortly after that tragic shooting, when emotions still were high and raw, Brown received a letter from Lance, asking him why the chief befriended him that day. Brown stared up.

"So when Lance ... asked, 'Why did you sit next me?' it's because Mike Schulenberg invited me home for dinner," Brown said. "It changed my worldview of race at 11 years old, because he was kind, and he was authentic.

"Now, as complex as our problems seem in this country, and as divided as we are — and it seems there's just no resolution to our divisiveness — I have a promise:

"Invite someone home for dinner (who) doesn't look like you.

"Our neighborhoods, our schools, universities, our workplaces and homes, our country and the global community are depending on you graduates to forge ahead through our disagreements, our conflicts, our crisis moments and, yes, our random violence.

"Invite someone home for dinner.

"We must participate and not retreat. We can be reconciled through our service and sacrifice for one another. Our democracy is at its best when we serve.

"Invite someone home for dinner."

Brown challenged the graduates to reach out, to serve and become part of the solution, not the problem. Someone's world can be changed with a simple, random act of kindness.

Invite someone home for dinner who doesn't look like you. I'm glad that's the message my son got from one of the most memorable moments of his life. That's a good idea for all of us.

Shane Fitzgerald is executive editor of the Burlington County Times, Bucks County Courier Times and Delawarean Intelligence. 609-671-8137. Email: shane@burlingtoncourier.com. Twitter: @shaneft.



Shane Fitzgerald

News Column

Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Jeff Edelstein
The Trentonian

Portfolio

RENTALS

Video Express in Hamilton is like the last of the Mohicans (you can also rent that flick there)

And then there was one. We think.

Video Express and Game Exchange in the Dover Park Plaza in Hamilton is, probably, the last remaining video rental place in New Jersey. Really.

"As far as I can tell, we're the last," said owner

Ben Pasqua.

This comes days after John's Video Tapes in Brick — thought by some to be the last remaining video store — closed its doors.

Of course, all this begs the question: How is the lock is a video store still in business in the age of Netflix, On Demand, Redbox, Amazon, Hulu (not to mention

some might say it's the next table.

"Twice a year, once before Thanksgiving and I again before Easter, we have big sales," said Pasqua. "People come in, my wife bakes cookies, my mom makes her meatballs and her sausage, peppers, and onions are great."

Really, the answer is in there. While it's not literally the meatballs, it is Pasqua. He's — there's no other way to say this — a nice guy. People come in not only to rent, "Trolls," but men to hang out, shoot the breeze, talk around.

"Our customers are great," said Pasqua. "It's a place to come in, for people to get out. We joke, everyone has nicknames. It's like a bar."

Pasqua's wife, Wendy, agrees. "He becomes friends with half his customers," she said. "People come in and he'll chat for hours."

Pasqua said about 80 percent of his business is rentals, both DVDs and video games. When new stock comes in, he'll take snapshots of the cover and



Ben Pasqua, his wife Wendy, and Manager Mediam behind the counter at Video Express in Hamilton. It's believed this is the last video rental place in New Jersey.

Video Express and Game Exchange in the Dover Park Plaza in Hamilton is, probably, the last remaining video rental place in New Jersey. Really.

text them out to customers he thinks will be interested. He's "kind of a human version of 'Since you died ...'"

So really, the big secret to Pasqua's continued success is that he's not a jerk. People like him, he likes them back, and presto! Successful business for over 27 years. (He started working there in 1983, bought it in 2009.)

"Am I surprised we're still here? Yeah, to a degree I am," said Pasqua, a Trentonian native. "It's just happy it's working out, because if not I'd have to go get a real job."

Or he'd just dig out his personal collection.

"He has an adult home as he has in the house," his wife noted. "I wish he'd sell it."

In the meantime, even days a week, Pasqua is running the counter. He'll take a day off here and there, and that's where Mediam comes in.

Mrs. Mediam (remember, everyone has a nickname)

"I've been a customer here forever, and everyone thought he was my son," Pasqua said.

"I'm Big Benny, my son is Little Benny, so we started calling him Mediam Deane."

His name is Gary Clark, for the record. (I wonder what my nickname would be. Probably something like "Chino" or "Rock Solid." Feet right. Any way ...)

Anyway, for \$6, you can come in and rent a DVD. And if you ask nicely ...

"Yeah, we might have some VHS in the back," Mediam said.

Jeff Edelstein is a staff writer for The Trentonian. He can be reached at jedelstein@trentonian.com, [facebook.com/jeffedelstein](https://www.facebook.com/jeffedelstein) and @jedelstein on Twitter.

News Column

Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Agustin C. Torres

The Jersey Journal

Menendez shows his Hudson DNA; Hudson County politics is a man's game; It's a pundit's life for Bruce Alston, at least for now

Menendez shows his Hudson DNA

When U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez holds his next reelection fundraiser, expect it to be a black-tie affair because there will be a great array of well-wishers pouring out of the ballroom to pledge their support.

Menendez will graciously accept their praise, but he knows some thought he would never survive his fiscal mismanagement and a handful planned to replace him in the Senate. I was outside in his public remarks yesterday following a national declaration.

His comments were no surprise to me, but not to the columnist, who has covered the senator's career since his teen years. Under the tough political microscope is an emotional man who usually keeps his feelings in check in a campaign, Senate chamber or court room.

There was one element in his emotional post-aid speech that was very telling of the senator's Hudson County DNA and his penchant for never forgetting a slight.

"To those who left me, who abandoned me in my darkest moments, I forgive you," he said. "To those who criticized me in my darkest moments, I love you. To those who were digging my political grave so they could jump on my back, I love you. You are who you are and I won't forget you."

The question right now is whether the federal government will decide to reappoint him. I seriously doubt it will happen.

In deciding a possible reappointment, the Trump administration will have to decide if it prefers Menendez in the Senate or someone chosen by super-progressive millionaires. Governor Phil Murphy, Menendez is a Democrat, but

in some ways, he sometimes thinks Republican. He is considered somewhat harshish in Senate relations and, although he supports certain political change, Menendez is more a fiscal conservative than most. Dems Menendez now returns as a senior member of the Foreign Relations and Finance committees.

The Trump administration and Justice Department will not want to take ownership of a case where 10 jurors favored acquittal. Plus, Menendez's defense costs are about \$7 million and the government probably already spent more than five or six times that amount.

Also, a Republican is not running New Jersey's U.S. Senate seat next year. Menendez has always been thinking reelection. A few months ago, he held his big annual Poppo's kindasting event for a reception in the Senate and not for his defense fund.

With Menendez running I predict weak opposition in the Democratic Party primary. Last month's Quinnipiac University Poll showed 99 percent of the state's residents did not believe Menendez deserves to be re-elected. Yet, the senator will have the support of 21 of the state's Democratic Party primary chairs, as well as the de facto governor, George Norcross, who donated to the Menendez defense fund. Congressman Donald Norcross will vote with them; the poll will change.

It almost seemed as if Menendez was responding to the poll yesterday when he said, "Certain elements of the FBI and of our intelligence and defense or even worse except that the FBI could find from Union City in Hudson County can grow up to be a United States senator and be honest."

A full page could say "amen," but it appears voters will have an opportunity to voice their opinion.

Agustin Torres' Political column appears on Saturdays in The Jersey Journal.



Agustin C. Torres
Political
Journalist

News Column

Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE

Tom Moran

The Star-Ledger

This is what happens when testosterone and egos rule the day; Credibility crisis at teachers' union; Why political machines forgive all sins

This is what happens when testosterone and egos rule the day



Tom Moran

tomoran@starledger.com

If your weekend plans were rained when the state closed its parks this weekend, you may be confused about which politicians to blame, since they are all pointing at each other.

Let me help: Blame testosterone poisoning.

This is about boys and their egos. There is no grand principle at stake. The key combatants could easily resolve their differences by cutting the loaf in half.

But testosterone hates compromise, and loves a clean victory.

It's not all bad. It can drive men to heroics, like charging a machine-gun nest. But it leads to a lot of bar fights, too. And that's the sort we are dealing with in New Jersey today.

"It is all about who has the biggest muscles, or who has the biggest you-know-what," says an exasperated Sen. Loretta Weinberg, the lone woman in senior

SEE MORAN, A2

News Column

Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Charlie Stile

The Record (Bergen County)

Political Stile

Christie takes aim at Trump's inner circle



POLITICAL STILE
CHARLES STILE

If there was one major message Governor Christie worked to convey during Tuesday's break-the-silence news conference, it was this:

The public relations fiasco over the Trump administration's immigration executive order could have been avoided if he, Chris Christie, the battle-tested "chief executive of the 10th-largest state for the past seven years" was in the West Wing advising his longtime friend, the president, instead of the green-in-the-gills neophytes at his side.

"Amateurs? I wouldn't use that word," Christie said when asked.

But in a fairly detailed post-mortem of the "terrible" executive order roll out, Christie proceeded to describe President Donald Trump's staff as just that — ill-prepared bunglers who simply had no idea what they were doing.

"You count upon your staff to explain it, include the appropriate parties to be consulted, make sure that the direction is clear on how to enforce it, so

See STILE, Page 11A.

News Column

Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE

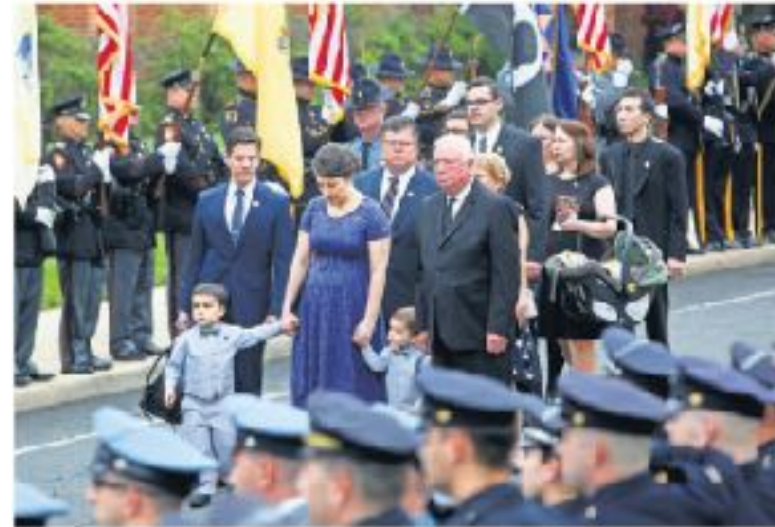
Mark Di Ionno

The Star-Ledger

Summit detective killed in crash mourned with love, levity; Loss & forgiveness; The 46

SOMERVILLE

At funeral, officer's widow eases grief



Widow Vitoia Tarantino and her two sons walk behind the procession for Summit police detective Matthew Tarantino, who was killed last week in a crash on Interstate 76. Ed Averys/USA Today. Photo by The Star-Ledger

Summit detective killed in crash mourned with love, levity



By Mark Di Ionno
markdi@starledger.com

The two sons of Matthew Tarantino were dressed in matching light blue suits, pants and shoes, and their mothers and her twin, as they walked down New Jersey Avenue in Somerville, each holding their mother's hand.

They seemed to be in charge of the police, standing there in a solemn line, all 100 yards or so, from the scene of the crash.

Only when the emergency police pipe and siren began to ring up "Going Home" did the interventional of his mother, perhaps frightened by the noise, see Tarantino in a light blue suit, his 46-year-old body, and being

his mother's leg, frail but firm, was bent and lifted, and she sat in the house door open.

I want for moment Vitoia Tarantino showed all the grace that a woman in her position could muster, the light to her face and the love in her eyes, and then she was still, her face on the flag-draped coffin being loudly recited from the house by other uniformed Summit police officers.

She gave me a look, her words whispered and private, were many times over. It was a blue dress that showed the child she is wearing this summer. She was also a detective, knowing her duty to know know his father, except through stories, pictures, videos and photos.

And the youngest boy called and being

there, she'd then and her family through a circle of honor stands, draped with American flags, the walkway to the Church of the Immaculate Conception.

Did not them, a line of men in uniform, some of them equal to the size of the coffin.

They came to see Matthew Tarantino, who worked a week ago in a 1787 car crash, and they came to mourn a winner again.

In the end, she says, thank. With police in uniform, by average, Vitoia Tarantino suggested a funeral eulogy for an husband of 29 years.

She spoke of her husband's police SIR 01 0040 6

Arts & Entertainment Writing

Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Pat Johnson
The SandPaper

Women Make Their Movie Marks Within Independent Film Venues



Women Make Their Movie Marks Within Independent Film Venues

A look at prominent female filmmakers, producers, and the diverse content audiences are being served by the indie film festival circuit. This isn't just about the independent film world, where women have dominated since the 1970s, but also the current market.

At the 2017 Sundance International Film Festival, held from Oct. 6-13, one theme stood out: female voices. From award-winning indie films to the most recent award-winning documentaries, the festival showcased a diverse range of women's voices. From the award-winning documentary "The Central Park Five" to the award-winning feature film "The Farewell," the festival showcased a diverse range of women's voices.

While the independent film industry has long been a male-dominated space, the festival showcased a diverse range of women's voices. From the award-winning documentary "The Central Park Five" to the award-winning feature film "The Farewell," the festival showcased a diverse range of women's voices.

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Arts & Entertainment Writing

Weekly, under 6,500

THIRD PLACE

Ellen Lazer

The West Essex Tribune

Livingston's Soleil Thomas Competes on Kids Baking Challenge



Master baker Soleil Thomas of Livingston, 12, makes cookies at home with her 11 year old sister, Avia. EL Photo

First Episode is January 1: Livingston's Soleil Thomas Competes on "Kids Baking Challenge"

The first episode of the Food Network's 2018 Kids Baking Championship will be shown on January 1 at 9 p.m.

One of the 12 competitors who made it through an arduous audition process, is Livingston's Soleil Thomas, a seventh grader at Heritage Middle School.

The dozen bakers, ranging in age from six to 13 years old, compete in dessert challenges, such as cookies, ice cream, dessert pizzas, and doughnuts that test their creativity and skills. The grand prize is \$15,000 and a feature in *Food Network Magazine*.

Valerie Bertinelli and Duff Gyllenhaal host the ten-episode season.

Learning to Bake
"I always loved being in the kitchen," the soft spoken Soleil said. "I used to bake with my Italian grandma, Ilseanna, who showed me how to bake breads, cakes, biscuits and cookies. And I baked with my mom and my other grandma, Mille, a NYC waitress. We made pizza, a party with pineapple pizza, and ice cream." She was busy three years old.

When she was eight years old, Ilseanna started baking independently. "Of course I needed help with the oven, but I did everything else by myself," she said.

She joyfully pointed to her birthday present, an advanced Kitchen Aid mixer, and said she was putting on ice cream mixer attachment. It



Soleil created original "Pupcakes" for the Mt. Pleasant animal shelter, where she volunteers.

Christine, to replace the family's broken chair.

Getting to the Show

Soleil's journey to the Kids Baking Championship show began last February. "It was a snow day, my mom was looking on the website, and saw that you have to send in an audition tape. 'Why not send one in?' she said." Her mom, Simone, is a fitness instructor. Her dad, Tom, is a food processor at Amazon, and her sister, Avia, is a fifth grader at Harrison School.

The family had to wait, but their patience was rewarded, when they received a phone call in May.

"They wanted to learn more about me," Soleil explained. "I had some Skype interviews with producers in California. We took a lot of pictures of stuff I baked."

One of the last steps was baking something and presenting it to the executive producer by Skype, Iva. She made her favorite cupcakes and some macarons.

"A week later, they called and told us we would go to New Orleans to film the show."

It was July, so the whole final went. How long did they stay? "I can't really say," Soleil said calmly. Contestants are sworn to keep the recipe secret, and stay until the final episode will be shown on March 5.

Being on the Show

On the set, Soleil was impressed by the kitchen filled with professional equipment, and the huge party. "As it was very helpful to have all the stations flour, sugar, eggs, butter and stuff," she said.

The contestants are told what the next challenge is, "and what you have to make, you go and work on it," Soleil said.

The first challenge was "cookies lickable," a layered, thumb, sticks and macaroni "cookie case" on a curvball, or twist, gets thrown during each episode.

"What was the twist?" "I really can't say," responded Soleil, smiling.

"We got to meet Donald Trump. They are fun and nice, and the kids were all super nice," she said. "The judges and staff are not allowed to help us, so we help each other."

"At first, you would see your's chicken," she recalled. "I was really nervous, because I've always loved baking. It was like, 'I hope we're doing something good today.' Well I was really nervous as much as excited, but it was still nerve-wracking."

"Sometimes it's really challenging. Every episode has a different time limit, and I learned that I don't need like time limits that much."

Did you make anything new for you didn't make before? "I can't really say," Soleil said with another smile. "The best part was the baking -- in the whole challenge," she said.

"You never see anyone being



Soleil Thomas of Livingston is one of 12 contestants on the Food Network's Kids Baking Championship. The first episode will be shown on Monday, January 1, at 9 p.m.



Soleil's colorful macarons are some of her favorite creations.

Arts & Entertainment Writing

Weekly, under 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Bethany Mitros

The Retrospect

Ellie Smith Reprises Grandmother's Role in Music Man

Ellie Smith Reprises Her Grandmom's Role in *Music Man*

by Bethany Mitros

Eighth grader Ellie Smith played the lead role of Marian the Librarian in the Rohrer Middle School's recent production of *The Music Man*, and like most students, she was nervous to audition. However, her jitters had an unusual cause – her grandmother Nancy Watson played the same role on Collingswood High School's stage 50 years ago in 1967 – and she wanted to follow in her steps.

"I was nervous because I thought if I did not get Marian, it would be weird. It was a lot of pressure," said Smith. "I really wanted to be Marian because [my grandmother] was, but I liked the role too. I still would have gone out for Marian, but I would not have been as stressed."

"I was a wreck, too," Watson explained. She felt guilt that Smith,



an experienced thespian, was worried about her audition because she is usually not stressed about that part of theater.

True to the character of Marian, Smith's mom Tiffany said her daughter follows the school's rule prohibiting phone use during school hours. However, not all of her friends do the same. Smith said she was standing in the hallway waiting for class to start shortly after the cast list was sent out by text. She was worried, thinking about whether or not she got the role, when some of her friends began congratulating another girl on receiving the role of

(Continued on page 8)



TWO PEAS IN A PLAY: At left, Nancy Watson and Ellie Smith playing the role of Marian the Librarian in *The Music Man*, 50 years apart. Above, Smith and Watson mirror each other on more than just the stage.

Swartswood Methodist Episcopal Church

Alta Jackson Bloom took this photograph of the Swartswood Methodist Episcopal Church on a bridge afternoon in the summer of 1908. The image features a series of 10 photographs that illustrate the church's history.

Wayne McCabe

HISTORIC COLUMNIST



Swartswood, founded in 1861, this church was a part of a two-church charge sharing space with the Decker Episcopal Church (now known as the Harmony Hill United Methodist Church), located on the corner of the village of Swartswood. For a short period of time during the late 19th century, the two-church charge was offered to a third church — the Methodist Episcopal Church in the village of Veterans.

The Swartswood church is a charming vernacular structure that reflected the influence of both the Greek and Gothic Revival styles of architecture. The most striking feature of the Gothic Revival style, which had become full-blown by the time of the church's construction, was the heavy molding around the front entrance, showing the

influence of the Greek Revival movement. The Gothic Revival style was in the vanguard of the 19th century.

The wood-frame building that stands across the front of the church is the only one of its kind in Swartswood.

The Swartswood Wesleyan Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, held in Hillsdale, noted that the church was built by the Paterson Board and the Rev. J. A. Trueman assisted by both the Swartswood and Hillsdale churches. At that time, most congregations were holding and selling tobacco in their respective warehouses.

During the late 18th and early 19th centuries, both congregations had annual class meetings, which were both major functions as well as social events in the Swartswood community. Due to reduced membership numbers, the congregation of the two churches was merged in 1971. At that time, the Rev. John Lawrence Bunker was serving the churches, and was instru-

mental in accepting the transfer of the building to the Swartswood Wesleyan Conference.

Following the merger, the church was sold to the Township of Hillsdale and served as the municipal court facility and municipal police headquarters. By 2011, the police department had

been dismantled and the township was no longer using the building for a municipal court. With the assistance of Peter Stohler, a member of the congregation, arrangements were made for the township to sell the building back to the Harmony Hill United Methodist Church for

one dollar in 2011. The church is now being used for a municipal court. With the assistance of Peter Stohler, a member of the congregation, arrangements were made for the township to sell the building back to the Harmony Hill United Methodist Church for

one dollar in 2011. The church is now being used for a municipal court. With the assistance of Peter Stohler, a member of the congregation, arrangements were made for the township to sell the building back to the Harmony Hill United Methodist Church for



Photo courtesy of Wayne McCabe



The lower portion of the Swartswood Methodist Episcopal Church can be seen behind the dense foliage of these mature maple trees that stand in the intersection of the road leading to Newton (going off to the distance on the right) and Main Street, looking off to the left. This image was also taken by Alta Bloom at the same time he took the photograph of the church.

The peak of the church was taken in 1908 by Alta Jackson Bloom, a professional photographer who began his business in 1901 in "Alta Bloom and Street Photographs" in Asbury Park. By 1908, his wife had left the business and Bloom had relocated to Burlington Township. There, he practiced his profession for the next 40 years, photographing of real estate and other subjects. He was a member of the Dutch Reformed Church.

**Feature/
Entertainment
column**
Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Wayne McCabe
New Jersey Herald

Swartswood Methodist; Beaver Lake Station; Decker blacksmith and wheelwright shop

Feature/
Entertainment
column
Daily, under 20,000
SECOND PLACE
Leslie Ruse
Daily Record
Ruse on the Loose

local

Dog making a difference for kids at Randolph school



LESLIE RUSE
COLUMNIST

Binging articles to the students and teachers at Randolph Middle School is just one of the many benefits therapy dog Turner provides.

"We've seen so many positive results from the dog working," said Dr. Christine Faggot, Randolph Middle School psychologist, with the Randolph Middle School Child Study Team. "It's really amazing. Turner's presence immediately makes the students feel a sense of calmness and judgmental, I think they automatically feel a comfort zone. The look that comes over their faces is amazing. Some of them are anxious, some of them are on the autism spectrum. They need help communicating or reading, friends or their social skills with social skills. The dogs are a condition and non-judgmental, that the students instantly feel accepted."

With his handler, Russ Newman, Turner typically visits once every two weeks to work with the social skills groups at Randolph Middle School. The 1-year-old pit bull/boxer mix was certified through Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs in Morris Plains in 2011, after being rescued by Seventh Hour Rescue. After using it their kennel for many months, Newman and his wife decided to foster him because he is a gentle dog.

"His ability is a dog that likes to have a job to do, we thought therapy might be a good avenue for him and it's great. He doesn't visit with him, seven library reading programs, reading rooms. We've done several events for kids with special needs or cancer. We've done several presentations. We'll do some more and let the children visit Turner. How to hold the leash, how to approach other dogs. It's important to know how to handle a dog," said Newman, director of



PHOTO COURTESY OF LESLIE RUSE
Visit Son, Michael Hyman, Nid Meola and Brandon Vega spend time with Turner, who, we'd said to see them when he's there.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KIWANIS CLUB OF GREATER PARSIPPANY
The Kiwanis Club of Greater Parsippany Foundation presented a check to "Camp Hejels Foundation" in the amount of \$10,000 on Tuesday, Dec. 19, at its annual holiday party for Camp Hejels and the annual fund. The 2016 Annual Fund Dinner was held in October at Harrow Harrow. Above: Camp Hejels Development Director Jennifer Faggot, Nid Meola, Michael Hyman, Brandon Vega, and Camp Hejels Executive Director Bill Vintichew.

here," Faggot said. "Nick Meola has such a connection with Turner. I really do have Turner as a media and difference in his life. He's brought him a lot of happiness. It's wonderful." Some of the skills that are taught and the spontaneous practice Faggot has seen come to practice with students



Sweet and happy Opal was saved from euthanasia by Seventh Hour Rescue. Turner is a dog who knows hand signals and would love to share her new best friend with you.

through the dog therapy program are making eye contact, something some students struggle with. The importance of reading body language, something that kids have a difficult time communicating, coping with stress and coping with depression.

"Because the dog is here, all the focus is on the dog and then naturally what happens is they start talking, some of them just need to work on eye contact, so I'll say, look at Turner. Give him eye contact. How does that feel? Now look at me, is it different? We're so used to seeing that when you give eye contact, you're making a connection but with the dog it's so much easier. So we start with the dog and then we try to pull the skill into the real world," Dr. Faggot said.

Turner is one of three therapy dogs in the Randolph School District. Shorann Elementary School has Striker, who helps with special and social skills training and Cedar Grove Elementary School has Rocky, who works with social and communication skills with autistic children. Another handler is Seeking Eye dog training club, who frequently accompanies Faggot to her classes at Randolph Middle School.

Turner is particularly picky up on things with kids. A few years back she had a injury in the elementary school was there when it happened. So he came to school the next day because it was the best thing for him to do," Faggot said. "Turner just went up to him and stood by him the whole time. He knew. They pick up on people who need them."

Throughout Turner's time at

the school, teachers, secretaries and even the school's Principal, Bonnie Copeland, came to visit.

"Turner typically comes in at the end of the week. There's nothing like giving Turner a scratch and in an arm getting a tick or a dog dog stroke after a long week," said Faggot. "I'm sure this is the same way for the kids but just the feeling when he comes in, I think, you know, make my week."

Help the Homeless

Meet a very sweet Spanish Pit Bull Terrier mix Opal from Eleventh Hour Rescue. She is deaf but doesn't let that stop her from loving life! This pretty girl came to Eleventh Hour from a shelter in Florida where she was at risk of being euthanized. Opal quickly became a volunteer knitter, but knitted life is starting to take its toll on her. She is a high-energy dog who will need a fairly to give her the exercise she needs. Opal is crate-trained and transport and a working in her basic commands and good manners. She is a very intelligent girl who loves playing with her toys and can keep herself entertained if necessary. She loves going for walks, being outside and riding on a walk in the car. Opal would prefer to be the only dog in the house, and would love to find a patient foster or owner that will help her flourish. To read more about Opal, or to complete an application for her, or to see all of the adoptable pets, please visit: www.eleventhhourrescue.com or call 977-664-0885.

Minea of Towaco named to board of trustees

Towaco resident and Morrisville business owner Nicholas W. Minea has been named to the Board of Trustees at Clara Mass Medical Center, an RWJ Barnabas Health facility.

Staff Writer Leslie Ruse: 973-28-6671; lruse@GannettNJ.com.

Feature/ Entertainment column

Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Rev. Alexander Santora The Jersey Journal

Elie Wiesel's message for Trump: Love is louder; Historic welcome for LGBT Catholics; Religion, politics share stage



Feature/ Entertainment column

Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE

Bobby Olivier
The Star-Ledger

This gem rocks; Montclair's
Hodera should be next great rock
band to break out of Jersey:



Feature/ Entertainment column

Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Robin Shreeves
Courier-Post

On the Wine Trail

Question to ask at NJ restaurants



ROBIN SHREEVES
ON THE WINE TRAIL

I want to start a movement, and I'm asking you to join in. It's a low-cost, no-risk, no-embarrassment way to support local wineries that are producing fabulous wines. They need to know that we care, these wines are well worth their if they're on the menu.

There's not much you need to join this movement. You don't need to come to any meetings, meetings are enough in any type of demonstration. You just need to go out to eat and ask one simple question every time you go to a restaurant and you're going to have something to drink.

Before ordering, ask this question: "What New Jersey wines do you serve?"

A few weeks ago, I was at The Pour House in Westmont with friends. We sat at the bar and I ordered a beer. While my friends were ordering, I noticed a bottle of Valenciano Verde wine in the refrigerator behind the bar. I showed my order immediately.

In another local, Vidal Blanc this past weekend, this time from Sharrott Winery at Amato Wine Bar in Hammonton, it was my first time here, and my friends and I went there was because I had been told the restaurant had a good selection of New Jersey wines. I really love happy hour when I open a bottle and I had the first glass entirely devoted to wine from New Jersey — it of them.

At the other Amato centers, their view Winery (Matters Vineyards, Hagis Winery, Oakmont Winery) are only sold Winery are available by both the glass and the bottle at Amato. The list ranged from dry white and white to sweet white, and even had Blended 100% Spiking Blueberry wine. If there is a large, more diverse selection of New Jersey wines at any restaurant in the area, I don't know about it. But if you do please let me know immediately.

As I thought about my two experiences at The Pour House with its selection of wine from New Jersey and Amato's list of choices, I was pleased about both.

What if, I thought, "every restaurant had at least one New Jersey wine or two?"

More people would be exposed to these wonderful wines. It would mean that as people make how good our local wines they will choose them in restaurants, if they have the choice. And so, I want to start this movement. I want you to ask about local wines every chance we have.



THE POUR HOUSE IS ALL ABOUT BEER, BUT THEY ALSO POUR AT LEAST ONE NEW JERSEY WINE.



ASKING "WHAT NEW JERSEY WINES DO YOU SERVE?" IS ONE TYPE OF WINE LOVER'S WINE.



IF YOU WANT TO SEE MORE NEW JERSEY WINES SERVED AT YOUR RESTAURANTS, ASK TO SEE.

I imagine it going something like this:
Us: What New Jersey wines do you serve?

Servant: I've never really seen any wine from New Jersey.

Us: I'm not sure, but I've heard something about local wines. We have some great ones from here in the state, and I like to dine in restaurants that support our local wineries.

Or, the conversation might go something like this:
Us: What New Jersey wines do you serve?

Servant: We have (insert name of local wine here).

Us: That's great, but you have local wine, I'll have a glass or a bottle of (insert name of local wine here).

I would never want you to order a

wine you didn't want just because it's local if the restaurant doesn't have New Jersey wine but it's not what you want to have that evening, perhaps you could try something like, "It's great that you have local wine, this particular wine isn't what I'm in the mood for tonight, but please let me know if you have any other local wines that support our local wineries and I appreciate that you do."

What if I told you that happens to everyone who enjoys our local wines? It makes enough pleasant noise about their restaurants that managers and those who choose to wine assistance notice. If they don't know that wines are important in covering wine credits at our local wineries, what incentive do they have to put any of them on their wine list?

So there you have it. Your mission should now be to accept it, to make a lot of noise in our local restaurants about our local wines and to them. Order them if they're what you're in the mood for.

I thank any restaurant that has offered me wine from New Jersey, whether in the past or supporting local.

This is a simple, small thing, but it could help to grow New Jersey wine in the state. I think it deserves our help to grow, don't you?

Robin Shreeves is the food and drink writer for the environmental news site Mother Nature Network, and a frequent contributor to EMMY, Jersey Magazine and Drink. Partly she's also the co-author of "The One Year Wines in Christian History" (Thomas, 2013).

Feature/ Entertainment column

Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Chris Maag

The Record (Bergen County)

Garden State of Mind



Michael Ryan said that as a child he would run with his father to the letter in the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, known as the Wall of Names, which is etched into the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery on May 11, 1969, in Laos, and will have a proper burial in Arlington National Cemetery on May 11.

LONG-AWAITED JOURNEY HOME

Nearly 50 years later, sad comfort for family of missing Bojutsu Marine



GARDEN STATE OF MIND
CHRISTOPHER MAAG

The first time Lt. William C. Ryan's fighter jet was shot out of the sky, he crashed into the black night. He floated in the South China Sea until a military helicopter rescued him a few hours later.

The second time, his plane was shot down, the Bojutsu was still missing for 47 years.

The crash happened on May 11, 1969. On that day Ryan's wife, Judy, had packed two packed suitcases by the front door of her apartment, ready for her first vacation with her husband since he deployed to Vietnam.

On that day Ryan's only son, Michael, was a few hours shy of his first birthday.

It hasn't finally taken considerable time and

See RYAN, Page A2



More on NorthJersey.com

Watch a video of Michael Ryan remembering his father, Marine Lt. William C. Ryan Jr., of Bergen, who will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery in May after being killed in action in the Vietnam War. Ryan's name is etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., which his son, Michael, will be visiting.



Newsman: photo from Monday, Nov. 11, 1969. Lt. William Ryan's son, Michael, was a year old at the time.



Ryan's name is etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., which his son, Michael, will be visiting.

Special Subject Writing

Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE
Eric Avedissian
Ocean City Sentinel

**Experts say cyber risks are
serious, Cyber attacks have not
spared Cape May County**

Experts say cyber risks are serious

Editor's note: See related story about local cyber attacks inside.

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Sentinel staff

AVALON - In today's online world, hacking and ransomware are increasingly prevalent, and computer users should take precautions, Detective Brian Kearns told over 100 participants at a Cyber Security Workshop at Avalon Community Hall Dec. 13.

Kearns, of the New Jersey State Police Cyber-Crimes Unit, said agencies such as the New Jersey State Police, New Jersey Office of Information Technology and New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness combined their efforts and resources to battle these high-tech threats.

"We have people who own the technology, people who are on the forefront of the line of defense, and the people who clean up the mess when everything happens. You bring them all together in the same room, we share information and we get that information out to you," Kearns said.

The result is the New Jersey Cybersecurity & Communications Integration Cell (NJCCIC), which disseminates information on cyber security, analyzes threats and offers a place for reporting such incidents.

The NJCCIC partners with federal homeland security and law enforcement authorities to secure

Special Subject Writing

Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Gina G. Scala
The SandPaper

Oyster Creek Generating Station: Two Decommissioning Options



File Photo by Jeff Reynolds
All of NJPA's Special Subject writing is published by member newspapers. In this case, the Oyster Creek Generating Station is the subject of a special subject article by Gina G. Scala.

Oyster Creek Generating Station: Two Decommissioning Options

Process Can Take Up to 60 Years

Existing Oyster Creek Generating Station, which has been operating since 1969, is set to be decommissioned by the end of the year. The station, which is owned by the state, is one of the largest and most complex nuclear power plants in the world. The station's decommissioning process is expected to take up to 60 years, according to a report released by the state's Office of Nuclear Energy.

The decommissioning process is a complex one, involving the removal of radioactive materials and the dismantling of the plant's infrastructure. The process is expected to be completed by the end of the year, but the final cleanup will take up to 60 years. The state's Office of Nuclear Energy is currently reviewing two options for decommissioning the plant: a "direct decommissioning" option, which would involve the immediate removal of the plant's infrastructure, and a "deferred decommissioning" option, which would involve the removal of the plant's infrastructure over a period of 60 years.



Special Subject Writing

Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE

Ryan Loughlin
Atlantic City Weekly



Gritty in the city; Sex and Atlantic City

Special Subject Writing

Weekly, under 6,500

THIRD PLACE

Nicholas Katzban
The Ridgewood News

Miss N.J. USA contestant is eager to break boundaries

THE RIDGEWOOD NEWS

MAY 11 9 52 AM '17

Miss N.J. USA contestant is eager to break boundaries

MICHAEL BENTLEY

Just over an hour, it is possible to become a beauty queen at a red carpet event. A glowing skin is good. Her broad shoulders looking to her, long, straight, probably blonde hair is best. Focused, but not too serious. Her smile is, but hardly the measure of a "beauty" woman.

It is not the contest, it is the knowledge that she is a beauty queen. It is the fact that she is a beauty queen. It is the fact that she is a beauty queen. It is the fact that she is a beauty queen.

The Miss New Jersey USA contestant does not have any special talents or special skills. She is a beauty queen. She is a beauty queen. She is a beauty queen. She is a beauty queen.

PHOTO COURTESY: MISS NJ USA



Miss N.J. USA contestant is eager to break boundaries. Photo courtesy of Miss NJ USA.



Miss N.J. USA contestant is eager to break boundaries. Photo courtesy of Miss NJ USA.

Special Subject Writing

Weekly, under 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Joan Kostiuik

The Upper Township Gazette

Everyday Heirlooms



Harriett Reardon Bailey holds a Merry Holly doll she got as a child. Her score on the Ocean City 2017 walk.

Everyday heirlooms

At the Endicott Reardon museum in Seaville, tokens of family life are priceless treasures

BY JOAN KOSTIUK

Back when men farmed the land, women scrubbed clothes on a washboard, and families gathered in the parlor of the one at the day to listen to music on the phonograph, the Endicott and Reardon families settled in rural Cape May County.

It was the early 1900s, and both families had come from jobs in the mills in Lewiston, Maine. Some, like Henry Endicott, came to work the railroad that ran from Avalon to Ocean City. In 1925, when Myrtle Endicott of Seaside City married Eben Reardon of Seaville, the two families joined.

The Endicotts and Reardons were some of the earliest residents of southern Cape May County. They were sea captains, soldiers, cabinetmakers and businessmen. As times progressed and the stuff of their lives became old or obsolete, any items they no longer used were carefully stored away.

Most of those slices of everyday life — coins, games, housewares, furniture, clothes, quilts and other artifacts, hundreds of items, some dating back more than a century — were eventually passed down to Harriett Reardon Bailey, the only child of Myrtle and Eben.

They are now displayed in The Endicott Reardon Family Museum

she founded at 5826 S. Shore Road in Seaville. Opened in October of 2016, the museum is a treasure of family treasures she carries and shares with love.

Many of the beloved items came from her parents and grandparents on both sides. Other treasures came from members who married in from the Atlantic and Lake families.

Reardon Bailey said she used to do some antique collecting, but no longer seeks to add to her trove.

"People keep trying to give me things, but I have enough of my own," she said while giving a tour Friday. The storing, cataloging, organizing and arranging takes time, she said. "And lots of help."

See MUSEUM on Page 9

Special Subject Writing

Weekly, under 6,500

FIRST PLACE

Jacob Perry
The Bernardsville News

Dark forces unleashed by Trump's tavel ban



PHOTO BY FATHMA HADHRAH

'Dark forces unleashed' by Trump's travel ban

Local Muslims discuss immigration, mosque quest

By FATHMA HADHRAH

BERNARDSVILLE - The first night of the week-long Islamic festival was held at the Islamic Center of Bernardsville on Friday, Oct. 20, at the Islamic Center of Bernardsville. The event was held at the Islamic Center of Bernardsville, which is located at 1000 N. Main St. in Bernardsville. The event was held at the Islamic Center of Bernardsville, which is located at 1000 N. Main St. in Bernardsville.

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the building, even, took off. He said he had been at the Islamic Center of Bernardsville, which is located at 1000 N. Main St. in Bernardsville. He said he had been at the Islamic Center of Bernardsville, which is located at 1000 N. Main St. in Bernardsville.

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PHOTO BY FATHMA HADHRAH

The event was held at the Islamic Center of Bernardsville, which is located at 1000 N. Main St. in Bernardsville. The event was held at the Islamic Center of Bernardsville, which is located at 1000 N. Main St. in Bernardsville.

Sports Column

Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE

L.A. Parker
The Trentonian

Portfolio

BASKETBALL

Overbearing parenting isn't really the worst thing

All this hoopla about the world's most obnoxious basketball dad needs insight.



L.A. Parker
Columnist

Critics ridicule proud father, Lavar Ball, for being overbearing regarding his three sons James, Liibelo II, and LiAngelo, Jr., but fathers who care, even many who push the envelope toward a cliff, matter.

The Ball's have extraordinary talent and the eldest son, Lonzo, Jr., a UCLA freshman, will be a top-five selection in the NBA draft, in spite of the incredible overbearing, outrageous behavior of Father Ball.

Anyone who believes that Lavar Ball's antics will derail Lonzo's future, know nothing about NBA owners' desire to fill seats and compete for championship.

Lavar Ball may speak harshly with windy comparisons between Lonzo and NBA superstar Stephen Curry but another famous black father, Richard Williams, boldly propped open stardom on tennis courts for his black beauty daughters and decades later Venus and Serena Williams represent.

And another father, Earl Woods, knew proper instruction and excessive parental oppression could turn his son Eldrick into an amazing Tiger.

And, another famous father named Archie Manning, and basically that "He'll do Eli Manning, will sit out a year before ever playing one first down for San Diego Chargers"

Archie Manning called the shots and, except for late conference volume, not much difference exists between Archie and Lavar regarding power plays.

Conversely, not many people acknowledge the wind and fury of the current greatest athlete on Mother Earth.



Ball's father - THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
UCLA guard Lonzo Ball (2) leaves the court after UCLA lost to Kentucky in an NCAA college basketball tournament South Regional semifinal game Friday, March 24, 2017, in Memphis, Tenn.

James has won three NBA championships (2012, 2013, 2016), four NBA Most Valuable Player Awards (2009, 2010, 2012, 2013), three NBA Finals MVP Awards (2012, 2013, 2016), two Olympic gold medals (2008, 2012), an NBA scoring title (2006) and the NBA Rookie of the Year Award (2003).

King James moves toward one-half billion dollar status with a wife, solid marriage and three children, basketball, business ventures and family fill his life.

And, a friend. No father involved in James' life left a void that looks like the size of a pin point but feels larger than the Grand Canyon.

Like us James possessed this Instagram message about his estranged father, Anthony McClendon.

"Like, 'Wow, Dad, you know what, I don't know you, I have no idea who you are, but because of you is part of the reason why I am today.' The fact that I use you not being there—it's part of the reason I grew up to become who I am." James told TMZ magazine.

The February 2016 article exposed James' betrayed heart that tricked him into manhood, an aching feeling that seeps into bone marrow, an emotional suffering that pains a thousand

times worse than arthritis.

Nothing cripples young people more than abandonment, a feeling that someone who played a role in their creation, prefers distant detachment.

Almost 50 years ago the death of Ella Melba Parker delivered such a trifling blow for this then 11-year-old. With no counseling nor understanding of death, young minds can create their own scenarios.

Months later, our father packed up and abandoned ten children, which delivered another whammy of uncertainty before an amazing (not-graduated from college, sister) fire-baked mom of her young freedom to raise nine sisters and brothers.

James remembered that his life may not have been as successful had his dad stuck around to help his mother, Gloria.

We share a similar uncertainty as my inner small, boy and current successful status wonder what might have been.

So, seeing and hearing Lavar Ball presents myriad thoughts about fathers. Daydreams would offer winks if Mr. Ball had stepped out of his soccer lives, had he been a clown instead of significant figure.

Declarations and histrionics aside, Lavar Ball stands proudly as a father.

The boy persona lurking inside wishes that a "wing dad" had been around to offer inspiration about being the best columnist, reporter, man, husband, father, and how to turn the double play from second base to my brother, Willie, at first.

At day's end, dreams powered by love and significance different than those manipulated by hurt, shame and discord.

L.A. Parker is a Trentonian columnist. Reach him at laparker@trentonian.com. Follow on Twitter @laparker99.

Sports Column

Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Tom McGurk

The Daily Journal

Pacheco strong even in unthinkable times; Lenape leaves Vineland in cold; Football fever runs rampant in Vineland

Pacheco strong even in unthinkable times



TOM MCGURK
COMMENTARY

EGG HARBOR TWP - Isaih Pacheco shows his toughness on a weekly basis.

When he can't beat a defender with his elusive moves and speed, Vineland High School's

senior star quarterback isn't afraid to take them straight on.

He's absorbed plenty of hits, popping

right back up, ready for the next play.

It's become a regular routine for the man they call "Pop." The 5-foot-11, 195-pound powerhouse has shown he's tougher than the average teenager.

That's because Pacheco's life away from the football field has been anything but average over the past year.

It's been filled with unthinkable tragedy and loss.

Two days before Vineland's 42-6 victory at Egg Harbor Township, Pacheco learned that his sister, Celeste Cannon, was found shot to death in Millville. The

23-year-old was a mother of three children.

Last year, Pacheco lost his brother Tavaris Cannon, who was stabbed to death in Bridgeton. He was 26.

Shortly after Tavaris' death, Pacheco's grandmother passed away.

Two siblings dying violently and another death of a beloved family member has left Pacheco torn, but that's when he turns to his remaining family (including his three other siblings), his football

See MCGURK, Page 3A



Isaih Pacheco takes a breather after scoring a touchdown. (EITH OGDON/STAFF PHOTO)



Sports Column

Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Andrew Tredinnick

New Jersey Herald

A good time for Hampton to take a bow; Newton continues to carry banner; The time has come to embrace innovations

Andrew
Tredinnick

atredinn@njherald.com



A good time for Hampton to take a bow

HAMPTON — Ken Slack's eyes glistened in the light as he sat on the top row of bleachers during the opening night of the Joe Grandano Little League State Tournament on Thursday night.

The moment rendered the game action inconsequential.

For the Hampton native, perhaps more than any other person at "The Pit" little league complex in Hampton that night, the sight of four of New Jersey's best little league teams taking the field was unforgettable.

"I think this is amazing for the county and for the kids," Slack said. "It's all for the kids. I wouldn't have gotten involved in it otherwise. It wasn't about me. It was about the kids."

The event was a product of a trio of Sussex County residents' dedication to the community's youth many years ago.

Thirty-four years ago, Slack and his two friends, Bill Graham and Mick Horn, used a massive bulldozer to level a cow pasture, pushing away 6- and 7-foot mounds of topsoil over a nine-day period until the flattened field spanned more than 600 feet across.

Members of the community came together with pails in one hand and lunch in the other to scoop rocks off the leveled land, which was then seeded and fertilized.

With an inch of snow on the ground the following March,

Sports Column

Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE

Bob Klapisch

The Record (Bergen County)

Portfolio



COMMENTARY
NO HOUSE

LOW-KEY THE 74-year-old baseball's leading pitching guru has had some fierce Mets fans vilify Noah Syndergaard's flexibility to be ignored beyond current. So says Tom House, who was once the Rangers' pitching coach and was credited by Nolan Ryan for convincing his coach House is a young prospect of overhauled talent. He believes Syndergaard's risk by having added 7 pounds of muscle without continuing to risk injury.

"Unfortunately, this is an injury waiting to happen by the second week of June," House said by telephone. "Unless you're picking up a ball while you're getting stronger, you're just adding muscle that doesn't know how to throw. It's upcoiled muscle."

House added to quantify the chances of Syndergaard getting injured. House said "There's a 65-68 percent likelihood" it's sure to hurt given today. The sure he's throwing well. But

what's done is the worst-case scenario?"

I made Syndergaard aware of House's comments on Friday morning, asking if he'd throw all between November and the start of camp "to big right hand for real?"

"I pitched (about) 200 innings (in each of the last two years, that's why I go what House) is saying He might be right if I was hunched up and tight. But my arm is loose, my flexibility is good. I'm not worried."

Syndergaard's comfort level is bolstered by the flexibility of his throwing arm, not more, it's his big right hand for real. You'd think the pitcher has already undergone Bannister's surgery, so to preserve their pitcher's health - Syndergaard is participating - a maximum three workouts every Wednesday to camp (Monday every week) to see actually how his arm will hold.

The 28-year-old House, who runs the National Pitching Academy in southern California (nearby Anaheim), his credentials do call the way back to the 1970s when he was a modestly successful pitcher for the Braves. Now he

Sports Column

Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Tara Sullivan

The Record (Bergen County)

Portfolio

Wyckoff's Hogan has game for the ages to lift Patriots



COMMENTARY
TARA SULLIVAN

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — About halfway up the stands behind Gillette Stadium's north end zone — Section 201, Row 15 to be exact — the family and friends of Chris Hogan danced and hollered and clapped and hugged, delirious in their joy, lost in their amusement. Just below them on the bright green turf in Fox-

borough, the all-world quarterback with the game's best résumé was making his way to his seventh Super Bowl on the back of their son, their best friend, their fiancé, turning to their favorite football player to help win the AFC Championship game.

"Just so proud," the father, Joe Hogan, was saying through glassy eyes.

"Just so surreal," the best friend, Mike Esposito was saying through a permanent smile.

"So many good things happening," the fiancée, Ashley Boccio was saying, her hands rubbing the round bump of her

See SULLIVAN, Page 45

Environmental, Health & Science Writing

Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE

John Cohen
The SandPaper

In 'Dr. G' will See You Now --
Online

22
The SandPaper/Asheboro, January 11, 2017

Longtime Pediatrician Offering Video Visits

'Dr. G' Will See You Now ... Online

For 36 years, area families depended on Dr. Richard Goldstein for his diligence, medical teaching and commitment to pediatrics. He had a caring style with children and a rapport that endeared parents. Last year, at age 77 after having a knee replacement followed by a further, several cervical vertebra and surgery, he felt it was time to step away from office practice.

"Those, as few years I knew that I needed to leave as a full time pediatrician. But I wanted to keep practicing," he shared. "I wanted to be able to stay in touch with the local families I had seen for the last 35 to 45 years."

The timing, it turns out, couldn't have been better as technology was ripe for "telemedicine."

Instead, leaving his white lab coat by a roaring fire in his living room, he can see kids, or even adults, via video on a smartphone, computer or tablet.

Goldstein is able to practice remotely because he simply has so much experience. Late in his college years at the University of Connecticut, he decided medicine was his calling. It was at the University of Miami medical school that he discovered his love for pediatrics. It's also where he started developing a social awareness that would become a recurring theme in his career.

"My roommate from UConn was in Vietnam with the Special Forces. He wrote me and asked how we could practice in different areas while many people were dying of diphtheria and pneumonia."

Goldstein did his internship at Philadelphia General Hospital before two years in the Air Force, where he was stationed in the Dominican Republic for three months. He took residency at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, becoming a member of the faculty, teaching students and staff for several years. His career then



Jack Reynolds

TELEMEDICINE: Dr. Richard Goldstein is credited as a pioneer on Asheville. Providers can conduct and manage most common conditions.

"She was not only my nurse, but my office manager," he recalls. "She did the scheduling, the billing, she even cleaned the office. We would bring all three of our kids to work on the weekends. It was a true men and pop residency practice," he recalled.

Goldstein continued working in both Mount Holly and Maahwahlin, finding the work very rewarding.

"I felt like I had left pediatric in-

cluding my next move, Goldstein, from an article about the growing field of "telemedicine."

"I said 'This is exactly what I've been thinking about! It's so flexible and allows me to continue practicing,'" he said.

Goldstein got credited as a provider on Veeva. A patient uses the Anwell App, creates an account, logs on, and can get care

Environmental, Health & Science Writing

Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Kristen Kelleher
Ocean City Sentinel

Pinelands Commissioners approve gas pipeline: O.C.'s Bob Barr among yes votes and Protesters blast commission after vote

Pinelands Commissioners approve gas pipeline

O.C.'s Bob Barr among yes votes

By KRISTEN KELLEHER
Sentinel staff

CHERRY HILL - Five years after an application for a proposed South Jersey Gas natural gas pipeline first came before the New Jersey Pinelands Commission, the commission cast its final votes on the project, which passed with nine votes in favor, including Ocean City's Bob Barr.

One commissioner, Frank Hays, abstained. The commission has 15 members.

The vote during Friday, Feb. 24, commission meeting came after years of protests from environmental activists, two lawsuits attempting to prevent the project, support for the project from some politicians, and the disapproval of four former New Jersey governors.

The project came before the commission again after litigation filed by the environmental groups the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club and Environment New Jersey.

Their suit alleged a Pinelands Commission letter which stated the pipeline was consistent with the Comprehensive Management Plan violated the

Pinelands Protection Act. The Comprehensive Management Plan con-

See Vote, page A10

Protesters blast commission after vote

By KRISTEN KELLEHER
Sentinel staff

CHERRY HILL - Environmentalists and members of the pub-

lic threatened litigation, hurled insults at commission members and staff, and spoke about climate change and pipeline safety immediately after the New

Jersey Pinelands Commission voted to approve a controversial South Jersey Gas natural gas pipeline project.

A public hearing on the project was held on Jan. 24 and written comments were accepted through Feb. 8.

During the Friday, Feb. 24, meeting where the contentious project was approved, however, the meeting's public comment portion was held after the vote in the grand ballroom in the Crowne Plaza Philadelphia-Cherry Hill hotel. The public, which included supporters and protesters, filled the majority of the ballroom.

Those against the project seemed to be in the majority.

Though public comment was not taken until after the roll call vote on the project, some made their opinions known throughout the meeting.

One group carried signs with the number of major gas pipelines explosions on

See Jeer, page A10



Kristen Kelleher/SENTINEL

Protesters jeer the Pinelands Commission Friday morning in Cherry Hill after it approved the gas pipeline to B.L. England.

Environmental, Health & Science Writing

Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE

Pat Johnson
The SandPaper

Students, Crabbers Find and Recycle Ghost Crab Pots

Marine Debris 'Haunts' Bays
Students, Crabbers Find and Recycle Ghost Crab Pots

By PAT JOHNSON

Steve Rivers, director of the Stockton Marine Fisheries Field Station in Fort Lee, public, was grilling hamburgers and smoking steaks in their stalls in a semitrailer, people were full on the grounds of the station on Saturday, April 22. Students from Stockton's Fisheries Science class were eating lunch and doing out in the open about waiting for the sun to lift before continuing their work through the afternoon.

They were participating in the first year of a two-year National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration grant to remove marine debris in the form of "ghost" crab pots that litter the bottom of most coastal bays in New Jersey. The \$241,591 grant that began in April 2015 was mostly funded by NOAA and with in-kind services from Stockton University. It had open an earlier two-year grant from NOAA that started the project.

The marine recycling station, "Fishing with traps" recovered from their busy lifelines, often called ghost pots, slowly accumulate in the saline water and haunt the muddy floors of Atlantic coastal bays as they continue to trap sea life and pose threats to humans.

From 2012 to 2013, Stockton's Marine Science Field Station and students from the community recovered 1,166 ghost pots, weighing 7.69 metric tons, from the Mullett River, near Bay View.

The second round of funding also provided some training to local crabbers to help them remove their own lost crab traps.

Warren and Karen Luskoff from Hammonton have been consistently catching the Atlantic Ocean crab traps, which include Lost On the Bay of about 40 national years. Already in April, this has become of their better years, said Warren.

"It's been the best since '05," he said. "I believe it's the coldest yet, but maybe it's because we've been cleaning up the bays."

The Luskoffs put 200 crab pots in the water every day and have been catching 15 to 20 baskets of traps a day. "The average is 6 to 10," said Warren. They were very happy to participate in the ghost crab trap removal project - work one of their important jobs to build and they lose between 10 and 15 pots a season.

"We build our own traps," said Karen. "It's a lot of work and it's not good to lose them."

"Clean up the lines" said Warren. "Someone will be doing fishing and they catch the line and drag it. And then they start the motor and snap the line."

"Or some recreational boaters won't know what the lines are and will just run right over them," said Karen. "They are pretty oblivious out there. We've seen boaters drive right on the line and not looking.

With the side some technology they come from as part of the federal grant project, they sometimes find the way the line lay.

"We know our own traps. We know them inside and out," said Warren.

Peter Kramik, dean of the Stockton School of Natural Sciences, said he and Rivers first conceived of the project to remove the ghost pots because they were seeing them all over the bottom of the muddy bays - "It was during our scientific diving and Underwater Survey by the contractors - we were looking at the bottom and they were all these plastic things - 'What the heck are they doing?' They were crab pots, four of them. They had no buoy attached to them.

"We first tried to pull them up while diving, but they were, sink into the mud. We had to hook them and try and pull them out. When we surfaced the whole sea, we saw there were hundreds of them.

"NOAA has a marine debris program to remove debris pots in Maine and state traps in the Chesapeake. So we decided to make a project in our own area," said Rivers.

The best way to approach the problem was to ask for the help of the commercial crabbers. "They have the boats and the crews. They know how to hook the traps and using the boat would retrieve them from the mud. Taping our crabbers during the off-season also helps the community of commercial crabbers."

Under the contract, there are only about four other commercial crabbers plying the local waters from Thursday to the Saturdays. Warren said he and Karen have their boats at Hammonton around 3:30 in the morning to get to the Phillips Dock on Upper Creek, Fort Republic around 5 a.m. and are out on the bay at 6. They crab for six to seven hours, weather permitting.

"It's very hard work," said Karen. "Anytime you're out there in three 50s might think again. I grew up in Maine, so I know."

The Luskoffs also are one of the few fishers still doing their own dual trap operation. "We give our shells off to the water in our shucking barn in Hammonton," said Warren. "We make our own sausage - it's wild and nature - it's not rocket science," he added.

Karen showed how a workman can tell when a crab is about to shed or molt. "You look how on the dip, per, and if it's white or bright red, it's ready to molt."

Mark Callahan, professor of marine science, said his students were taking data from the traps to help educate the recreational fishermen and boaters about the debris problem. They create when they ignore the crabbers and trap the "ghost" traps. They can tell how long they've been recovered by a propeller or if the boat was abandoned.

"We're also working with the

Continued on Page 46





Photographs by Pat Johnson

BOAT CATCH (Top, from left) Steve Rivers, Peter Kramik and Mark Kallison of Stockton University and commercial crabbers Warren and Karen Luskoff stand in front of a pile of retrieved 'ghost' crab traps. Stockton students used data from the pots. Even more the behavior for students in the Stockton Marine Fisheries class.

Environmental, Health & Science Writing

Weekly, under 6,500

THIRD PLACE

Bethany Mitros

The Retrospect

Paddlers Explore Revived Delaware and Watershed

The Retrospect, Friday, May 5, 2017, Page 3

Paddlers Explore Revived Delaware and Watershed

By Bethany Mitros

Two decades ago, the idea of a three-day kayaking adventure through the Delaware River's polluted waterways into Camden County would have been erings-worthy at best. As the Paddle for Science three-day Tolson River Expedition, convened by Upstream Alliance, kicked off last month, though, nearly everyone who heard about the adventure was envious of the opportunity to explore Camden County from the perspective of the water.

"Twenty years ago, no one would have wanted to do this because the water was not clean. Now, we've brought it back to the point where we can," said Camden County Executive Maggie McCann Johns of Haddon Heights. She said she grew up basically on the banks of the Big Timber Creek, where the three-day trip began, but seeing everything from the water was a completely new experience. "It's like visiting your home," she explained. As they traveled under Route 42, McCann Johns said she saw beaver dams and bald cove necks

we've been using is that we can have more people have this experience so it is not uncommon," McCann Johns explained. "People want to get out there and we want to provide more opportunities." They hope to offer similar trips on river tributaries to the public in the future. "We're hoping that the more people experience the river, the more they will grow to love it and understand their role in keeping it clean," explained McCann Johns.



WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE: Last month, Upstream Alliance organized a three-day kayaking adventure through the waterways of Camden County for Delaware River stakeholders. Above, kayakers held up letters to form signs that said "Paddle for Science" in solidarity with the nationwide March for Science. At left, Haddon Heights resident and Camden County Parks Executive Director Maggie McCann Johns in front kayaks down the Delaware River.

Environmental, Health & Science Writing

Weekly, under 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Yael Katzwer

News-Record of Maplewood & South Orange

District explores new step in lead dilemma

NEWS-RECORD

of Maplewood and South Orange

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2017

WWW.NRNEWS-RECORD.COM

VOL. 148 NO. 18 / 18 PAGES

District explores next step in lead dilemma

District officials, experts discuss risks of lead ingestion, plans to remediate issue, communication

**By Yael Katzwer
Managing Editor**
The South Orange-Maplewood School District convened Tuesday to discuss the results of testing for lead in school buildings' water, which showed that nine percent of sites had a higher lead content level than the standard set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water, even though most were in unoccupied classrooms.

The lead action level is 15 parts per billion, a 15-year-old standard that is a guideline, not enforceable by the state, but the standard is higher than 10 ppb, the ruling by the state. In the 2016 test, the highest lead content was 441 parts per billion. The other eight locations were at levels significantly lower. At South Mountain School, 20-21 g tested at 17.9 ppb; at South Orange Middle School, 20-21 g tested at 10.9 ppb; and the highest result, the room tested at 10-11 g of 10.9 ppb. The district is at risk for the water from the SMPB system, as it is not to be used for drinking.

Following this discovery, the district



Staff at the meeting of South Orange-Maplewood School District on June 22 are (from left) Superintendent Janet Ruppel, Dr. ROBERT PUGH, Board of Education President E. Elizabeth Salas, school board Vice President, Maplewood, Dr. JAMES J. JAMES, administrator Paul Romo, Law Corporation Senior Vice President of Operations Greg H. Hager, South Orange health officer John Fazio, public health expert Melissa Molloy, Maplewood health officer Robert Ruppel and public health expert Massimo Lorenz.

assessed that all affected water systems were turned off and replaced, and all the required water equipment at all affected schools, and all affected schools would have tested water available free of charge to students and staff, and that all affected systems are being replaced.

Critical Writing

Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE

Bill Wine

Burlington County Times

Epic a test of faith; Intense docudrama is tribute to Boston Strong; Biographical drama serves up story behind McDonald's

MOVIE REVIEW: 'SILENCE'

Epic a test of faith — and viewers' endurance

Grade: B

Starring: Andrew Garfield, Adam Driver, Liam Neeson, Claran Hinds, Tadanobu Asano, Shin'ya Tsukamoto, Yosaku Kubozuka and Diego Caldeira
Written by: Shusaku Endo and Juy Coska; **directed by:** Endo

Running time: 101 minutes
Parental guide: R (for some disturbing violent content)

By **HILL WINE**
CONTRIBUTOR

It's about religion, but "Silence" pulsates with violence. Which should be no surprise, given that it's the latest film from world-class director Martin Scorsese, among whose abiding themes and artistic preoccupations down through the years have been spirituality ("Kundun," "The Last Temptation of Christ") and violence ("Mean Streets," "Taxi Driver," "Raging Bull," "Goodfellas," "Gangs of New York").

That is, more often than not, he trains his cameras on the profane. But sometimes — and this is one of those times — he addresses the sacred.

This is personal filmmaking, but on a very large scale.

A dramatized historical drama about martyrdom and redemption, and a pet project that was years in the making, "Silence" is based on a Japanese novel about faith and religion that provided the basis for a Japanese film in 1971.

It's set in the 17th century, when two Jesuit priests (Sebastiao Rodrigues and Francisco Gouvea, missionaries played respectively by Andrew Garfield and Adam Driver) travel from Portugal and

struggle themselves into Japan to spread the gospel of Christianity and locate their mentor, Father Ferreira, a Portuguese Jesuit priest played by Liam Neeson, who is rumored to have "apostatized"

— renounced his Christian beliefs.

On their secret mission to support Japanese Christians hiding from government persecution during this clash between cultures, they encounter severe persecution themselves because of their beliefs. This from the government authorities in newly unified Japan who want to do nothing less than purge the nation of Christianity entirely.

And if that means tormenting or torturing Christian believers, so be it.

Scorsese, who won the Academy Award for best director for "The Departed" and was nominated for the same award eight other times, is interested in using the source material, a 1966 novel of historical fiction



Liam Neeson portrays a priest who has renounced his Christian beliefs in Martin Scorsese's "Silence." PARAMOUNT PICTURES VIA EPLIV

by Shusaku Endo, and the screenplay that he co-adapted with Jay Cocks (who also co-wrote "Kundun" and "The Last Temptation of Christ") to explore such weighty themes as sacrifice, God's deafening silence in the face of extensive human suffering, and the tireless search for divine guidance among the devout.

Scorsese, who has described himself as a "believer with some doubts," presents this as yet another struggle with faith, a theme he has visited in many of his films.

This time out, he offers us an austere, lengthy (over 2½ hours) meditation as a gambler on the faith and patience of his audience, and he does little in the way of streamlining

his narrative or avoiding repetitiveness or hurrying things along or essentially increasing the urgency.

Consequently, the level of pure emotional engagement we seek — and, undoubtedly, Scorsese seeks for us — is wanting.

Oh, there's a spot of comic relief here and there. But not enough to lighten the material.

Scorsese's mastery of the technical elements prevents any movie he makes from becoming a slog, and this one is well-acted and never less than visually striking.

But it comes dangerously close to overstaying its welcome and taking on the form of an endurance test.

Maybe that's the idea. Which is fine, except that

on a certain level, it seems that Scorsese has left his audience out of the formula this time, and his film, however impressive it might be, is just too one-dimensional to hold up over its excessive running time.

Far too often, we find ourselves observing and, yes, appreciating, but not necessarily feeling or caring.

This "Silence" may not quite be golden, but at times it's close. And yet, while admiring almost everything about it, we still find ourselves, more than once and uncharacteristically for a Scorsese film, wishing it would be over, and falling downright guilty about that.

Bill Wine is a film critic for KYW Newsradio. His reviews can be read at slightlypastmidnight.com or found on his blog and four times a day on 1050AM.

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Which is fine, except that

Critical Writing

Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Robert Price

New Jersey Herald

Guy Davis pays tribute; Chicago feeling 50 years; One last trip around Musikfest

Guy Davis pays tribute to Sonny and Brownie

By ROBERT PRICE
herald@njs.com

BETHLEHEM, Pa. — Guy Davis says we're all Italian on a train ... traveling through life ... working hard, but not always meeting expectations.

As an ambassador of the blues, Davis carries on the legacies of everyone from Big Bill Broonzy, Leadbelly and Lightnin' Hopkins to Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie. He's learned from them not just about the music, but also about the treks of the road.

And with that, he sings a folk song he wrote in 2014 — the year his mother died while he was on tour — that carries a universal message for all of us Italian. The title: "With I Han't Stayed Away So Long."

It was a poignant end to a show that paid tribute to two of Davis' heroes of the blues road — Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee — during the 56th annual Blast Furnace Blues Festival last weekend at SkyStadia in Bethlehem.

"I met Sonny twice, he actually gave me play notes. It took me 20 years to steal everything I could from him," Davis, 64, joked, after the show, about Terry, the master Piedmont blues and folk harmonica player, who died in 1988.

Together, Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee were known for a "jump" blues sound of guitar, harmonica and vocals, with Terry often whooping and hollering while McGhee's alternating bass lines on the guitar kept the beat in a folk style. They recorded and toured together for 30 years, from the 1940s through the 1970s. McGhee died in 1996.

Davis' latest album, recorded with and produced by Italian harmonica ace and fellow Sonny and Brownie fan, Fabrizio Poggi, is called "Sonny & Brownie's Last Train," and Davis, joined on stage by Poggi, played "Freight Train," "Hooray, Hooray, These Women Are Killing Me," "Step It Up and Go," "Midnight Special," "Walk On," "Come Get Me Some (The Moonshine Song)," "Little Red Rooster"

and "The Ballad of John Henry" — all songs Sonny and Brownie were known for. They also throw in "Pick a Bale of Cotton," which Sonny and Brownie performed in the 1976 movie "The Jerk," along with "That's No Way to Get Alone," better known by 1967 Rolling Stones fans as "Protest Song."

"Look what history tells us: Sonny that time nobody's ever heard of The Rolling Stones," Davis quipped.

Davis also paid homage to Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee with a couple of his own songs — "Like Sonny Did" and "Kolossal Kid," the story of a delirious of coal and construction in the White House.

Davis' work as an actor, author and music teacher mark him as a Renaissance man of the blues. The son of actors Ruby Dee and Ozark Davis, he's been around the entertainment world for his whole life. But it's performing his signature folk blues, inspired over the years with so many influences on from both worlds, that got to the core of his being.

"The blues is a precious commodity. You got to take it while you can," Davis said. "We gotta go where the work is. We're like hobos on a mid-night train. And by extension, it's all of us. Renaissance Dave's message you need to be, but you cannot get there in time."

This year's Blast Furnace Blues Festival wrapped up with Serbian electric blues guitarist Ana Popovic. Other headliners were Nighthawk Resonance Jimmy Thackery and Victor Wainwright, the Blues Music Awards' R.K. King Entertainer of the Year. Thackery filled the slot originally booked for Dutch Trucks and the Freight Train Band, then Curtis Salgado. Trucks committed suicide in January and Salgado had a heart attack three weeks ago.

Among the other acts were eight-time Grammy nominee guitarist Kenny Neal, up and coming for more gospel singer-guitarist Mc Supp, 30-year-old boogie piano player Leon Blue and Texas blues vocalist Dinna Greenleaf.

Regional favorites were James Kapro, Sarah Ayers and Craig Thacker Band.



FABRIZIO POGGI, left, and GUY DAVIS



KENNY NEAL



DINNA GREENLEAF BAND



MR. RIPP



LEON BLUE

ROY'S HALL
LIVE ARTS EMPORIUM ESTABLISHED IN 1913

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Photos by Robert Price
New Jersey Herald

Critical Writing

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FIRST PLACE
Katie Moen
 New Jersey Herald

Chicken eatery; Hackettstown eatery; Plan B Pub

Chicken eatery at home in Blairstown

Celebrates year at permanent location still travels to warm weather farm markets

By GENE MOEN
Gene Moen is a freelance writer in Blairstown.

BLAIRSTOWN — The year after the chicken eatery celebrated its first anniversary in Blairstown with a special menu, there is no sign of a lull in the popularity of the eatery. In fact, the eatery is still a popular spot for a quick meal, and the popularity is still growing. The eatery is still a popular spot for a quick meal, and the popularity is still growing. The eatery is still a popular spot for a quick meal, and the popularity is still growing.



ADAM WOOD, OWNER OF CHICKEN WOOD, PREPARES IN HIS NEWLY RENOVATED, 6,000-SQ-FOOT CHICKEN EATERY IN BLAIRSTOWN. (PHOTO BY GENE MOEN FOR THE NEW JERSEY HERALD)

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Critical Writing
Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Stephen Whitty
The Star-Ledger

Portfolio



Jason Mitchell, left, plays the disillusioned son of black tenant farmer and Garrett Hedlund is a man whose life falls apart after he joins the Air Force in "Mudbound." *NJ.com*

MOVIE REVIEW

'Mudbound' gives strong voice to the powerless

Mudbound

(R) Netflix (134 min.)

Directed by Dee Rees. With Carey Mulligan, Garrett Hedlund, Jason Mitchell. Now playing in New York.

★★★★

Stephen Whitty *Arts@starledger.com*

Listen to "Mudbound" and you will hear the people who often went unheard.

There is the woman who married to escape spinsterhood and only found herself in a different trap. There is the brother-in-law who left to find glory in World War II and came back a broken alcoholic. There is the young black man who did find meaning in the war — but returned to find no peace at home.

They were not heard in 1940s Mississippi. But "Mudbound" melds their voices into a symphony.

The film is directed by Dee Rees, who first grabbed critics' attention in 2011 with "Pariah," a small, deeply felt film about what it can mean to be young, gay and black. It

told its story beautifully and directly, and whatever flaws it had — some cramped staging and underexposed photography — showed only a lack of funds.

Rees came back stronger, with the more expansive "Bessie" for HBO, a blues-legend bio starring Queen Latifah. And "Mudbound" is an even bigger directorial accomplishment, with acting ranging from ball game scenes to intimate family moments.

All of it beautifully captured by cinematographer Rachel Morrison ("Mudbound" was made by and for Netflix, but unless your TV is the size of your wall, do try to see it in a theater, where its wily, reent composers have room to breathe.) Even working with a limited palette — brown mud, weathered wood, gray skies — Morrison paints a landscape full of colors and details.

But despite its visuals, "Mudbound" — which features several, separate narrations — is mostly a film of voices, characters who find themselves linked together in an unexpected and dangerous ways.

There is Carey Mulligan's Laura, who marries in haste and repents in rural solitude when her engineer husband suddenly decides to move the family to a Mississippi farm whose only constant crop, Laura be-

terly notes, seems to be rain-soaked earth.

There is her new brother-in-law, Jamie (Garrett Hedlund) — a bit of a low slouch and daring, perhaps, to be safely around a bored newlywed — who joins the Air Force and comes apart. He will return home (scarred, but also newly unable to bear his brother's and father's bigotry).

And then there is Jason Mitchell's Royal, the son of a black tenant farmer, slyly bristling at the limits the white world has put on him — even more so when he goes to Germany and discovers there are white men he can safely kill and white women who will love him.

They are different people and they face different challenges, despite his addiction, Jamie still has more freedom than Laura and, despite the culture's sexism, she still has more rights than Royal (who has the most to lose of all three of them).

Yet despite its sensitivity to all forms of discrimination, Rees' film still makes its broadest and most pertinent points about racial prejudice and privilege, and the awful ways it limits lives.

Limits lives, but maybe not dreams. Royal's father goes every Sunday to a still unfinished black church and preaches the bus-

inel under an open roof. Royal's mother is strong, surprising appearance by Mary J. Blige takes on extra work as a domestic, in hopes of earning the extra money the family needs to buy their own land.

And although Laura will put up with much — the proud graduate of a small college, she now bathes in her front yard, in a tin washbasin — she will not give up her piano. It is the one symbol of grace and beauty in this house, she tells her husband, and she will not stay without it. (Jane Campion and Jilly Hunter would be proud.)

But if "Mudbound" may very briefly recall "The Piano," no one should confuse it with farm dramas like "Pieces of the Heart." This is not a movie about people coming together; this is a movie about people moving on to save their lives. It's a film about being brutalized, about being diminished, about small souls in the night.

But also, the small, desperate hope that somewhere, someone will hear.

Rating: none. The film contains graphic violence, nudity, strong language and alcohol abuse.

Stephen Whitty@stephenwhitty@gmail.com

Critical Writing

Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Jim Beckerman

The Record (Bergen County)

Portfolio

Living to age 90 was among rocker Chuck Berry's feats



VIEWPOINT
JIM BECKERMAN

Is Chuck Berry the first rock star to die of old age?

For heartbroken fans, that will be a distinction without a difference. What's important to them is that Berry, the creator of "Johnny B. Goode," "Little Queenie," "School Days," "Maybellene," "Roll Over, Beethoven," "Sweet Little Sixteen," the originator of the duck walk, the first bona-fide guitar hero of rock — many would say, the single most important person in the history of rock, not excepting Elvis — is gone.

But among other things, Berry's death is a kind of milestone. Because Berry, who died Saturday at his home in St. Charles County, Mo., near St. Louis, was 90. And that's significant.

Rock stars have died before. Death, if anything, is a key part of rock mythology. There was the famous 1959 plane crash that killed Buddy Holly, Richie Valens and The Big Bopper — "the day the music died," if you believe Don McLean. There were the deaths of Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Brian Jones, Jim Morrison, Elvis, John Lennon, George Harrison, Kurt Cobain and Michael Jackson, among many others. More recently, the deaths of Prince, George Michael and David Bowie contributed to making 2016 an especially grim year for pop culture.

But those stars died early. "Before their time," as the saying goes. Victims of drug overdose, accident, unlucky medical conditions, poor lifestyle choices or violence — self-inflicted or otherwise — they became rock-and-roll martyrs, with their early deaths in many cases adding to their mystique. "Better to burn out than to fade away."

Berry may be the first A-list rock star to fully live out a so-called "natural" lifespan.

That's a sobering thought. It means that rock-and-roll, once the music of teen-age rebellion, is now old enough to be burying its first generation.

It was Berry's explicit catering to the teen market, in the 1950s, that made him the first great rock-and-roller.

B.B. King, for instance, was also 90 when he died in 2015. But though King was loved by rockers, he couldn't really be called one himself. He was basically an old-school blues guitarist, whose songs were aimed at adults (no teen-ager ever said, "You done me wrong, baby").

Berry himself was heavily influenced by the blues: T-Bone Walker, Muddy Waters and jump-blues star Louis Jordan were his idols.

But early on, Berry made a key decision. His future lay not with the traditional African-American blues audience, he decided, but with a new generation of white teen-agers who were eager for a music of their own.

"Teen-agers" — as a social class — were a new thing then. The word itself had only been coined in 1941. But by the early 1950s, they were already flexing their consumer muscle, demonstrating gaudy new tastes in clothes, language and especially music. Rejecting the bland pop tunes their elders doted on, they sought out



Rock legend Chuck Berry died Saturday at his home in St. Charles County, Mo., near St. Louis.

R&B records and listened to "black" radio stations.

Berry took that sound, and — his particular brand of pop genius — crafted lyrics that spoke directly to kids. "Up in the morning and out to school." "Sweet Little Sixteen, she's just got to have, about half a million framed autographs." "It was a teen-age wedding and the old folks wished them well." "Don't bother me, leave me alone. Anyway I'm almost grown."

The fact that Berry himself had a troubled upbringing in St. Louis (he was arrested for armed robbery at one point and sent to reform school) may have helped him to connect emotionally with adolescents. In any case, the music he created, unlike the older blues it came out of, was exclusive teen property.

Add to that the distinctive Berry guitar sound — not imitated by Michael J. Fox, whatever "Back to the Future" might suggest — and a cock-of-the-walk persona that was, in its way, quite daring for the time. What other black star of the period would have sung, to an audience full of white teen-age girls, a song like "Brown Eyed Handsome Man"? A song — it was winkingly implied — about himself.

Musically speaking, Berry probably wrote only five or six songs. But they were five or six great songs. I once saw Berry at the Brendan Byrne Arena — as it was then called — on a bill with Jerry Lee Lewis, Duane Eddy and several other vintage stars. Berry, the headliner, began "Johnny B. Goode," took a solo, then came back singing "Little Queenie," then came back after another solo singing something else — it might have been "Roll Over, Beethoven." It clearly wasn't a medley. He'd simply forgotten which song he was playing.

No matter: There's a story Bruce Springsteen tells in a forward he wrote for Berry's autobiography. It goes something like this: Springsteen, early in his career, had gotten a job as a pickup musician in Berry's band (Berry, notoriously, didn't tour with his own combo, but instead found cheap local musicians in whatever cities he was playing). Timorously, Springsteen asked the Great Man what songs they would be playing.

"We're gonna play Chuck Berry songs," he growled.

"Hail! Hail! Rock 'n' roll. Deliver me from the days of old." So Berry sang in 1957 — back when rock-and-roll was, above all, new. Now, the 1950s are the days of old. Berry's death, sadly, makes that official.

Business & Economic Writing

Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE Suzanne Marino

The Current of Linwood,
Northfield & Somers Point

Somers Point Kmart customers keep coming back; Every pizza kneads creativity at Maggpie's; Somers Point Pet Pros store closing

Linwood, Northfield & Somers Point / Thursday, August 30, 2017

Somers Point Kmart customers keep coming back

BY SUZANNE MARINO
Staff Writer

SOMERS POINT — While big box stores and mortar stores are struggling to stay afloat, the Kmart in Somers Point is finding ways to keep the customers coming back for more. In March, the Kmart in Parsippanyville and Rio Grande closed, their doors for Somers Point are closed not only to remain open but to consistently keep finding ways to retain employees and keep customers happy by improvements in service, in retail according to management.

Store Manager Kevin Trione said the Somers Point Kmart is always at the top 100 producing stores in the chain. Currently, there are 624 Kmarts in 45 states, four in the Virgin Islands. While that number is down from a chain high in 2006 of 2,171 stores, it demonstrates the only store in Cape May or Atlantic counties is holding its own.

With the closure of the Pleasanton and Rio Grande, Kmart's closest remaining stores to the Somers Point location are in

Glassboro and Terra River. Te Campbell, a 14-year veteran working at the service desk did not hesitate to say that she knows why people come to the Kmart.

"The store serves the community. The elderly people without transportation and people who like to shop in their neighborhood consider us to have everything they need and that is what we do, we give people what they need. We are a one-stop shop for a lot of people," said Campbell.

Trione came to the Somers Point store from Long Island about 10 years ago. He said he began working in the store closest to his home as a part-timer when he was 16. It is 28 years later and he takes the challenge of retail and working with customers and employees. Trione said the reason the Somers Point store is a customer favorite is because of the merchandise, the customer rewards program, the employees and added, "you can't beat a dedicated 55 piece staff like Chasans. Right from next to the service desk, it takes being customer in the center," the manager said.

Trione added that the

Somers Point store location on New Road is ideal, close to Ocean City and other shore towns and customers know they can grab everything they need for the summer vacation in one spot and be back on the beach in a short time.

Assistant Manager Linda Rhinier credits good skills, a great location and a loyal staff of employees for making the Somers Point Kmart a big part of the community. With more than 88 full and part time employees in the store, many of them from Somers Point and the surrounding communities, it is a store where people turn to shop for everything from clothes, domestics, toys, hardware, electronics, food and a petbook.

Rhinier said they work with their staff and try to accommodate their schedules whether they are students, parents, retired or have other work. "We want all our employees to be happy and to feel like they are an important part of our success, because they are," said Rhinier after a week consisting of the new employees as well as ongoing training.



Somers Point Kmart front-end employees are from left, Te Campbell, Suzanne Marino, Kevin Trione, and Mary Hisey of Wildwood.

The store employees have successfully raised over \$12,000 for the March of Dimes and Rhinier said, "some front end employees who face the customer side, the pressure then and they try to use funds in education, assisting in the customer struggle."

Employees like Jim Logan of Somers Point are important to the store. A deta-

iled integrity specialist, Logan said he is an inventory clerk. Raised four years from the federal government, Logan decided being completely retired was not for him.

"I love my job. Every day is something new. I enjoy the interaction with the customers and I take it as a personal challenge every day to make sure the customers are

satisfied in our store," said Logan. "The retiree works about 20 hours a week. 'If we do not have what the customer wants I will suggest alternatives or we check online and have it delivered to the store from a distributor.'"

Sharon Warner of Egg Harbor Township has been with the Somers Point Kmart since 2003. She said

See KMART on Page 7

Business & Economic Writing

Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Maria Scandale The SandPaper

Business Success Stories Not Without Challenges



SMC Members Help Families are Small Parts of Greater Work Community. Courtesy: City of Ocean County. Photo: Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce.

Business Success Stories Not Without Challenges

Checks and Balances of Family Working Together

Good success stories, but challenges are not always met. The success of a business often depends on the challenges it faces.

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**Business &
Economic Writing**
Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Rory Pasquariello
Bayonne Community News

Bitcoin is here

Bitcoin is here

Currency, capital, or ransom?

By Rory Pasquariello
Reporter/staff writer

Bitcoin is catching on. Not only are some small businesses in Hudson County accepting the crypto currency, hackers are demanding ransom in it, and residents are investing in them like capital. Bitcoin is a digital currency that is exchanged electronically from one user (or peer) to another, anywhere in the world, instantaneously, without having to reveal an identity. It is based on potentially revolutionary technology called blockchain, a digital ledger that records transactions, shareable across a network of computers. No need for a central authority. It's a code that can do what the banker used to.

The new technology attracts a lot of users but also makes it an ideal ransom for hackers, giving Bitcoin a bit of a bad reputation.

Bitcoin was created in 2008 by a mysterious Japanese man known as Satoshi Nakamoto. He set the rules that restrict the total number of Bitcoins ever to be created to 21 million, giving the technology the

controlled scarcity required of a currency, but so far it has not been used as such.

City officials throughout Hudson County were contacted for this story. Most have been mum on the issue, as municipalities are wildly outpaced by new technology. They often struggle to capitalize on the opportunities new technology presents and to defend themselves from new threats. Bayonne officials, like most people, are largely unfamiliar with this technology.

Early adopters, meanwhile, feel Bitcoin will stabilize, as more people use it.

The coin collector

When Nick Kalkanites, manager at Helen's Pizza on Newark Avenue in Jersey City, first heard about Bitcoin in 2013 it was during the currency's first real boom. The Bank of Cyprus froze all its accounts during an unforeseen recapitalization, and Bitcoin simultaneously rose in value.

Whether Cyprus's financial crisis has causal links to the Bitcoin boom is up for

see **BITCOIN** page 12

NJ Fluke Fishing Industry in Flux

Story and photos by Jay Cook

Business & Economic Writing

Weekly, under 6,500

THIRD PLACE

Jay Cook

The Two River Times

NJ Fluke Fishing Industry in Flux

ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS - After a decision made last week aimed at protecting the Atlantic Ocean's primary cash fish, New Jersey anglers now believe their industry is in dire straits.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), a federally regulated authority that oversees fishing management for the 15 states along the Atlantic Coast, has decided to increase regulations on summer flounder for 2017.

"With what they're proposing, it's going to be the final nail in our coffin," said Ron Santil, a head boat captain based out of Atlantic Highlands.

On Feb. 3, the ASMFC passed Addendum XXVIII with a 7-3-2 vote, choosing Option 5, which calls for new recreational regulations on summer flounder, commonly known as fluke.

Those sanctions propose an increase in keeper length from 18" to 19", along with a reduction in bag limits from five fish to three. The season length will remain the same, though, open from May 23 through Sept. 25.

"When looking at recreational and commercial fish-



Frank McDermott, left, and John Armit, who both oversee operations at the Atlantic Highlands Harbor, believe that new fluke regulations will damage New Jersey's recreational fishing economy.

Between recreational and commercial fishing, fluke generates nearly \$2.5 billion for the state's economy, according to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection.

Santil, captain of the 75-foot head boat named Fishermen, believes these are draconian sanctions which could kill the recreational fishing industry. The new regulation could

Point Pleasant, the Atlantic Highlands Harbor is one of the more popular head (or party) boat fishing destinations in Monmouth County. Though what makes Atlantic Highlands unique is the harbor is run as a public utility, similar to water and sewer departments in other towns.

According to Adam Hubeny, the borough's administrator, the Atlantic

lease mooring and berthing space or have boaters who don't buy fuel, that will have an ill effect on the municipal taxes," Hubeny said.

The Atlantic Highlands Harbor, which was constructed between 1908 and 1940, oversees one primary launch ramp, eight head boat slips,

Continued on Page 2

Business & Economic Writing

Weekly, under 6,500

SECOND PLACE

David Gialanella

New Jersey Law Journal

Newspaper GC Continues
Bridgewater Work, Gets Back to
Private Practice

Newspaper GC Continues Bridgewater Work, Gets Back to Private Practice

By David Gialanella



Jennifer Borg recalls a 3 a.m. email exchange with a reporter from The Record years ago, when the reporter was up late parsing through a series of emails having to do with unexplained lane closures at the George Washington Bridge, and Borg was rising early to work on an unrelated brief.

The term "Bridgewater" was soon to become part of the lexicon in New Jersey and beyond. Borg, who at the time was general counsel and vice president of North Jersey Media Group Inc., said advising coverage of the scandal, and handling the public-records litigation that followed, amounted to the purest form of practice for any media lawyer.

"It was probably the highlight of my professional career," Borg said in an interview. "And it wasn't just the story; it was the work that went into it."

Continued on page 14

**Business &
Economic Writing**
Weekly, under 6,500

FIRST PLACE
**David Gialanella,
Zack Needles**
New Jersey Law Journal

**With Market and Rate Pressures,
Firm Spinoffs Are an Option**

**With Market and Rate Pressures,
Firm Spinoffs Are an Option**

By David Gialanella and
Zack Needles

The curious case of the law firm spinoff falls short of trend status, but examples are beginning to mount, in New Jersey and elsewhere.

Whether a chance at building a legacy outweighs the concerns inherent in abandoning a known brand is a calculus that varies by case, but it appears economic factors, including rate autonomy, invariably motivate those who go through with it.

The most recent example locally is Tanenbaum Keale, an 18-lawyer firm formed six weeks ago by a group splitting off from Sedgwick's Newark office.

Continued on page 10



PHOTO BY CAMERON NAYLOR

Robert P. Kelly
Award-New
Journalist
Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Katie Moen
New Jersey Herald

Ringling mansion stands as tribute to days gone by

By KATIE MOEN
kmoen@njherald.com

JEFFERSON — The roof over the old mansion sits low under the oak trees. Its center bowed from the weight of too many winters.

Motorists speed by without a thought to the looming, empty house on the hill. Were it not for the humble caretaker who lives alone within the thick walls, there would be no

life left to the property at all. It is a halting structure that seems to rise out of the landscape, an opulent tribute to wealth that hardly seems to fit in with the modest homes that surround it.

Now, 100 years after its construction, the quiet old manor is a curiosity and the subject of local legend. Only the plaques, half-hidden by an overgrown pine tree, give a clue as to its history on the

home of one of the founding members of The Greatest Show on Earth, the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

On Sunday, it was announced that the circus will be closing for good in May.

"There isn't any one thing," Kenneth Feld, chairman and CEO of Feld Entertainment, told the Associated Press. "This has been a very diffi-

cult decision for me and for the entire family."

Faced with accusations of animal cruelty by PETA and other activist groups, falling ticket sales, and the removal of its iconic elephants from the show last year, the circus decided it was just time to close up shop, Feld said.

In its heyday, with all of its excitement and energy, the American circus was the truest form of spectacle. Today,

with the advent of easy transportation, virtual entertainment, and pointed concerns over the exploitation of animals and performers, the golden age of the traveling circus is something of a distant memory.

In Jefferson, however, the history of the circus and its curious role in the development of the area is well worth keeping alive.

The manor, located just

off of Berkshire Valley Road in the Oak Ridge section of the township, was built by Alfred T. Ringling in 1914 as a winter headquarters.

Walking through the vast interior of the building, it is easy to imagine the lavish parties that must have taken place there. Today, the property serves as a menagerie for the St. Stanislaus Friary

See RINGLING, Page A2

Robert P. Kelly
Award-New
Journalist
Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Joe Brandt
South Jersey Times



THE BIRTH OF THE SOUTH JERSEY TIMES AND PURPOSE: SHOWING THE NEWSPAPER'S HISTORY AND PURPOSE

Actor's new role transforms church

Joe Brandt - The South Jersey Times

Will Brown, dressed as a convict, covered in mud, stands in front of the church. He is holding a sign that says "Tragedy" and "1899-1931" and "THUR-Sun 7".

"This is the best mud I've ever seen," Brown said as he walked to the front of the church, many of which date to the 1800s. "I don't know much about it."

Brown, an actor, musician and comedian, has lived next to the church since he bought the former Cape May United Methodist Church in Middle Township, Cape May County, and moved into it in January. He began a new series of church on the property — one named for his mother, Kathleen Brown, an OR-CVE registered nurse at Cooper for 20 years, the passed away in a car crash in July 2016.

To help, as he put it, "to be a church of all religions," he has installed a sign that says "Tragedy" and "1899-1931" and "THUR-Sun 7". It is an event space for art and music, a recovery and healing space, and a venue for "ghost walks" and unusual events.

Some church members will prefer "one and one" reading works from the unbroken pine table when the room is busy with "a muddy car" about the daughter of a prominent Cape May family.

And today, the church will begin having, with some members of the property, in which church members have been invited to help. Brown, the grandchild of his mother, Kathleen Brown, a nurse from the Cape May County, when she was the owner of the property.

Though Brown doesn't hear much from his neighbors, he said, the living in Cape May has been very busy.

In the end, Brown said, he has not thought new the next new congregation in a property that he visited since 2011. It's a property that he has not visited since 2011. It's a property that he has not visited since 2011.



THE ACTOR'S NEW ROLE TRANSFORMS THE CHURCH AND PURPOSE: SHOWING THE NEWSPAPER'S HISTORY AND PURPOSE

Robert P. Kelly
Award-New
Journalist
Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Abbey Finch

The Record (Bergen County)

#MeToo: Survivors share stories

Sexual violence
captures spotlight

ABBEY FINCH
STAFF WRITER, BERGEN COUNTY RECORD

Women across the country are participating in the social media campaign #MeToo to raise awareness about how often sexual harassment and assault happen.

Actress Alyssa Milano started the movement after encouraging women who have experienced sexual harassment or assault to respond to her tweet with the comment "me too." After 24 hours, more than 48,000 Twitter users had responded, and many more posted to their individual Twitter and Facebook accounts.

Men also have joined in the conversation.

See #METOO, Page 5A

"We've been dealing with this for decades. But the general population isn't usually aware of the scope."

PATRICIA TEFFENHART
NEW JERSEY COALITION AGAINST SOCIAL ABUSE

Robert P. Kelly
Award-New
Journalist
Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE
Michael Sol Warren
The Star-Ledger



SEA WARS

Fishermen and environmentalists do battle over a 'sanctuary' section of Atlantic Ocean

Michael Sol Warren, The Star-Ledger

It makes little sense that those two groups would be fighting at all. On one side are the environmentalists who wish to keep man's hands off the Atlantic Ocean's bounty of fish and oil drilling in the Atlantic Ocean. On the other side are the fishermen who want to be able to catch what they can, wherever they can find it. But the two groups have been locked in a bitter struggle over the Atlantic Ocean's bounty for years.

It's a battle that has become even more bitter, especially since President Trump's "zero net loss" policy on drilling back to the Atlantic Ocean.

So how do the two groups decide who wins and who loses?

In November 2016 the Wildlife Conservation Society petitioned the U.S. National Marine Sanctuaries to designate the Atlantic Ocean as a National Marine Sanctuary. The WCS wants the ocean to be the largest marine sanctuary in the world, one that would protect the Atlantic Ocean's fish and other marine life from the effects of climate change and other threats.

"It's a battle that has become even more bitter, especially since President Trump's 'zero net loss' policy on drilling back to the Atlantic Ocean."

REUTERS



The Hudson Canyon is a natural NOAA sanctuary area. That designation means commercial fishermen who fish in it could be in a protected fishing jurisdiction. The Canyon is home to the blue shark, tuna as well as more than 20 percent of all species. (Source: NOAA)

\$48M

Value of total catch in the Hudson Canyon in 2011

\$149.3M

Estimated value of New Jersey's share of the catch in 2011

Robert P. Kelly
Award-New
Journalist
Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Erin Serpico
The Press of Atlantic City

Laura Vadell shows strength as her husband heals

Travis really thought about myself. They're always first. I just want everybody else to be good, says Laura Vadell, shown with Lucy, left, 7 months; Vienna, 6; Joshlee, 20, and Adriana, 7, in their Egg Harbor Township home. ERIN SERPICO / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



ERIN SERPICO
Staff Writer

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP — Laura Vadell remembers a night last September sitting with her husband on her front porch, talking about their baby on the way.

"I said, 'Wow, this could be one of the last nights before chaos starts,'" Laura, 33, told her husband. "Our lives are about to change any day now."

But the new baby would not be the only change in their lives. Soon after, on Sept. 3, Joshlee Vadell, 29, a nine-year veteran of the Atlantic City Police Department, was shot in the head on duty while trying to break up a robbery. His partner, Officer Thomas McCabe, returned fire and killed Vadell's assailant.

Eight months later, after

See VADELL, A8

WE JUST BROKE DOWN AND CRIED TOGETHER

Laura and Joshlee Vadell talk about finding a new normal in a video at PressofAC.com

Education Writing

Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE

Al Sullivan

The Jersey City Reporter

A living lab

A living laboratory

Students tour the landscape at Reservoir No. 3

By Al Sullivan
Reporter/staff writer

Jennifer Fuehrer, an eighth grade student from ES. 28, led her small troop over dirt with exposed tree roots, through a field of waving phragmites, and over a metal bridge she and other students had installed along the path to allow their schoolmate, Anna, to access the area.

"Anna's in a wheelchair," Jennifer explained. "We wanted to make it easier for her to come here."

By here, Jennifer meant the landscape inside Reservoir No. 3 in Jersey City Heights that has become a living laboratory for students studying nature.

On April 29, Jennifer and other students along with adult teachers from School 28 came to the reservoir for an Earth Day clean up during which Jennifer decided to lead a tour. Some of the students temporarily abandoned their plastic bags full of trash to take the trek.

The cleanup was sponsored by the Embankment Preservation Coalition, which supplied tools to help clear the trails. John Presto, a city employee, said city workers and the Jersey City



The reservoir, now a nature preserve, was constructed just after the Civil War in 1870.

Reservoir Preservation Alliance oversee events in the reservoir.

A piece of Jersey City history

The reservoir, now a nature preserve, was constructed just after the Civil War in 1870 to accommodate the

city's growing need for fresh water. It could not use water from the Hudson and Hackensack rivers because of their salt content, so it used water sent in via a complex array of steam pumps from the Passaic River.

This practice ceased around 1910

see **RESERVOIR** page 4

Education Writing Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE

David Biggy The SandPaper

STEAM - Stafford Schools' Latest Class Initiative Resonates with Students



From left, P.N. P.N. P.N. raising inside the classroom gave a clear look at why Stafford students love STEAM. P. Backwater from above Isabelle Compton works with Kinetic Sand, teacher Kelley Schmitt instructs Brady Robinson approves of STEAM teacher Cathy Shultz launches a Pop.



41 The SandPaper/Photo: N. Day 2, 2017

Building Up Youngsters for a Great Future

STEAM: Stafford Schools' Latest Class Initiative Resonates With Students

By DAVID BIGGY
Catching a need for increased performance within the subject areas of science, math, technology and engineering during the coming decades, in 2012 the U.S. Department of Education, under direction of the Obama administration, generated several initiatives for public schools with the hope of priming younger students for a larger potential for excellence in the global marketplace. Soon after, the acronym STEAM — for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics — had started being used within curriculum-developmental discussions, and two years ago New Jersey got on board with the initiative, or as school leaders like school districts to enhance more in-depth programs centered on STEAM.

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

Stafford Township School District Superintendent George Chelios got the message and immediately began discussions internally on how to introduce and give a curriculum that largely included the STEM focal point. But because the district also maintains a big focus on its regular core programs, the superintendent plans to develop the curriculum piece first with STEAM.

"We thought, since it was a state initiative, that it was very important to implement our STEAM, not only in grades three and six, but also starting at our youngest level in preschool," said Chelios. In his fourth year as superintendent, "And that's when I really started our program. A lot of school districts might have this kind of program in middle school or high school, but we start our students on this path in preschool."

And that was the beginning of something big. Starting with the school year, the Stafford Township district rolled out



Photographs by David Biggy

Education Writing

Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE

Laura Stetser

The Current of Egg Harbor
Twp.

Portfolio

Proponents voice support for transgender policy at EHT schools

BY LAURA STETSER
Staff Writer

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP – While the Board of Education has tabled its final vote on a proposed policy outlining how the district should treat transgender students, community members continue to voice their thoughts on the topic.

The policy, which the board passed 8-1 on first reading in early November, was tabled at the request of the board's policy committee. The policy outlines how students' gender identity should

be expressed to the district by transgender students and their parents. The policy as proposed would allow transgender students to choose the pronoun by which they want to be referred, and the restroom, locker room, physical education classes and extracurricular activities they prefer.

The transgender policy was not on the agenda for the board meeting Tuesday, Jan. 10, but a few residents spoke up in favor of the policy, a contrast in tone from the Dec. 13 meeting, when the only public commentary came from those opposed to all or part

of the proposed policy.

Mico Lucide, who went by the name of Michael Heriegel when he graduated from Egg Harbor Township High School in 2009, is a volunteer at Stockton University's Women, Gender and Sexuality Center. He said he felt compelled to respond to the negative public comments made at the December meeting.

"I know the policy is not on the agenda tonight, but this is not a town of hate and exclusion, and I can't let those voices be the only ones that are heard,"

See **POLICY** on Page 13

Education Writing Weekly, under 6,500

SECOND PLACE Ellen Lazer The West Essex Tribune

School Board Continues Budget Talks: Discusses Special Ed. and Staffing

School Board Continues Budget Talks: Discusses Special Ed. and Staffing

The Livingston Board of Education heard presentations about special education and staffing as part of the 2017-18 school budget discussions that will be taking place over the next several months. The discussion included the proposed addition of a dean of student support at Livingston High School.

Lisa Capone-Striger, the school district's assistant superintendent of student services, gave the Board a detailed look at the changes in several components of special education in Livingston. Sue Harman, the district's human resources manager, discussed staffing.

Community forums on the budget will be held on Wednesday, March 8, at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. The Board members are expected to vote on a tentative budget on Monday, March 27, and a public hearing and final vote will be held on Monday, April 24.

Special Education Programs
Striger provided an overview of programs that have been created and expanded over the past five years, which have allowed more students to remain in-district for their education.

The district has invested in a long-term vision to add programs for autism, life skills, and social/emotional supports that meet the needs of children with special needs to attend school in Livingston classrooms. Striger indicated, School construction projects have provided additional classroom space that allows the district to increase inclusive programs.

Livingston places only about nine percent of special education students out-of-district, a number below the state average, she said.

"We are building programs that are valuable and viable," said Capone-Striger.

Preschool
Striger noted that 78 percent of preschool students in 2015-16 remained in-district in the district's program,

explaining it," she said.

CIP is a transition program that prepares students to negotiate among school, post-secondary education, employment, and the Mountaintop Court Campus (MCC). "It is one of the district's success stories," Striger noted.

Next year, the name will be changed to LIP (Livingston Internship Program), with a possible partnership with the Building and Grounds department for students who would like to do electrical or field work.

Transition Life, Ages 18 to 21

Providing transition to life skills remains a focus, with the district developing job coaching and related services for this group. Without such services, all students had to be served out of district.

"We have the bones of a wonderful transition life program," Striger told the Board. "Parents want their children to work in local places. Next year, we expect to have several students."

Social, Emotional Programs

Expanded special education services for the social, emotional and mental health needs of students have also allowed more students to remain in Livingston, Striger noted.

These include STARS (Students Taking an Active Role in School) for K-6, LINKS (Linking Individual Needs of Kids for Success) at Heritage Middle School, and ESS (Effective School Solutions at Mountaintop Court and Livingston High School). One hundred percent of participants in STARS, LINKS, and MCC students remained in-district 2016-17, as did 97 percent of ESS students.

Striger called MCC "the jewel of Livingston," with many opportunities, including extended academics, physical education and health, and electives.

"For 17 years, this is what I've dreamed about," she told the Board. "It's such a wonderful moment when a student comes back to school," she

Three part-time secretaries in the buildings, a half-time support staff person at Mt. Pleasant Middle School, and a half-time security person at LHS for evening work are also being requested.

Also being proposed is unconditional student assistance council or (SAC) for grades 7-12, "to keep the kids in a therapeutic relationship," explained Striger, and work with individuals, groups, and staff to "expand its impact on the culture of the building," she said.

She added that the district is committed to implementing a different disciplinary model to address challenging behavior.

Proposed "Dean of Students"

The role of a "dean of students" at LHS would include helping students with behavioral challenges, said Striger. That person would be in charge of the SACs, oversee IEB (harassment, intimidation and bullying) education and ISS (in school suspension), and observe and coach teachers. He or she would report to the high school principal.

This proposed position, Striger said, "will support a new way of handling the problems kids have."

Board members asked many questions about this position, including how current staff is being utilized, what other districts' best practices are, and whether this is the job of a "senior counselor."

"The dean is not only about discipline," said superintendent Christine Steffert. "Adding this position will allow the assistant principals to focus on the students and staff."

Anthony Rosamilia, president of the Livingston Education Association (LEA), said that he thinks the dean of students position is "a very forward thinking idea... the tragic system is not reaching some students, and districts from the other students. It is worth trying."

Budget discussions will continue at the next Board of Education meeting, on Monday, March 13, with presentations about curriculum and technology.

Education Writing

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FIRST PLACE

Jacob Perry

The Bernardsville News

What can be done to help these kids;
Student stress crisis seen in Bernards;
Student stress key issue here

BERNARDS TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

'What can we do to help these kids?'

By W. JACOB PERRY
STAFF WRITER

BERNARDS TWP — How the school district deals with the difficult and extremely sensitive topic of student death and suicide has become an issue for some parents in the community.

District officials have typically taken some actions following student deaths, such as promoting the availability of school counsel-

» RELATED STORY

Parents receive advice on dealing with student stress by family therapist. Please see story on page 5.

ons to provide grief counseling.

On Thursday night, March 8, the district arranged to have George Scott, the statewide resource coordinator for the Traumatic Loss Coalition for Youth,

» WEB UPDATE

For more information on this story, please check our website at bernardsvillenews.com

make a public presentation to parents at Ridge High School.

Scott discussed the causes and symptoms of student stress and

offered advice to parents on how to alleviate that stress and promote self-esteem. He also fielded several questions.

The presentation was well received, but immediately afterward, three parents approached this newspaper to say that more needs to be done locally.

"I feel we talked about everything except the elephant in the room," said parent Amy Melick.

"It's control and contain," par-

ent Stephanie Bradford said of the district's response. "You just can't get through the process until you acknowledge that something horrible has happened."

Earlier during the day, a newly organized group called Parents for Change held an informal meeting in the Ridge High Performing Arts Center that drew a crowd of about 100 people, said parent Sky-

PLEASE SEE PAGE 5

**Best
Headlines**
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THIRD PLACE
Ron Panarotti
South Jersey Times

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAY

State parks close following government shutdown, spoiling weekend plans and sending campers packing

BY THE STAFF WRITER
Published 1/1/17

Thousands of people are expected to arrive in New Jersey for the start of the holiday season, but many are disappointed to find that state parks are closed for the weekend.

Due to a federal government shutdown, state parks are closed for the weekend, leaving campers and visitors disappointed.

The state parks system is closed for the weekend, leaving campers and visitors disappointed. The state parks system is closed for the weekend, leaving campers and visitors disappointed.

The state parks system is closed for the weekend, leaving campers and visitors disappointed. The state parks system is closed for the weekend, leaving campers and visitors disappointed.

The state parks system is closed for the weekend, leaving campers and visitors disappointed. The state parks system is closed for the weekend, leaving campers and visitors disappointed.



A person sits on a horse in front of a large screen at a state park event.



A person in a green shirt works at a table at a state park event.



A person in a red shirt works at a table at a state park event.

CAN'T BELIEVE THEIR EARS



A young boy in a blue shirt holds a green bucket in a field of corn at a state park event.

1,500
pounds
of corn
collected
for soup
kitchen

The state parks system is closed for the weekend, leaving campers and visitors disappointed. The state parks system is closed for the weekend, leaving campers and visitors disappointed.

A FAIR CHANCE YOU'LL HAVE FUN



A woman in a white dress pets a brown cow at a state park event.

Salem County event continues through today, with plenty of animals to observe and vendors to visit.

The state parks system is closed for the weekend, leaving campers and visitors disappointed. The state parks system is closed for the weekend, leaving campers and visitors disappointed.



A group of colorful piglets at a state park event.

Best Headlines

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FIRST PLACE

James Moening
The Express-Times

He knows all the ins and outs

How a Saylorsburg farmer creates his 11-acre corn maze



Life around the maze: A Saylorsburg farmer, top left, inspects his corn maze. Middle, a man in a blue shirt and a woman in a yellow shirt work in the maze. Bottom, a man in a blue shirt and a woman in a yellow shirt work in the maze. Photo by James Moening for The Express-Times.



Safe at home

With Majestic deal, Major League Baseball uniforms will continue to be made in Easton area



Representative Gene Thompson (R-Pa.) speaks at the opening of the new Majestic Equipment Company factory in Easton, Pa. The factory will continue to produce Major League Baseball uniforms for players on the field and for fans. Photo by Gene Roper for The Express-Times.



EASTON

Out for repair, historic timepiece could change hands

By James Moening for The Express-Times

THEY'VE COOKED THE BEANS. EASTON HISTORIC preservationists are looking for a buyer for the 18th-century clock tower they will restore to a state that will keep it looking like its early days.

Having a firm that the retail area is a landmark to the city's owners, a longtime Easton resident, has the phone. After all, founder Christian Bider III operated as a clockmaker.

"The clock is an old-time piece," was an Easton landmark from 1815 to 2008, after several years of ownership before moving in 1919 to Centre Square, where its basic story played out until it moved to South Windmill Township, according to company history on its website.

The clock is gone from Easton, but the clock remains.

The clock was bought about 1898 by C. Willis Bider as an advertising medium for

the store, which moved the year to South Park Lane, Northampton Street, and former Mayor Philip Bider McMillan, who with his father, Joseph, has been the sixth-generation owner of the store.

Only in the 20th century, Willis' son, Arthur Bider, made a massive cash sale of the clock to a relative, Nathan Bider, who owned the Department store further down the 100 block of Northampton Street.

SEE CLIPK A2

The Bider clock in Easton has been removed to be fixed with a modern mechanism. The new company stores has been offered to the city, but no sale agreement has been reached. Photo by James Moening for The Express-Times.

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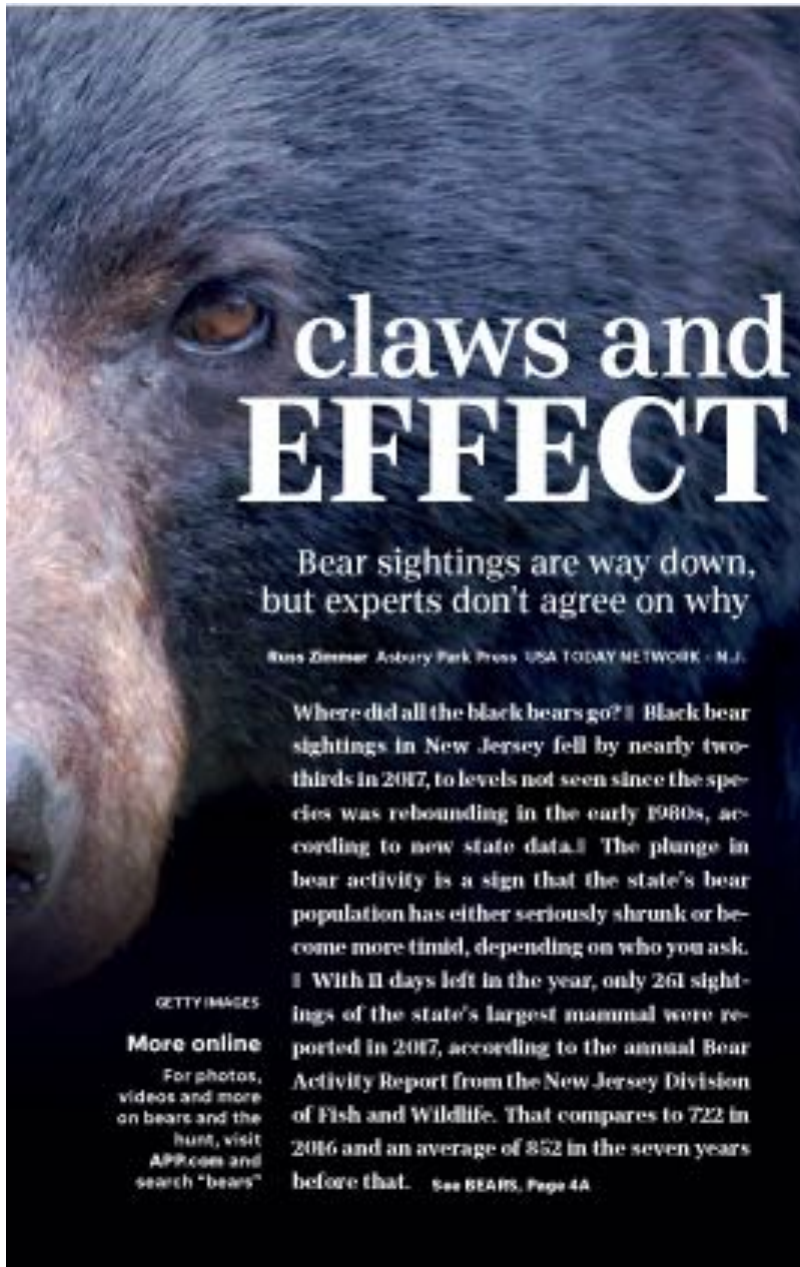
THIRD PLACE

Ilana Keller

Asbury Park Press

UPTICK IN LYME FEARED

Possible surge in the amount of disease-carrying ticks starting this month and lasting into summer



claws and **EFFECT**

Bear sightings are way down, but experts don't agree on why

Russ Ziemer, Asbury Park Press, USA TODAY NETWORK - N.J.

Where did all the black bears go? Black bear sightings in New Jersey fell by nearly two-thirds in 2017, to levels not seen since the species was rebounding in the early 1980s, according to new state data. The plunge in bear activity is a sign that the state's bear population has either seriously shrunk or become more timid, depending on who you ask. With 11 days left in the year, only 261 sightings of the state's largest mammal were reported in 2017, according to the annual Bear Activity Report from the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. That compares to 722 in 2016 and an average of 852 in the seven years before that. See BEARS, Page 4A

GETTY IMAGES

More online
For photos, videos and more on bears and the hunt, visit APP.com and search "bears"

IMMIGRATION

'CHAOS, FEAR, UNCERTAINTY'

Trump's immigration actions spark confusion, worry as many wonder what their next steps are

Fresh Approach to Routine Reporting

Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE

Suzanne Marino

The Current of Linwood,
Northfield & Somers Point

Long may he wave



SUZANNE MARINO

Al Glenn sits at his post on his favorite corner of Shore Road in Linwood.

Long may he wave

Man in wheelchair raises flag at passing cars to spread goodwill

BY SUZANNE MARINO
Staff Writer

LINWOOD — Al Glenn has become somewhat of a celebrity among people who travel Shore Road through Linwood in the early morning. He is the man in the wheelchair who has been sit-

ting outside a couple days a week for several weeks, waving a large American flag at every vehicle that passes.

Glenn, 78, said he is not a veteran, but the proud son of a World War II veteran, U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Milton Glenn. His father returned from the war and eventu-

ally went into politics, serving as a congressman from 1958 to 1964.

Al Glenn said Sunday afternoon that his visits to the corner of Laurel and Shore Road during the morning rush hour were motivated by a desire to make people feel good.

"All this controversy about the flag — people snapping on it and making it about other issues — I don't know what the answer

See FLAG on Page 21

Fresh Approach to Routine Reporting

Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Pamela Dollak,
Rebecca King, Ryan
Loughlin
Atlantic City Weekly



Fresh Approach to Routine Reporting

Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE

Pamela Dollak,
Rebecca King, Ryan
Loughin
Atlantic City Weekly



**Fresh Approach
to Routine
Reporting**
Weekly, under 6,500

No awards given

Best Lede

Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE

Kyle Morel

New Jersey Herald

By KYLE MOREL
kmorel@njherald.com

FRANKFORD — One of Sussex County's most popular restaurants, the Chatterbox Drive-In, is well-known for its atmosphere of posters, classic cars and other elements evoking memories of the 1950s and '60s.

By KYLE MOREL
kmorel@njherald.com

OGDENSBERG — Soon, the American Museum of Natural History in New York City will feature a slice — or, more accurately, a slab — of Sussex County in one of its exhibits.

By KYLE MOREL
kmorel@njherald.com

SUSSEX BOROUGH — Avid marathoner Bob Whitescarver was simply hoping to learn some helpful training tips when he purchased world-champion distance runner Stu Mittleman's book "Slow Burn" nearly two decades ago. Instead, the contents of the book altered the course of his life.

Best Lede

Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Terrence T. McDonald

The Jersey Journal

BY TERENCE T. McDONALD

JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

In the 1965 musical flop “Skyscraper,” a visionary architect sings what may be Broadway’s only love song to high-rises.

“Today it’s 100 floors / Tomorrow 1,000 floors / Slowly, but surely, the stars” go Sammy Cahn’s lyrics to “More Than One Way (To the Stars).”

BY TERENCE T. McDONALD

JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Imagine an episode of “House Hunters” devoid of all relationship drama but with an undercurrent of political theater. That’s what transpired during a special hearing at Hudson County Plaza Thursday afternoon.

BY TERENCE T. McDONALD

JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

It took two minutes for someone to mutter the F-word.

About three dozen people were gathered inside the council chambers at City Hall yesterday afternoon to watch the drawing of ballot positions for November’s municipal election, when the mayoralty and all nine council seats are up for grabs. City Clerk Robert Byrne acts as emcee for this quadrennial tradition.

Best Lede

Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE

David Levinsky

Burlington County Times

By DAVID LEVINSKY
STAFF WRITER

They're one of the funniest-looking fishes in the Atlantic with two eyes on one side of their head and none on the other, and they can change color to match the sandy ocean bottoms they routinely call home.

But for all their peculiarities, flounder — also called fluke — are among the species most sought-after by ocean anglers, particularly during the summer months when vacationers flock to the Jersey Shore.

By David Levinsky
Staff Writer

NORTH HANOVER — Walter Perry was poring over papers early Tuesday when he finally came to grips with the fact that he might be in real danger of losing his home.

The 93-year-old resident flew in B-25 bombers in the Army Air

Corps during World War II and in Air Force B-50s during Korea. After retiring from the military, he spent 26 years as an aeronautical engineer for commercial airlines, including U.S. Airways.

But this was an enemy he couldn't quite understand. During the last several years, the house Perry shared for over two decades with his late wife,

By DAVID LEVINSKY
STAFF WRITER

James Logan Jr. built an over six-decade legal career largely on his famous courtroom oratories, frequently mixing poetry, Bible passages and literary references into arguments about motive, evidence and reasonable doubt.

But there was one word he couldn't quite grasp: retirement.

Best Lede

Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE

David Weinberg

The Press of Atlantic City

DAVID WEINBERG
Staff Writer

PHILADELPHIA —
Atlantic City lightweight
Cesar Balmaceda spit
out his mouthpiece,
slowed his breathing
and tried not to think
about the forearm that
was squeezing the air
out of his windpipe Sat-
urday night.

DAVID WEINBERG



My son Kyle pried one of my
prized smoked spare ribs out of
his Weimaraner's mouth during
the third quarter of the Super
Bowl, thereby preventing the
second-biggest choke Sunday.

DAVID WEINBERG
Staff Writer

ATLANTIC CITY —
The last time he fought,
Pleasantville welter-
weight Anthony Young
got his bell rung just
before the bell rang.

Best Lede

Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Christopher Maag

The Record (Bergen County)



GARDEN STATE OF MIND
CHRISTOPHER MAAG

The first time Billy Ryan's fighter jet was shot out of the sky, he ejected into the black night. He floated in the South China Sea until a military helicopter rescued him a few hours later.



GARDEN STATE OF MIND
CHRISTOPHER MAAG

The fire started in the kitchen at 7 a.m. on Aug. 13. It burned up nearly everything — the sofa, all of Julie Vazquez's clothes, even the fancy case that held her flute. After the fire, Vazquez's parents returned to the apartment and retrieved the flute, undamaged and shiny. ◦ Three days later, Vazquez attended practice with the Passaic High School marching band. This was the band's final all-day practice before the start of the fall competition season. Officially the temperature in Passaic reached 84 degrees on this Saturday in September, but the sun bouncing off the turf at Boverini Stadium made it hotter. ◦ Vazquez didn't want to talk about the heat. She didn't want to talk about the fire. She didn't want to talk much at all. She



GARDEN STATE OF MIND CHRISTOPHER MAAG

Every Friday afternoon, Steve and Denise Thorpe board an NJ Transit train in Metuchen, near their home. They transfer at Secaucus and again at Hoboken, where they board the No. 59 express through Bergen and Passaic counties to Port Jervis, New York, the final stop. ◻ They walk to Brother Bruno's, a pizza shop, one block from the Port Jervis station. Every time, they order the same thing: a small pizza with banana peppers, Steve's favorite. After dinner, they scurry back to the station and catch the last train home, leaving at 9:27 p.m. and returning to Metuchen at 1:02 a.m. ◻ Round trip, it's a nine-hour slog. They have completed it nearly every Friday for six years. See RAILS, Page 6A

Best Lede

Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Jason Nark

The Philadelphia Inquirer

By Jason Nark

STAFF WRITER

Buildings that haven't felt a heartbeat in decades dot the streets of Penns Grove, boarded up, draped in torn tarps, and locked in chains, sagging and leaning like tombstones for sale in a cemetery no one visits.

By Jason Nark

STAFF WRITER

It was a Wednesday morning, the day after a chaotic Independence Day at Bellmawr Lake, the pay-for-the-day swimming hole in Camden County, and Anthony Martino, a 70-year-old retired police officer, sat sentinel by the shore with a lifeguard whistle around his neck. His skin was the color of glazed chicken.

By Jason Nark

STAFF WRITER

Four miles off the coast of Cape May, in the bowels of a floating factory painted blood red, engineers sit in a cramped room, concerned about the fate of tourists' feet.

**Graphics &
Illustration**

Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE
No award given

Graphics & Illustration

Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Leslee Ganss
The SandPaper

WANTED



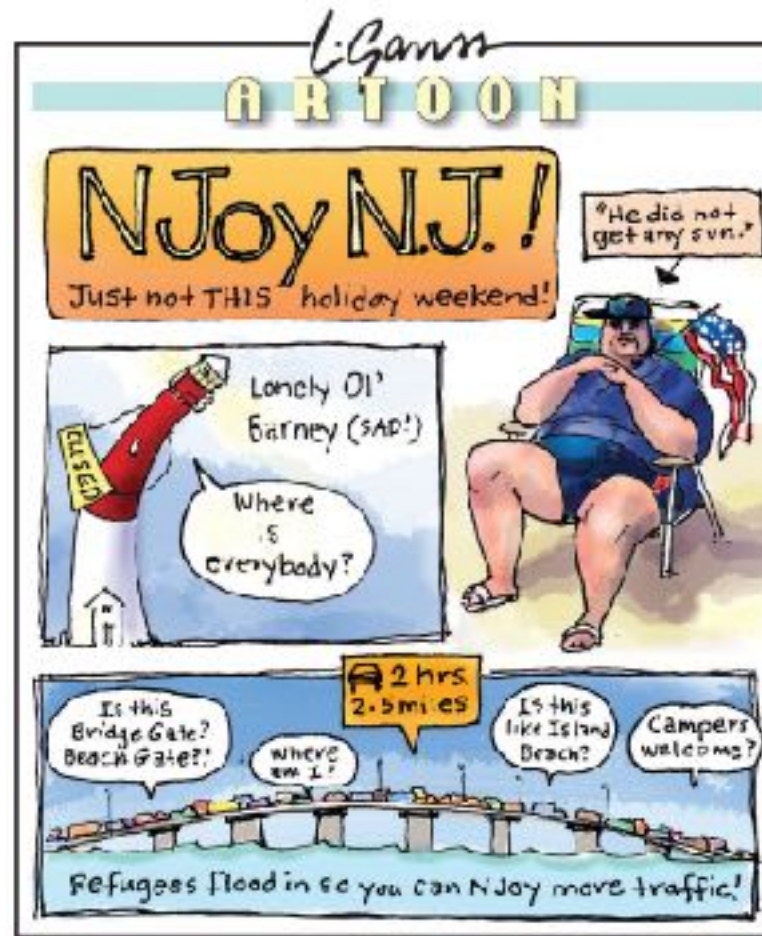
Graphics & Illustration

Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE

Leslee Ganss
The SandPaper

NJoy N.J.!



**Graphics &
Illustration**

Weekly, under 6,500

No awards given

Special Issue

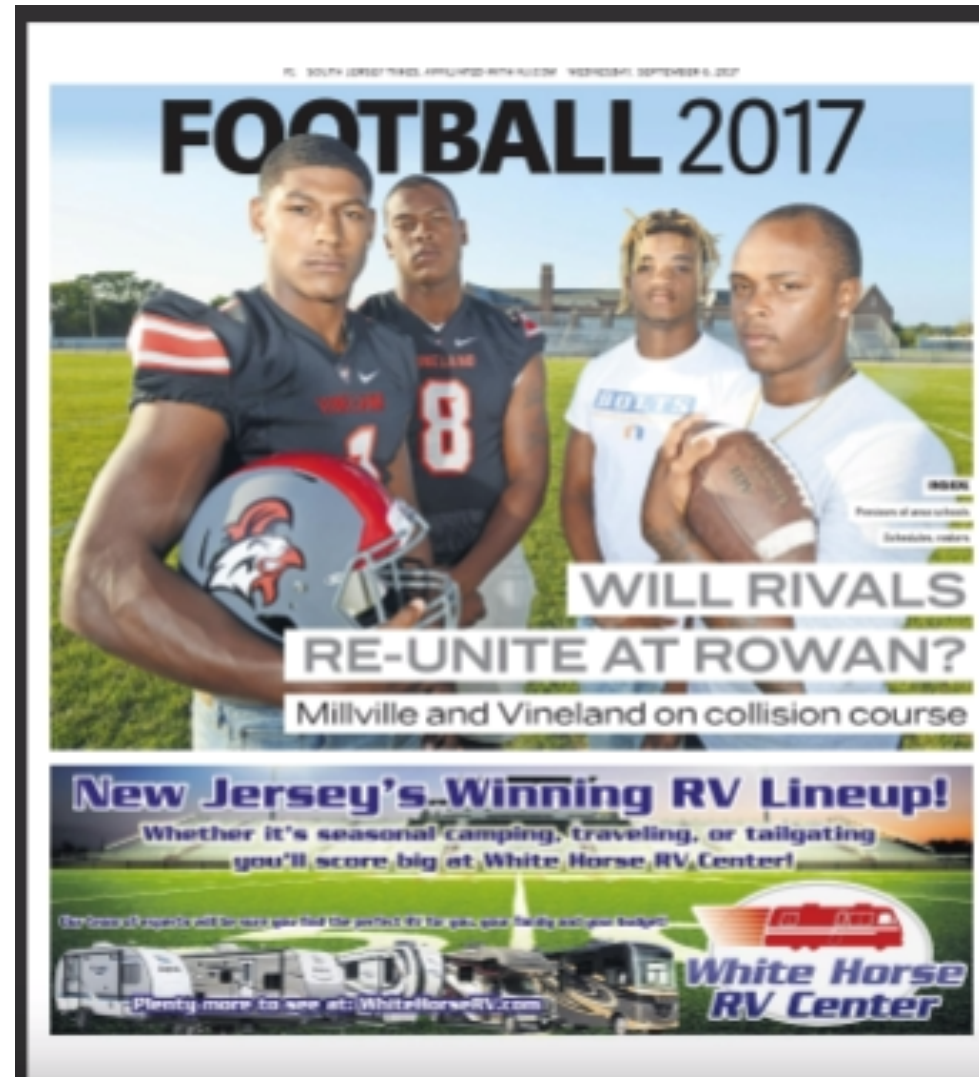
Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE

Staff

South Jersey Times

South Jersey Times Football Tab



Special Issue

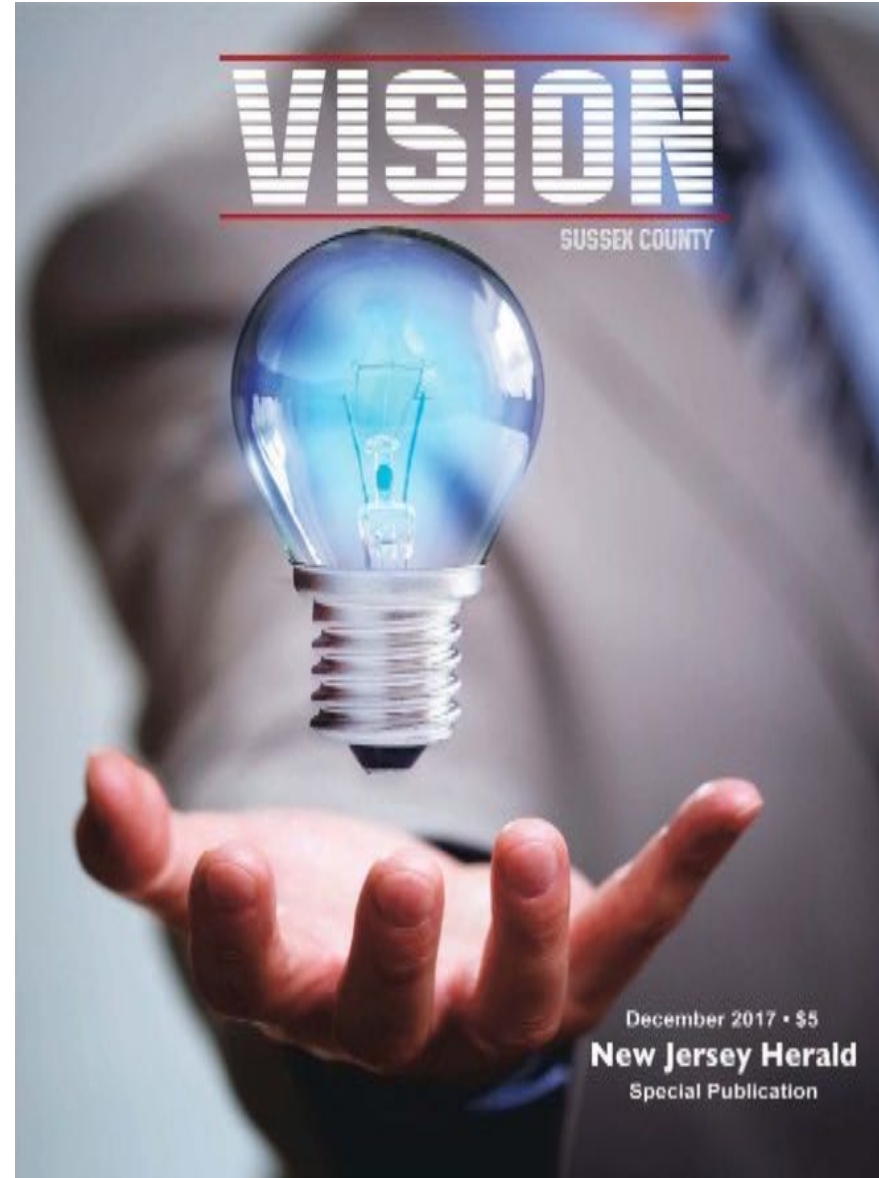
Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Jesse Kryscio, staff

New Jersey Herald

Vision magazine



Special Issue

Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE

Staff

Asbury Park Press

Towns of New Jersey



Special Issue

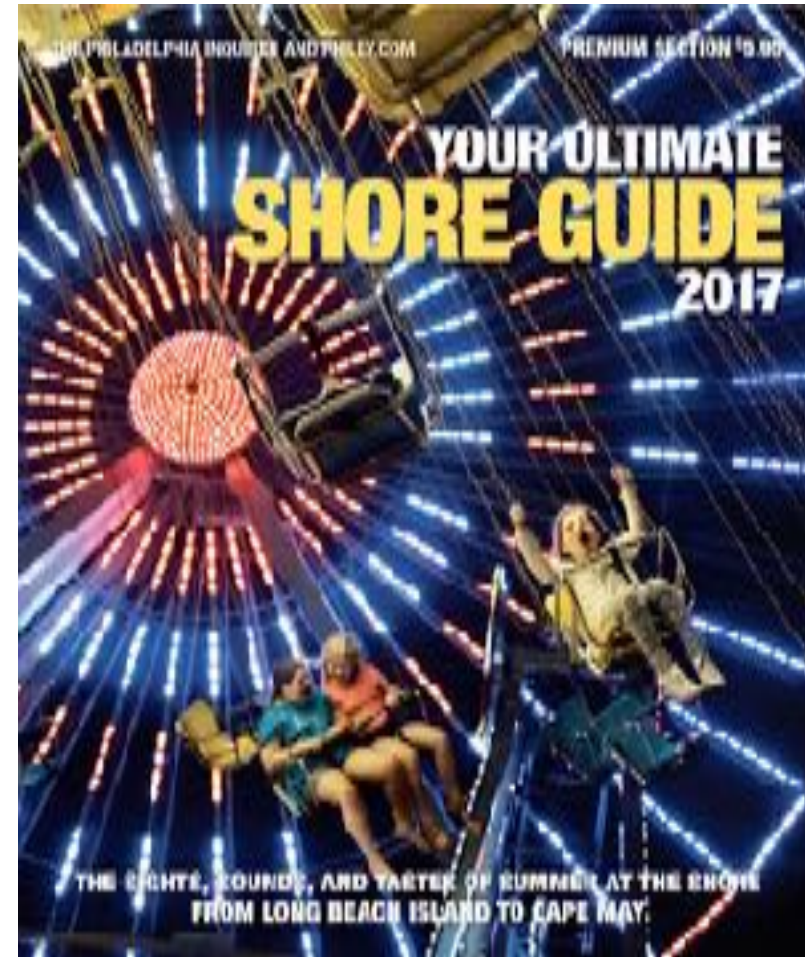
Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Staff

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Your Ultimate Shore Guide
2017



Special Issue

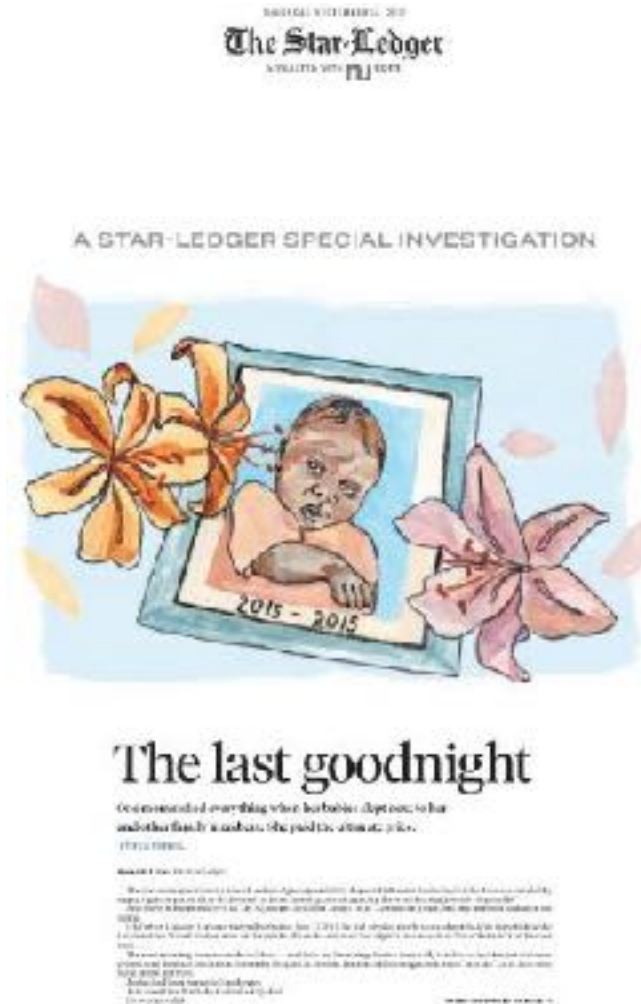
Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Staff

The Star-Ledger

The last goodnight



NJPA 2017 NEWSPAPER CONTEST

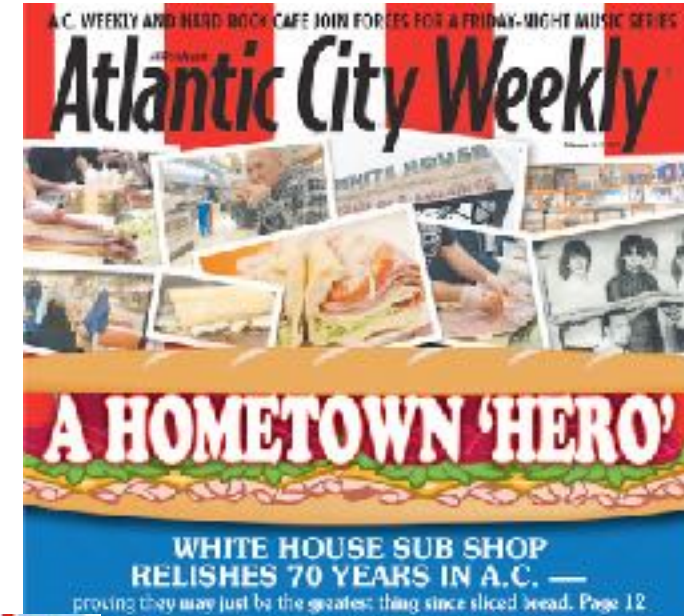
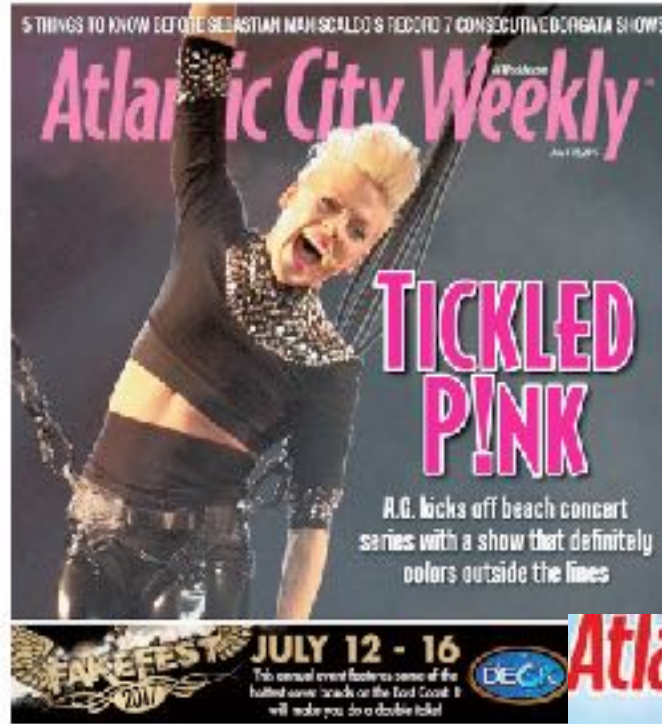
Headlines

Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE

Pamela Dollak

Atlantic City Weekly



Headlines

Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Craig Schenck
The Sentinel of Somers
Point, Linwood &
Northfield

Partly sunny in Northfield

Otto Bruyns library hosts eclipse-viewing party

By **ERISTIN KELLER**
Sentinel staff

NORTHFIELD— More than 200 people stood in the parking lot of the Otto Bruyns Public Library holding pinhole boxes, looking from one house to another, listening to music and feeling shy, wardwearing solar eclipse glasses to witness the first total solar eclipse visible in the continental United States since 1979.

According to NASA, a solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the sun and the Earth. The moon blocks some or all of the sun for as long as three hours.

During Monday's eclipse, the path of totality ranged from Linnon Beach, Ore., to Charleston, S.C. Several locations in this area, including local libraries, held

Sentinel, Page 7



By Kristin Kellner/Sentinel

A couple of hundred people gathered at the Otto Bruyns Public Library on Monday, Aug. 21, to view the solar eclipse. The library had solar eclipse viewing glasses on hand for patrons, and, as pictured above, a projector they could use to view an outline of the eclipse.



By Kristin Kellner/Sentinel



Children from top left, looking at the projector and, from left, heads of Charoza, of Galloway Township, Patrick Angelo, of Northfield, and the Kellners, of Linwood, Julia Perentzova, of Northfield, and Paul Freeman, of Nazareth, took a gander at the eclipse. A woman looks through a pinhole box to see the eclipse. One astronomer looks up wearing the eclipse viewing glasses. Amanda Larsen, of Northfield, dressed appropriately for the event.



Tomorrow arrives for Gateway

'Armie' star McArdle to help reopen Somers Point theater

By **KRISTIN KELLER**
Sentinel staff

SOMERS POINT— The opening of the Gateway Theatre on Aug. 21 will be a special event for the region. It's the first time since 1979 that a new theater has opened in the area.

The Gateway Theatre is a 100-seat theater located at 1000 N. Atlantic Ave. in Somers Point. It will be the first theater to be built in the area since 1979.

The theater will be owned and operated by the Gateway Theatre Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The theater will be open to the public on Monday, Aug. 21, at 7 p.m.

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By Kristin Kellner/Sentinel

The Gateway Theatre will be open to the public on Monday, Aug. 21, at 7 p.m. The theater will be open to the public on Monday, Aug. 21, at 7 p.m.

Boat show helps students navigate financial straits

By **CRAIG D. SCHENCK**
Sentinel staff

ATLANTIC CITY— Northfield Community School students learned just how much it costs to enjoy a luxury yacht when they attended the Atlantic City Boat Show.

More than 500 boats, one "for every budget," were on display March 1-5 at the Atlantic City Convention Center. This phrase was key to the advanced math students who were there as part of the financial literacy portion of their math curriculum.

Seventh-grade math teacher Karen Schroeder said personal financial lit-

eracy is embedded in the curriculum in seventh grade and that she also teaches an extension of the topics during the school's course period.

"Financial literacy is a subject that I am very passionate about," she said. "Students need to have exposure to money management at a young age before they become adults. So many students are, especially when they hit college age, wind up taking on so much debt and they don't really have a concept of ultimately how they are going to pay that off and how much that is going to cost in the future."

—Karen Schroeder, math teacher, Northfield Community School

Students need to have exposure to money management at a young age before they become adults. So many students are, especially when they hit college age, wind up taking on so much debt and they don't really have a concept of ultimately how they are going to pay that off and how much that is going to cost in the future.

Headlines

Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE

Craig Schenck

Cape May Star & Wave

Protection money

Grant would fund dune in township, help decrease flood insurance rates

By JACK RICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — A proposed project that would provide a sand dune along Lower Township's beachfront could provide not only protection from storms but decrease flood insurance premiums for hundreds of homes.

The dune would be constructed from Pinewood Avenue in Cape May Beach to West Miami Avenue in Villas, following a path from just north of Cox Hall Creek to Fishing Creek, the marsh between Villas and Del Haven.

An informational meeting was held Oct. 25 at Township Hall attended by



MP. Hyon Photography/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The luxury condominium at 729 Grand St. was once part of a historic church. The exterior was retained but the interior is a contemporary home.

Historic former church features lifestyle fit for upwardly mobile

By CAROL RENNERT
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The historic condominium at 729 Grand St., No. 1, was once part of a historic Methodist church that was built in 1879.

The exterior was retained but the interior is a contemporary home with modern amenities. The combination of the new elements and the old, classic architectural features is stunning. With its 1,600 square feet, the condominium has three bedrooms, each with a private bath and a powder

room for a person who wants to prepare a special holiday dinner. The built-in range is noted for its performance and worthy of professional chef. Above the range is a fanlight which allows you to fill a large kitchen pot. The built-in oven is top of the line, the microwave and the dishwasher complete the suite of appliances, all of which are stainless steel.

The dark hard wood cabinets in the kitchen are custom made and provide you with storage shelves and the countertop granite in which his durable and long lasting.

The stainless steel double doors on both

Snow leopard cubs spotted at county zoo

By CAROL RENNERT
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COUNTY ZOO — Two snow leopard cubs were spotted at the county zoo on Oct. 18, 2017. The cubs were spotted in the enclosure of the snow leopard exhibit. The cubs were spotted by a zookeeper who was walking through the enclosure. The cubs were spotted in the enclosure of the snow leopard exhibit. The cubs were spotted by a zookeeper who was walking through the enclosure.



The snow leopard cubs were spotted Oct. 18 at the Cape May County Zoo. The cubs were spotted in the enclosure of the snow leopard exhibit. The cubs were spotted by a zookeeper who was walking through the enclosure.

Headlines

Weekly, under 6,500

THIRD PLACE

No award given

Headlines

Weekly, under 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Russ Crespolini

The Progress

Muckraking mailers muddy waters before elections

Correspondence criticizes campaigns in Caldwell, Roseland

By DEREK ALLEN
STAFF WRITER

A shrewd politician utilizing the assistance of an unscrupulous contractor or the services of a lobbyist to get the job done, especially in the case of a political candidate, is a familiar sight in New Jersey.

Money Matters

and the use of such services to win over voters in the run-up to an election is a familiar sight in New Jersey. It is not, however, a practice that is always lauded.

There is one such service that is often mentioned in the pages of The Progress in Caldwell, N.J., and Roseland, N.J., and that is the use of a lobbyist to get the job done.

It is not, however, a practice that is always lauded. There is one such service that is often mentioned in the pages of The Progress in Caldwell, N.J., and Roseland, N.J., and that is the use of a lobbyist to get the job done.



RESULTS, NOT REPUTATION

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From left, Sgt. Christopher Hennes, Detective for Roseland, Officer Jurek, Sgt. David Priddy, Lt. Gerald Lee, Officer Isaac Right, Officer Robert and Officer William have announced their bid as a team to bring back the support of the local health program and bring back the 'mustache' of the town.

WEST ESSEX COPS 'MUSTACHE' YOU TO DONATE

By DEREK ALLEN
STAFF WRITER

Local police officers are looking for West Essex residents to help them raise money for a mustache drive to support the local health program and bring back the 'mustache' of the town.

This annual event has become extremely popular with many of our officers who quite frankly are driving away from the more important the public awareness that is raised through this to men's health issues and to prevent cancer is invaluable.

ASTON LAMPA

Essex Fells School pickup plagued by parking problems

Rolling drop-off program faces suspension, termination

By DEREK ALLEN
STAFF WRITER

ESSEX FELLS - Parents looking for solutions to the parking problems for pickup have had the grades K-4 Board of Education hashing out the results of continuing the current parking program at its meeting on Wednesday Oct. 4.

The school board debated whether suspending or terminating the rolling pickup and drop-off program in

planned by the school's Parent Teacher Association (PTA) was a needed step.

According to PTA President Nicole Shupak, who spoke during the public portion of the meeting, the problems plaguing the rolling pickup program stem from parents breaking rules.

"More and more families are participating in this program, but we've had a lot of issues this year," she said. "We are trying to do a lot to get people to comply

with the rules."

The drop-off, run by PTA volunteers, is facing numerous problems, said Shupak. She said some parents are showing up before school is dismissed and parking where the drop-off line should be, causing congestion and backing up traffic along Roseland into Caldwell.

Some parents are lining up in front of homes and blocks

REGAN SH PARKING TICKETS

Headlines

Weekly, under 6,500

FIRST PLACE

Christina Johnson

The Two River Times

RED BANK RIVERFEST DRIES UP

By John Burton

RED BANK - This summer season will boot up without one of the borough's largest recurring events. Organizers of last year's festival were pulled to plug.

The Eastern Monmouth Area Chamber of Commerce and This Is It Productions the groups responsible for organizing Riverfest, have decided not to move forward this year with the food and music festival held each year in the borough's Marina Park. The event was first resurrected by RedBankGreen.com.

"We just got to a point where you have too many costs," said Deanna Hart, a partner in This Is It Productions, the Red Bank firm that organized the event for a number of years.

Hart and Lydia Stone, president and chief operating officer of the Chamber of Commerce, said the reason for the decision not to proceed with this year's event was due to large out-of-pocket demands placed upon them by borough officials. Those included a request for an additional \$5,000 contribution to the borough on top of the other fees the organizers have to pay.

"The fee they were requesting was becoming cost prohibitive for us to handle to produce the event," Hart said.

"Quite frankly, we just had to do as the law," Stone said.

Organizers had to pay for the use of the park for the three-day festival; pay for police overtime; for private security; to cover the cost of having Department of Public Works available for cleanup; and all the other costs that go along with producing the event the average person doesn't see," Hart noted.

Last year's event included a live act, wine garden for the first time. Hart said borough officials requested organizers make a donation to a not-for-profit organization in exchange for allowing that



Photo: Steve Swartz

Riverfest drew thousands to the borough's Marina Park and waterfront for live music, street art and art outdoors.

NJ Fluke Fishing Industry in Flux

Story and photos by Jay Cook

ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS - After a conflict made last week aimed at protecting the Atlantic Ocean's migratory cutthroat fluke, New Jersey anglers now believe their industry is in flux.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), a federal-regional authority that oversees fishing management on the 13 states along the Atlantic Coast, has decided to increase regulations of summer flounder for 2017.

"With you, they're proposing, it's going to be the fluke and is our coffee," said Tom Smith, a local fisherman based out of Atlantic Highlands.

On Feb. 2 the ASMFC passed Amendment XVII with a 7-02 vote, choosing Captain Smith's coalition over recreational regulations on summer flounder, commonly known as fluke.

Frank McLaughlin, left, and John Arnold, who left to oversee operations at the Atlantic Highlands Harbor, believe that new fluke regulations will damage New Jersey's recreational fishing economy.



Between recreational and commercial fishing, fluke fishermen are in a bit of a bind. The ASMFC's decision to increase regulations on summer flounder for 2017 is a blow to the industry. The ASMFC's decision to increase regulations on summer flounder for 2017 is a blow to the industry. The ASMFC's decision to increase regulations on summer flounder for 2017 is a blow to the industry.

RED BANK MERCHANTS CIRCLE ROUND, LOOKING FOR WAY OUT OF PARKING PROBLEMS

BY JAY COOK

RED BANK - A meeting of citizens concerning the borough's parking situation was held on Monday, Feb. 20, at the Red Bank Chamber of Commerce. The meeting was held to discuss the parking situation and to hear from the business community.

Michael DiStasio, a member of the Red Bank Business Alliance, addressed the meeting. He discussed the parking situation and the need for a parking garage. He also discussed the need for a parking garage and the need for a parking garage.

RED BANK - An evening of citizens concerning the borough's parking situation was held on Monday, Feb. 20, at the Red Bank Chamber of Commerce. The meeting was held to discuss the parking situation and to hear from the business community.

The Red Bank Business Alliance members...



Red Bank merchants, including John DiStasio, are looking for a way out of their parking problems. The meeting was held to discuss the parking situation and the need for a parking garage.

News/Business Page Design Portfolio

Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE

Colleen

Prendergast

Burlington County

Times



News/Business Page Design Portfolio

Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE

James Moening
The Express-Times



News/Business Page Design Portfolio

Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Luis Solano
The Daily Journal



News/Business Page Design Portfolio

Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE

Take Uda
The Record
(Bergen County)



News/Business Page Design Portfolio

Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Robert Cohn
Asbury Park Press



News/Business Page Design Portfolio

Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Ashley Downing
Courier-Post



We'll take another short break while NJPA executive officer Paul Grzella, Courier News & Home News Tribune comes to the stage to announce the remaining editorial awards.

Best Lede

Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE

Hannington Dias

North Bergen Reporter

By Hannington Dia

Reporter Staff Writer

A young man wearing a green beret and jester outfit dashed onto the stage. He quickly greeted the empty auditorium with cries of “All cellphones off! We’re set! We’ve sexted.” These lines officially launched a rehearsal of Pierre Corneille’s “The Liar” a farcical play that will show at North Bergen’s High Tech High School in May. (High Tech is the county’s public arts and technical magnet school.)

Best Lede

Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Rick Mellerup

The SandPaper

By **RICK MELLERUP**

Pinelands Regional High School is literally screwed up. The threat of support screws falling from the building's atrium has closed the high school and is forcing an indefinite move to split sessions for students this week.

Best Lede

Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE

Rick Mellerup

The SandPaper

It seems as if the magazine *Sex, etc.* may soon become “Sex, Ex.” at Pinelands Regional Junior High School.

THE PINELANDS REGIONAL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Best Lede

Weekly, under 6,500

No awards given

Feature Section Page Design Portfolio

Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE

James Moening
The Express-Times



Feature
Section
Page Design
Portfolio

Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Tom Raski

Burlington County
Times

Reality



Feature Section Page Design Portfolio

Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Merry Eccles
The Daily Journal

@issue



Feature Section Page Design Portfolio

Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE

Rachel Van
Blankenship
Courier-Post



Feature
Section
Page Design
Portfolio

Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Claudia Saavedra

Courier-Post



Feature
Section
Page Design
Portfolio

Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Take Uda
The Record
(Bergen County)



**General Typography
& Layout**

Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE
No Award Given

General Typography & Layout

Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE

**Kathy Disbrow, Jill
Metzger**

Atlantic City Weekly

Two-Faced; Things to
float your boat

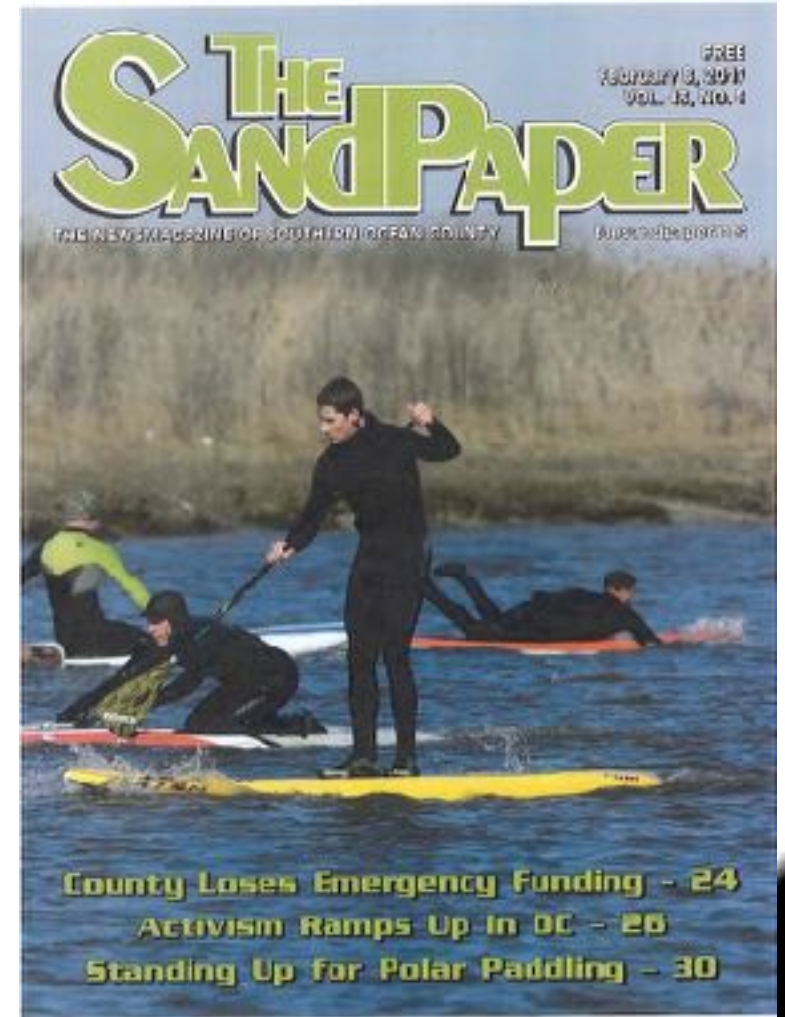


General Typography & Layout

Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE

Staff
The SandPaper



**General Typography
& Layout**

Weekly, under 6,500

No awards given

Sports Page Design Portfolio

Daily, under 20,000

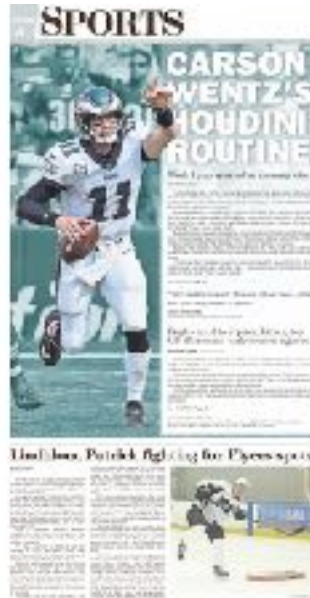
THIRD PLACE

Jesse Kryscio
New Jersey Herald



Sports Page Design Portfolio

Daily, under 20,000



SECOND PLACE

Zachary Vance
The Daily Journal

Sports Page Design Portfolio

Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Colleen

Prendergast

Burlington County
Times



Sports Page Design Portfolio

Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE

Ian Young
The Record
(Bergen County)



Sports Page Design Portfolio

Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Ian Young
Courier-Post



Sports Page Design Portfolio

Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Marc Jenkins
The Record
(Bergen County)



Front Page Layout

Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE

Fred Tuccillo

The Coast Star



Front Page
Layout
Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE
Staff
The Gazette



NJPA 2017 NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Front Page
Layout

Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE

Staff

Town Journal

ALPHEGGEZ • 104 E. 6 RD • SADDLE RIVER • UPPER SADDLE RIVER

ESTABLISHED 1910 • 100% RECYCLED PAPER

Town Journal

PROUDLY PRINTED IN NEW JERSEY



Key to success
STUDENT'S DETERMINATION
TRULY MADE A DIFFERENCE
IN WINNING THE TOWN JOURNAL
CONTEST. PAGE 24

Student aims to save lives



Afterward, she said she had a lot of fun and was glad to see the students' reactions. She also said she was glad to see the students' reactions to the program.

Northen High ends its 2016-17 high school junior's program invites former add ons to share their stories

SPRINGFIELD
The town of Springfield is proud to have been named one of the most beautiful towns in the state. The town is also proud to have been named one of the most livable towns in the state. The town is also proud to have been named one of the most scenic towns in the state.

THE TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD
The town of Springfield is proud to have been named one of the most beautiful towns in the state. The town is also proud to have been named one of the most livable towns in the state. The town is also proud to have been named one of the most scenic towns in the state.

RECYCLED PAPER
100% RECYCLED PAPER

ALL ENDS • 104 E. 6 RD • SADDLE RIVER • UPPER SADDLE RIVER

ESTABLISHED 1910 • 100% RECYCLED PAPER

Town Journal

PROUDLY PRINTED IN NEW JERSEY

A spirited visit to the Hermitage



Ghost walks through guests at historic Ho-Ho-Kus mansion

HERMITAGE
The Hermitage is a historic mansion in the town of Ho-Ho-Kus. It is a beautiful and historic building that has been the home of many famous people. The mansion is now a museum and is open to the public. It is a great place to visit and see the history of the town.

PERSONAL PERFORMANCE
The town of Ho-Ho-Kus is proud to have been named one of the most beautiful towns in the state. The town is also proud to have been named one of the most livable towns in the state. The town is also proud to have been named one of the most scenic towns in the state.

RECYCLED PAPER
100% RECYCLED PAPER

Front Page Layout

Weekly, under 6,500

THIRD PLACE

Staff
Nutley Sun

NEWS
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2017



Community, police say goodbye to Robert D. Sbaraglio Sr.

COMMUNITY

Robert D. Sbaraglio Sr., 74, died of a heart attack on Feb. 19, 2017, after a long illness. He was born in Italy and came to the United States in 1955. He was a member of the Nutley Police Department and served as a police officer for 20 years. He was also a member of the Nutley Fire Department and served as a fireman for 20 years. He was a devoted family man and a community leader. He is survived by his wife, Rose, and three children. A funeral service will be held on Feb. 23, 2017, at 10 a.m. at St. Anthony's Church. Burial will be in the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. The family requests that donations be made to the American Heart Association.



Community members gathered to bid adieu to Robert D. Sbaraglio Sr. on Feb. 20, 2017. The group, including family members and friends, held a large American flag during the service. The community expressed their deep respect and love for Robert, who was a pillar of the neighborhood.

Traveling Man
A man who has been traveling the world for the past 10 years is back in Nutley. He has seen many amazing places and has a lot of stories to tell. He will be speaking at the community center on Feb. 25, 2017. The event is free and open to all. For more information, call 973-261-1111.

RECORD SET
The Nutley Police Department has received a record set of 100 years of police records. The records are now available for public viewing at the police station. The records include information on arrests, citations, and other police activities. This is a valuable resource for researchers and the community.

PRIVATE FOR SALE
A beautiful private home for sale in Nutley. The home features a large lot, a swimming pool, and a finished basement. It is located in a quiet neighborhood and is a must-see. Call 973-261-1111 for more information.




NEWS
THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2017



5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE NUTLEY MUNICIPAL BUDGET

BUDGET

The Nutley Municipal Board has approved the 2017 Municipal Budget. The budget includes a 2% increase in property taxes and a 1% increase in the millage rate. The budget also includes a 5% increase in the utility rates. The board also approved a 1% increase in the police pension. The budget is expected to result in a balanced budget for the year.

Five-Week Old Looker of Bulls reveals
A five-week old bull calf was found in the woods near Nutley. The calf is healthy and is being cared for by a local farmer. The farmer says the calf is a purebred and is worth a lot of money. He is looking for a good home for the calf. If you are interested, call 973-261-1111.

Budget changes
The Nutley Municipal Board has approved several budget changes. The changes include a 2% increase in property taxes and a 1% increase in the millage rate. The board also approved a 5% increase in the utility rates. The budget is expected to result in a balanced budget for the year.

RE/MAX Realty Group
A leading real estate company with a large team of agents. We are currently looking for experienced agents to join our team. If you are interested, call 973-261-1111.




Front Page Layout

Weekly, under 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Staff

Verona-Cedar Grove
Times

VERONA-CEDAR GROVE
TIMES
FOR HOME DELIVERY,
CALL 888-504-4290



STUDENTS PROTEST DEVOS

Verona High School justice organizers rally in Verona Park

By [Name]

Verona High School students gathered in Verona Park on Monday for a protest against the school's participation in the National Prayer Breakfast. The students, led by the school's justice organizers, held signs and a megaphone, demanding that the school discontinue its involvement in the event. The school's participation in the event has been a point of contention for some students, who believe it contradicts the school's commitment to social justice and equality. The school's administration has defended its participation, stating that it is a long-standing tradition and that the school is committed to supporting all students. The protest was peaceful and drew a large crowd of students and community members. The school's participation in the event is expected to be a topic of discussion at an upcoming school board meeting.



PHOTO BY [Name]

Sustainable Cedar Grove seeks volunteers

Newly formed green group is getting its gear up together

By [Name]

A newly formed group of environmentalists in Cedar Grove is looking for volunteers to help with their efforts. The group, called the Cedar Grove Green Team, was formed last month and is focused on promoting sustainable living and reducing the community's carbon footprint. The team's first project is to organize a community cleanup of the local park. They are also planning to host a series of workshops on topics such as composting, recycling, and energy conservation. The group is open to anyone who is interested in making a positive impact in their community. For more information or to sign up as a volunteer, contact [Name] at [Phone Number].

PHOTO BY [Name]

VERONA-CEDAR GROVE
FOR HOME DELIVERY,
CALL 888-504-4290

VERONA-CEDAR GROVE
TIMES
FOR HOME DELIVERY,
CALL 888-282-3422

ESSEX COUNTY

SHINING FOR SOLDIERS

Building owners, retail firms to honor U.S. troops

By [Name]

Essex County is shining for its soldiers. Building owners and retail firms are participating in a campaign to honor U.S. troops by displaying the American flag in their windows. The campaign, called "Shining for Soldiers," is a way for the community to show its appreciation for the men and women who serve in the military. The campaign is being led by the Essex County Chamber of Commerce and the Essex County Veterans Affairs Office. The campaign is open to all building owners and retail firms in Essex County. The flags will be displayed from September 11th to September 15th. For more information or to sign up as a participant, contact [Name] at [Phone Number].



PHOTO BY [Name]

Essex markets grow in popularity

Residents flock out for fresh, local goods, produce

By [Name]

Essex County residents are flocking to local farmers' markets for fresh, local goods and produce. The popularity of these markets has grown significantly in recent years, as more people seek out locally sourced products. The markets offer a wide variety of fresh fruits, vegetables, and other goods. They also provide a great opportunity for residents to meet the farmers who grow their food. The markets are held at various locations throughout Essex County. For more information or to find a market near you, visit [Website].

PHOTO BY [Name]

VERONA-CEDAR GROVE
FOR HOME DELIVERY,
CALL 888-282-3422

Front Page
Layout

Weekly, under 6,500

FIRST PLACE

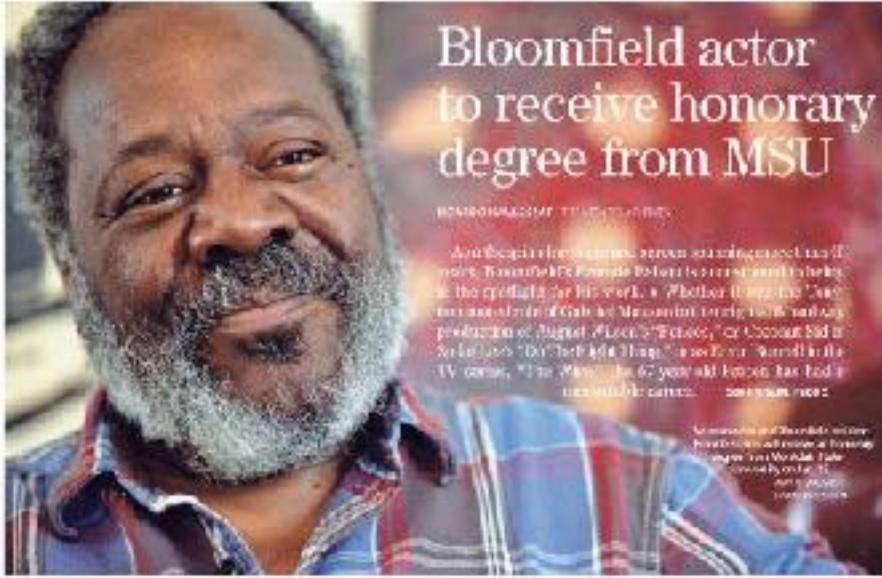
Staff

Bloomfield Life

#4026X BOSTON, MA 02111

BLOOMFIELD LIFE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2017



Bloomfield actor to receive honorary degree from MSU

By [Name]

As a Bloomfield resident, it's a great honor to see a local actor receive an honorary degree from Michigan State University (MSU) for his work in the film "The Last Days of Disco" and his role in the TV series "The Mindy Project".

MSU President and Vice-Chancellor [Name] will present the honorary degree to [Name] at the ceremony on Sept. 13.

MSU President and Vice-Chancellor [Name] will present the honorary degree to [Name] at the ceremony on Sept. 13.

MSU President and Vice-Chancellor [Name] will present the honorary degree to [Name] at the ceremony on Sept. 13.

ISSN 1548-1332




Subscription information and contact details.

#4026X BOSTON, MA 02111

BLOOMFIELD LIFE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2017

Group has plans to give downtown businesses a boost



The Bloomfield Downtown Alliance is planning to give downtown businesses a boost by organizing a group of local entrepreneurs to help them grow.

The alliance is a group of local entrepreneurs who are working together to help downtown businesses grow.

The alliance is a group of local entrepreneurs who are working together to help downtown businesses grow.

ISSN 1548-1332



Subscription information and contact details.

**Editorial Section
Layout & Content**

Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE

No award given

Editorial Section Layout & Content Weekly, over 6,500 FIRST PLACE Gail Travers The SandPaper

SandBox DASH THRU THE DASH

It's Not Nearly the First Time Lady Liberty Could Be Crying

It's not nearly the first time Lady Liberty could be crying. The Statue of Liberty stands tall in New York Harbor, a symbol of freedom and justice. But in the shadows of the current political climate, the torch she holds seems to glow with a different light. The words of the poet, "The Statue of Liberty," ring in our ears: "Give light to the one who has the light." In these times of darkness, we must remember the true meaning of the torch she holds. It is not just a symbol of freedom, but a call to action. We must stand up for the values she represents, for the values that have made this nation great. We must ensure that the torch she holds continues to burn brightly, a beacon of hope and freedom for all.

Letters

Don't Forget the Kids
I read your article on the importance of mental health for children. It was a very informative and eye-opening piece. As a parent, I often worry about my child's mental well-being. It's crucial that we as a society pay more attention to the mental health of our youth. Schools and communities should provide resources and support for children who may be struggling. We must create a safe and supportive environment where children feel comfortable seeking help. Mental health is just as important as physical health, and we must ensure that our children have access to the care they need.

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Cartoon



Cartoon

The cartoon depicts a person sneezing into a handkerchief. The text "SNEEZE AT" is written in large letters above the person. Below the person, there are four panels labeled "THE SNEEZE", "THE COLD/SNEEZE", "THE PREAMBLE", and "GETTER SNEEZE". The cartoon is a humorous take on the common phrase "sneeze at" and the various stages of a cold or sneeze.

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SandBox CLUBS

Drilling Off the Coast Could Be A Catastrophe in the Making

Drilling for oil and gas off the coast of the United States is a controversial issue. While it promises economic benefits, it also poses significant environmental risks. The potential for oil spills and other disasters is a major concern. The drilling industry argues that it will create jobs and boost the economy. However, environmental groups warn that the risks are too high. They point to the Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico as a cautionary tale. The drilling industry must be held accountable for the risks it poses. We must ensure that the environment is protected and that the drilling industry is held to the highest standards of safety and environmental protection.

Letters

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I read your article on the risks of drilling for oil and gas off the coast of the United States. It was a very informative and eye-opening piece. The potential for environmental disasters is a major concern. The drilling industry must be held accountable for the risks it poses. We must ensure that the environment is protected and that the drilling industry is held to the highest standards of safety and environmental protection.

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Cartoon



Cartoon

The cartoon depicts a person using a vape. The text "e-Liquids FOR BEACH VAPING" is written in large letters above the person. Below the person, there are several panels labeled "BEACH VAPING", "E-LIQUIDS", "VAPING", "BEACH VAPING", "E-LIQUIDS", "VAPING", "BEACH VAPING", "E-LIQUIDS", "VAPING". The cartoon is a humorous take on the popularity of vaping at the beach.

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Contrasting Two Different Ways to My Old Glory

I found the article on contrasting two different ways to My Old Glory. It was a very informative and eye-opening piece. The article discusses the importance of preserving our heritage and the role of the American flag. It highlights the different ways in which the flag is used and the significance of each. The article is a thoughtful and well-written piece that provides a unique perspective on the American flag. It is a must-read for anyone interested in our history and the role of the flag in our society.

Hi From LBI: My Newfound Postcard Obsession

I found the article on Hi From LBI: My Newfound Postcard Obsession. It was a very informative and eye-opening piece. The article discusses the author's love for postcards and the history of the postcard industry. It highlights the different types of postcards and the significance of each. The article is a thoughtful and well-written piece that provides a unique perspective on the postcard industry. It is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of the postcard and the author's love for the hobby.

Hi From LBI: My Newfound Postcard Obsession



**Editorial Section
Layout & Content**

Weekly, under 6,500

No awards given

**Feature Section
Layout & Content**
Weekly, over 6,500

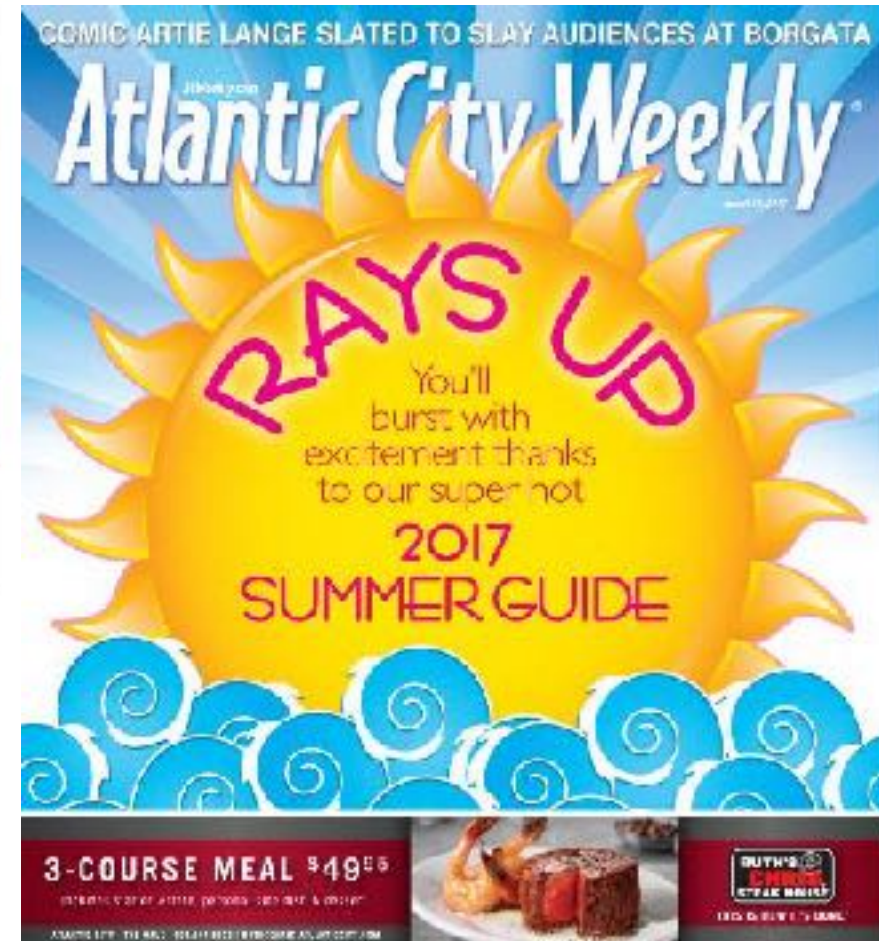
THIRD PLACE
No award given

Feature Section Layout & Content

Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Jill Metzger
Atlantic City Weekly



Feature Section Layout & Content

Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE

Staff
The SandPaper



**Feature Section
Layout & Content**

Weekly, under 6,500

THIRD PLACE
No award given

Feature Section Layout & Content

Weekly, under 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Staff

The Montclair Times

Arts

ONE LINK IN A GLOBAL CHAIN

Montclair festival has its own niche in a universe that includes Cannes, Sundance

A cheat sheet to help you navigate film festival

Showcasing nine shorts by and about women

NJPA

Feature Section Layout & Content

Weekly, under 6,500


FIRST PLACE

Staff

The Ridgewood News

Arts

LUBRA W EVENT



DAVID MASON'S DRAWING

Capturing the spirit of nature

Ridgewood library displays Chinese brush painting, a traditional art form

BY JENNIFER HARRIS

The Ridgewood Public Library will display Chinese brush painting, a traditional art form, in a special exhibit on the occasion of February 28th. The exhibit will feature two artists, David Mason and David Lee, who will be showcasing their work in the form of Chinese ink wash painting, which will be held at the top of the library.

David Mason's work is a blend of traditional Chinese ink wash painting and modern techniques, creating a unique style that captures the spirit of nature. His work is a testament to the art form's enduring appeal and its ability to convey a sense of harmony and balance. The exhibit will also feature a variety of other works, including a large-scale landscape painting by David Lee, which depicts a dramatic scene of a mountain range and a waterfall. The exhibit is a wonderful opportunity for the community to appreciate the beauty and skill of this traditional art form.

For more information, please visit the library's website at www.ridgewoodlibrary.org.

For FURTHER News 10





Illustration by David Mason

Illustration by David Lee

Sports Section Layout & Content Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE David Biggy The SandPaper

SPORTS BHIS Boys Swim Team Makes Use of Its Depth To Oust Cedar Creek

Bengals Victorious in State Tourney

What has transcended the swim team for the Barnhart High School boys swim team recently hasn't been how often the Bengals were winning meets for more than being them and former star Patrick Valeriani had become one of the big names among Rhode Conference swimmers.

Last year, we had a wonderful season," said senior Dan Koser following the Bengals' 101.68 victory over Cedar Creek in the NJSIAA South Jersey Public C quarterfinals at St. Francis Aquatic Center on Feb. 10. "We had a really good team with a lot of swimmers leading us, and we had a lot of success. But that success pushed all the younger swimmers, right? It included to me for 1000."

"And then you, we had freshmen, who were coming up to us before the season, telling us how much they admired Patrick and wanted to be the kind of swimmer he was. So that helped as well. That season has been all about us depth and versatility pushing themselves."

SRHS Wrestlers Set for Districts After Setback

It certainly wasn't part of the plan for the season, but the Southeast Regional wrestling team ended up not repeating as the NJSIAA Group V champions. In fact, the Rams didn't get out of the South Jersey sectional tournament, but ten because they lost an eventual Group V champion Howell, which was in their section this year.

Trained, the Rams were honored because of an NJSIAA regulation violation two days into the sectional tournament a day after they had knocked off Passaic Valley, also, in the first round.

"As a result of a heavy-handed investigation, with NJSIAA's guidance, Southeast Regional High School in Mansfield (South Group V) has been withdrawn from the state championship team wrestling tournament," NJSIAA Executive Director Steve Tinker said in a statement on Feb. 7.

According to reports which quoted Southeast Principal Pete Willhelm, as well as confirmation by South Jersey Regional Representative Craig Henry following the district's Board of Education meeting on Feb. 8, the violation was related to an alleged error regarding the documentation for provisions against corruption.

"The issue was brought to the Board's attention. It was looked into and we discovered there was in fact an error, so immediately reported to the NJSIAA," said Henry, adding to note who exactly alerted Willhelm to the infraction.

Continued on Page 42



LET IT RING: Southern Regional's Mark Valeriani fires a shot from behind the three-point arc, during the Rams' 60-30 victory over Lacey on Feb. 13. The senior hurled nine three pointers en route to a single game record.

Southern Boys Hoops Squad Buries Lacey As Valeriani Sets Single-Game Mark

If you can imagine Dick Vitale doing analysis from the sidelines of Southern Regional boys basketball games, the old broadcaster might have something very simple to say about senior Mark Valeriani. "Marky V. gotta to shoot the rock, baby!"

Well, Valeriani wasn't just shooting the rock on Monday, Feb. 13, he was dropping bombs on Lacey. The senior shooting guard raked up nine three-point field goals on the way to a 29-point effort to lead the Rams to their ninth victory of the season, 60-30. His most treasured Southerner's single game mark came out by Pat Mahoney during the 1998-99 season.

I think it was one second portion of the second half, when I took the inbound pass and put one down, then I thought I'd have a shot in the second," Valeriani said. "I've been working for this my whole career and I wanted to get it before I graduated."

Good thing he had the opportunity against Lacey. Coming out of the victory — Southern's fourth straight and 10 in its last nine games — the Rams had just three games left to the season. Southern didn't qualify to play in the weekly Rhine Conference Tournament or the NJSIAA South Jersey Group IV regional, which starts Feb. 27. "It kind of stinks that we're not playing in either of the tournaments, but we've done a good job of learning things around in the past few weeks," he said. "We lost a lot of alma games early in the season and it took some time for us to get together and start winning some of those games, that the big thing we do when we're together and didn't give up. We didn't give on each other."

arrived on Monday, Feb. 13, when the Bengals lost to Haddonfield, 102-60, in the Public C semifinals. Valeriani won the 200 free throws in 2:27.71, while Dan Koser won the 100 breaststroke in 1:07.26, and the team of Dwayne, Michael, Koser, Aguilera and

led by Valeriani and junior Jake Dabois, who ended up with 21 points, the Rams on Monday smelt together despite an opening six minutes during which they scored just two points and trailed the Lacey, 6-7. Valeriani drained his first jumper of the contest and then led Southern through a 17-2 streak — including all four quarters — during which they outscored the Lacey, 24-24, to put the game out of reach.

Alta senior Anthony Caputo drilled a three-pointer from the left wing and Dabois finished in a key with two seconds left in the first quarter. The Rams and Lacey were tied, 11-11, heading into the second stint, following a Lacey field shot nine seconds into the quarter. Valeriani buried his second three pointer 23 seconds into painting the Rams ahead to stay, as they outscored their lead to six points, 24-16, following another Valeriani trifecta with a 40 left in the half and a 26-24 advantage into halftime.

In the third quarter the Rams simply let up Lacey, going on a 24-3 quiet. Valeriani drained his fourth three-pointer of the quarter with 1:30 to go to push the Rams' lead to 16, and made his 15-point total, 52-37. Five seconds into the fourth with his sixth try from 21 feet away at the corner of the arc.

Valeriani tied Mahoney's mark with a 22-footer with 6:09 to go. But at time wound down and the Rams pushed their lead past the 20-point distance, lead stroke Eric Piarro began signaling that it was time to start celebrating in more players.

"I was bad 2-3 zone going, and with his range Mark has the go ahead to shoot the ball from wherever he believes he has an open shot," Piarro said. "Our first look was to get the ball in the paint, but we were able to

split them from outside. Mark has committed a lot of time and gas in a lot of ways for the benefit of our basketball program, so it was good to let him take a shot at the record. I'm glad he had the opportunity to shoot the ball down the stretch."

As the clock ticked down, to make three minutes, a wild three — showing which Valeriani just had a shot from the half way, followed by two more and grabbed the rebound and then buried around from the right wing and took another three point attempt that missed. Led by Valeriani smiling up with the ball along the right baseline. His next attempt for nothing but not to make it 40-11 and he pumped his fist in celebration on the crowd roared.

Valeriani has made 49 three-pointers this season and leads the team in scoring with 176 points for an average of 16 per game. Valeriani, 17-point and Gloucester Matt Morrison, former Cambridge and Billy Howard were the starting crew in the final home game of the career on Monday.

Now 2014, the Rams will go on the road this year, but they will as they start building for the future.

"Our seniors were great this season," Piarro said. "While we were 3-11, these guys would have reached the end of the season for us. They would have called it quits and stopped being the leaders of the team, but they didn't. They stuck to gather and shared the younger guys why it's important to keep going."

"We didn't really do anything different from basketball preparation. We finished make some adjustments and start together and then they started winning some games. I'm proud of them for that."

— David Biggy



Sports Section Layout & Content

Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE
David Nahan, Kyle
McCrane, Craig
Schenck,
Kristen Kelleher
Ocean City Sentinel

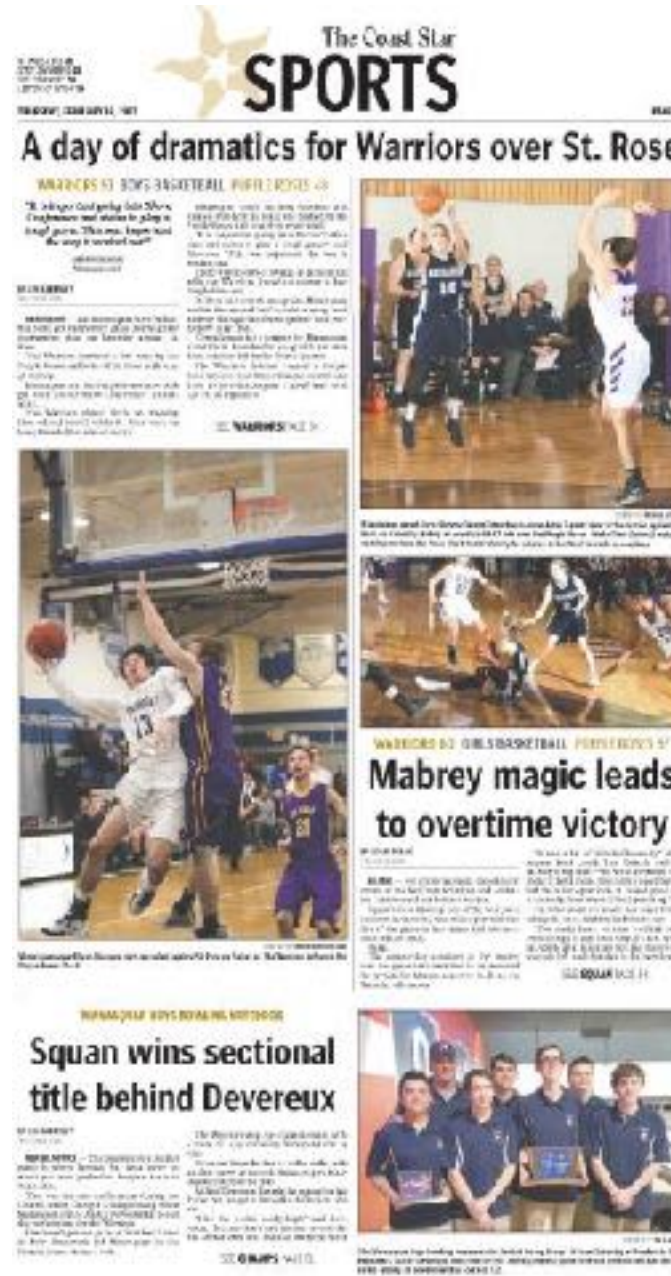


Sports Section Layout & Content

Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE

Len Bardsley,
Adam Young,
Joyce Manser
The Coast Star



**Sports Section
Layout & Content**
Weekly, under 6,500

No awards given

Special Issue

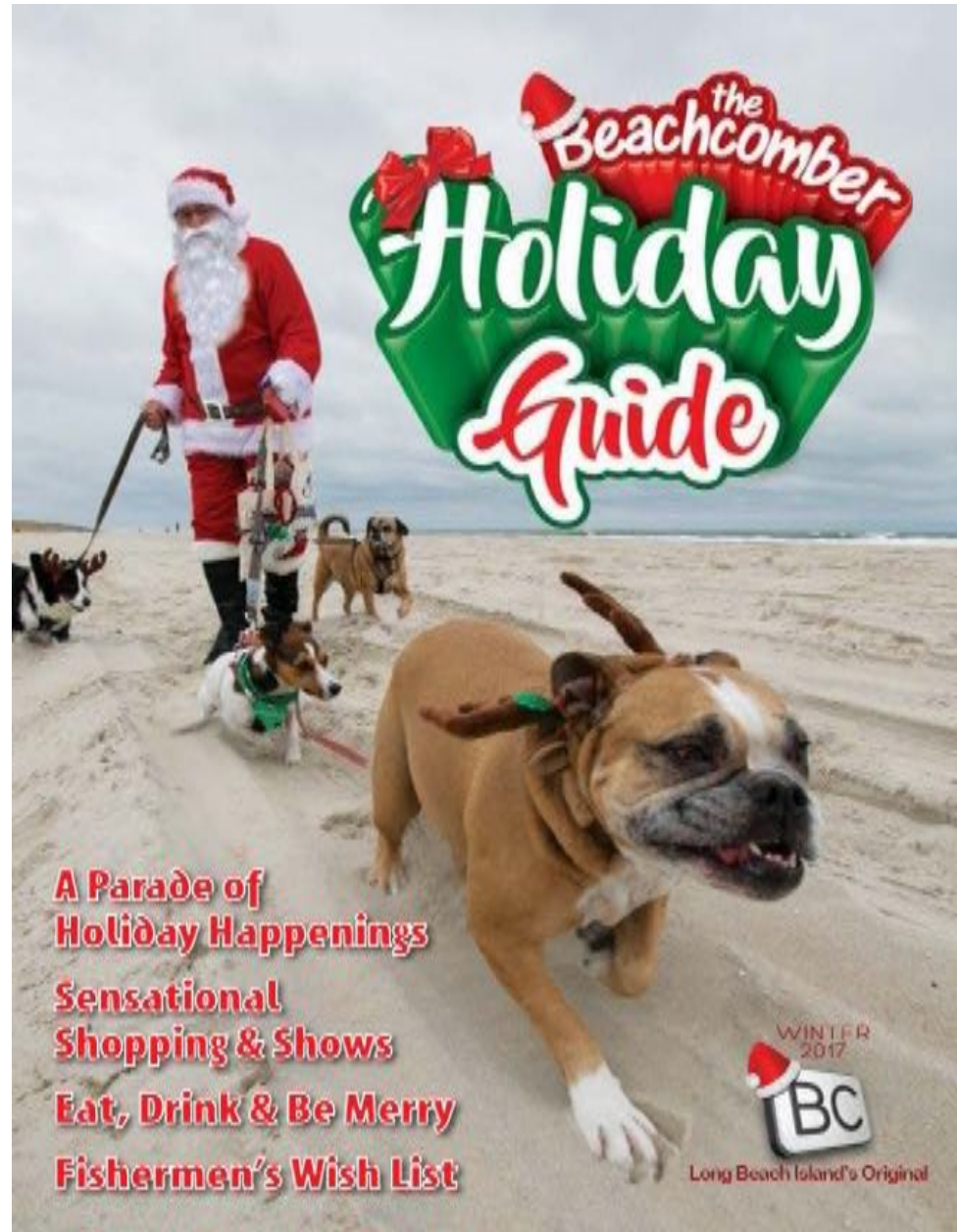
Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE

Staff

The SandPaper

The Beachcomber Holiday Guide



Special Issue

Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Staff

The SandPaper

Oktoberfest Shore Style
2017



Special Issue

Weekly, under 6,500

FIRST PLACE

Fred Tuccillo

The Coast Star

Superstorm Sandy Special Section



Special Issue

Weekly, under 6,500

No awards given

ONLINE AWARDS

Best Web Project Daily

THIRD PLACE Staff

The Press of Atlantic City

Josh Vadell - Chronicling the recovery of an Atlantic City police officer shot in the line of duty



Best Web Project

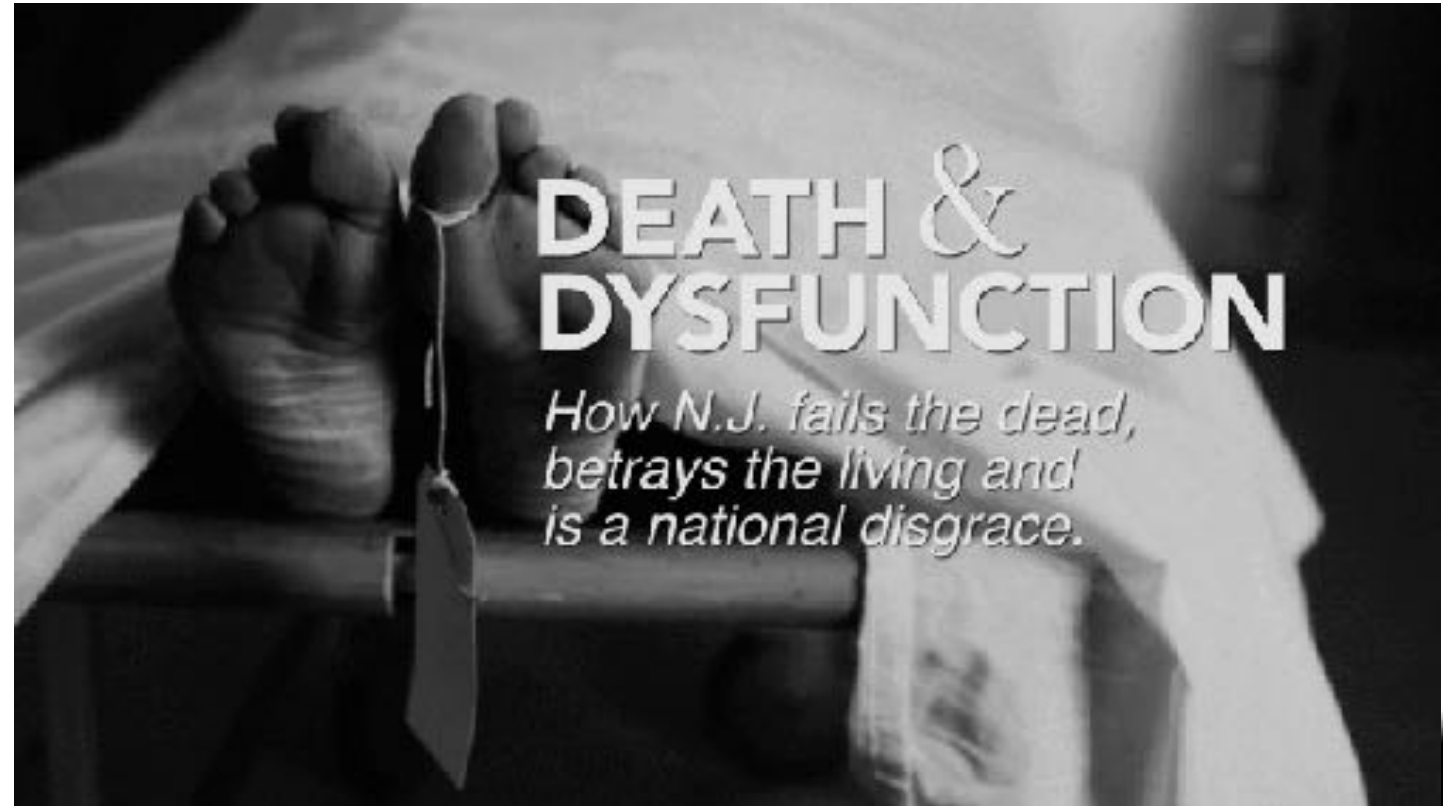
Daily

SECOND PLACE

Staff

The Star-Ledger

Death & dysfunction



Best Web Project

Daily

FIRST PLACE

Shannon Mullen,

Payton Guion,

Thomas P. Costello,

Peter Ackerman

Asbury Park Press

Renter Hell



Best Web Project

Weekly

**No entries
submitted**

**Best Multimedia
Element**
Weekly

THIRD PLACE
No award given

Best Multimedia
Element
Weekly

FIRST PLACE
Erika Norton
Advertiser-News North

Living Tiny



Best Multimedia Element

Daily

THIRD PLACE

Chris Pedota

The Record (Bergen County)

The Inclined Plane - 3D
computer animation



Best Multimedia Element

Daily

SECOND PLACE

**Nicole Leonard, Erin
Grugan**

The Press of Atlantic City



**Impact of Domestic Violence:
In their own words**

Best Multimedia Element

Daily

FIRST PLACE

Karen Yi, Jessica
Mazzola, Andrew
Maclean,
Carla Astudillo
The Star-Ledger

In their words: 50 years after the
riots

IN THEIR WORDS: 50 years after the riots



Best Video

Weekly

THIRD PLACE

Craig Matthews

Atlantic City Weekly

How rolled ice cream is made at Sweet Charlie's in Ocean City



How rolled ice cream is made at Sweet Charlie's in Ocean City

How rolled ice cream is made at Sweet Charlie's in Ocean City: August 17, 2017
SOURCE: PRESS OF ATLANTIC CITY

Best Video

Weekly

SECOND PLACE

Vernon Ogradnek
Atlantic City Weekly

Price is Right down the
shore



-30- Price is Right down the shore - May 11

While Atlantic City is known for hosting a variety of live shows each week, rarely are game shows part of that lineup. This week we head to Harrah's Resort in Atlantic City for an inside look behind the scenes at "The Price Is Right." Our own Ryan Loughlin spoils with host Jerry Springer and uncovered how the host of America's oldest daytime talk show managed to land such a family friendly gig.

STYLING: PERSOP AT ATLANTIC CITY

Best Video

Weekly

FIRST PLACE

Vernon Ogradnek
Atlantic City Weekly

Writers in the sky



-30- Writers in the sky - Sept. 7

The Skytypers are not only sky writers but sky typers. Find out the difference when At The Shore Editor Pamela Dollak takes a ride with them during the Atlantic City Airshow, in this segment of 30, The Press of Atlantic City's television news magazine.

Best Video

Daily

THIRD PLACE

Chris Pedota

The Record (Bergen County)

Artist behind 60 years of Athlete of the Week portraits

Artist behind 60 years of Athlete of the Week portraits



Best Video

Daily

SECOND PLACE

Andre Malok

The Star-Ledger

Tamaroa of 'Perfect Storm' sunk
while former Coast Guard
members look on



Best Video

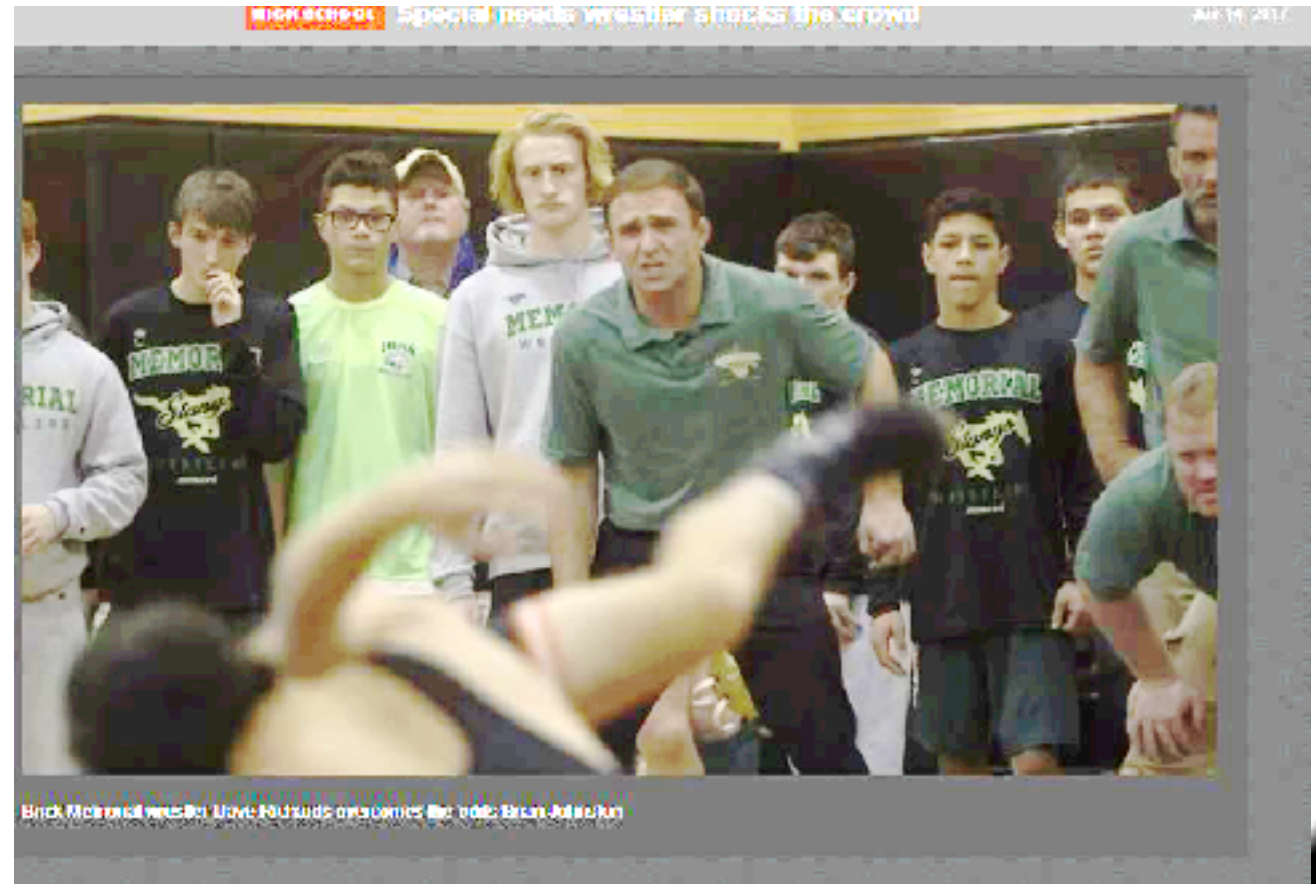
Daily

FIRST PLACE

Brian Johnston

Asbury Park Press

Special needs wrestler shocks the crowd



Innovation Award

Weekly

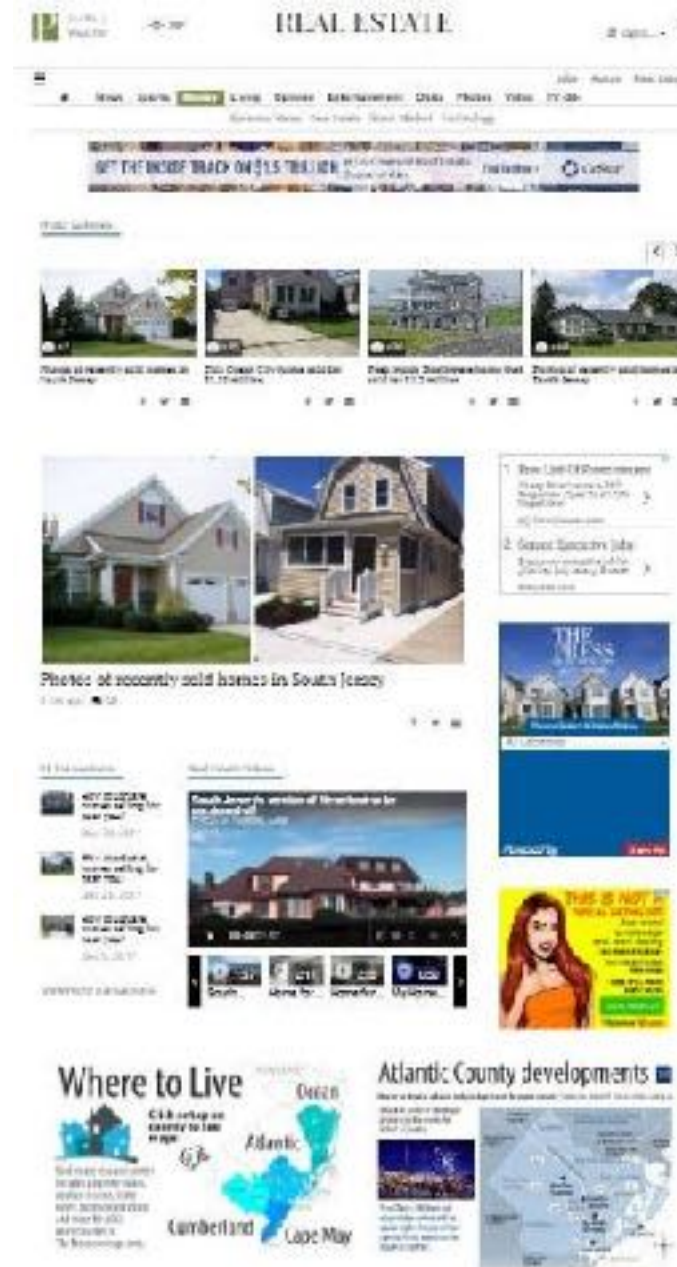
**No entries
submitted**

Innovation Award

Daily

THIRD PLACE
Dan Grote,
Mike DellaVecchia,
Krishna Mathias, Kevin
Post
The Press of Atlantic City

Real Estate



Innovation Award

Daily

SECOND PLACE

**Matt Dowling,
MaryAnn Spoto,
Andre Malok**
The Star-Ledger

Facebook live drone over Casino
Pier in Seaside Heights



Innovation Award

Daily

FIRST PLACE
Carla Astudillo
The Star-Ledger

**In their words: 50 years
after the riots**

IN THEIR WORDS: 50 years after the riots



**Online Breaking
News**
Weekly

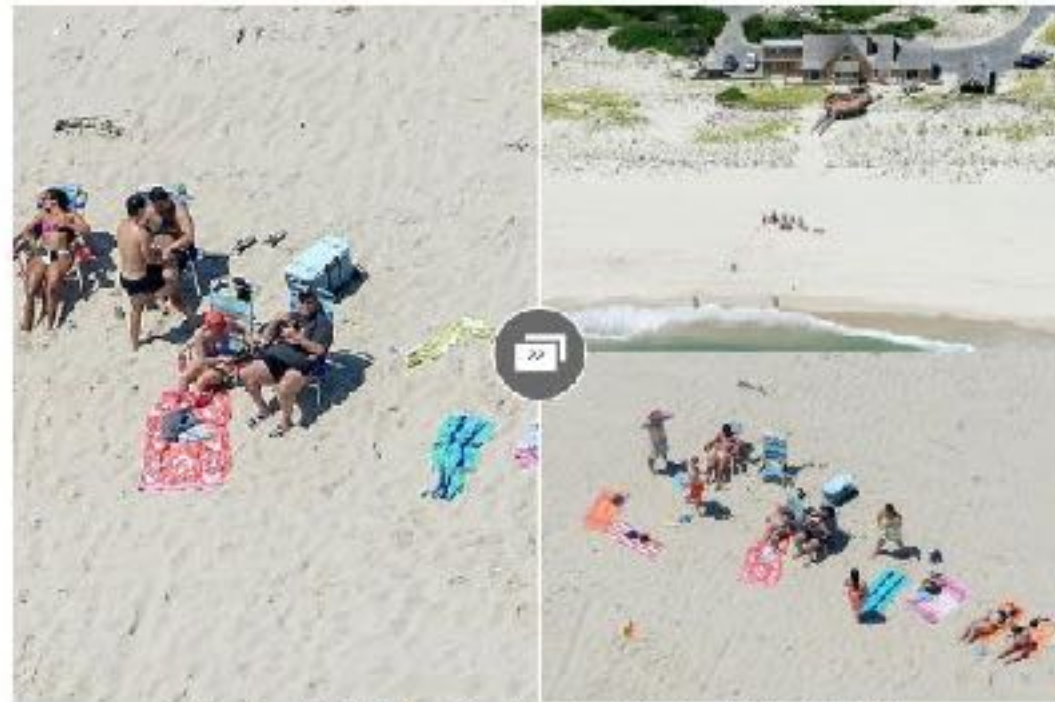
**No entries
submitted**

Online Breaking News Daily

THIRD PLACE
Staff
The Star-Ledger
Beachgate

PHOTOS: Christie, family soak up sun on N.J. beach he closed to public

Updated on 6/27/17 at 10:07 AM



Gallery: Gov. Chris Christie and family on closed Islands Beach State Park in N.J.

Online Breaking News Daily

SECOND PLACE
Staff
The Star-Ledger

New York terrorist attack

New York terrorist attack: Alleged killer Sayfullo Saipov has N.J. ties

Updated Nov 1, 2017; Posted Oct 31, 2017



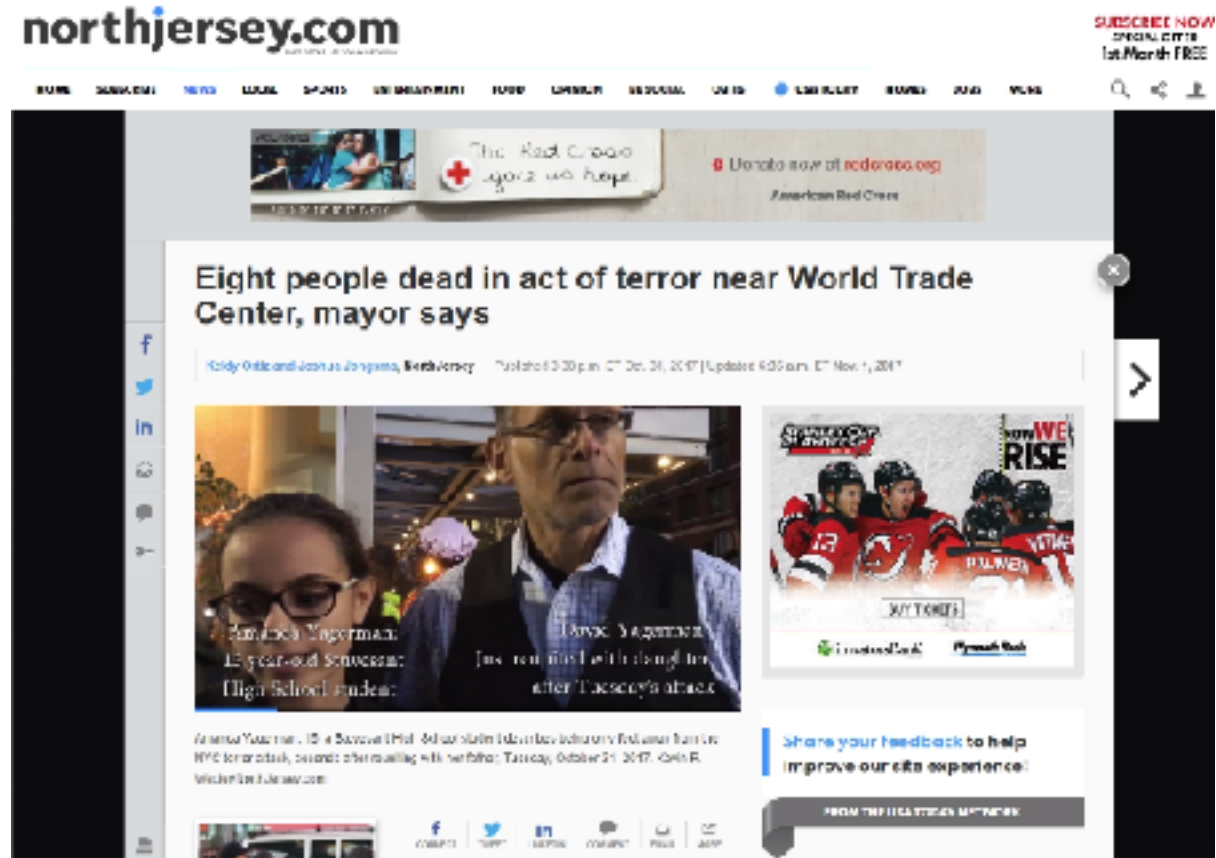
Gallery: New York terror attack: At least 8 killed in Manhattan

Online Breaking News Daily

FIRST PLACE
Staff

The Record (Bergen County)

NYC Terror Attack



Best Web Event
Weekly

**No entries
submitted**

Best Web Event

Daily

THIRD PLACE

Staff

The Star-Ledger

Solar Eclipse 2017



Best Web Event

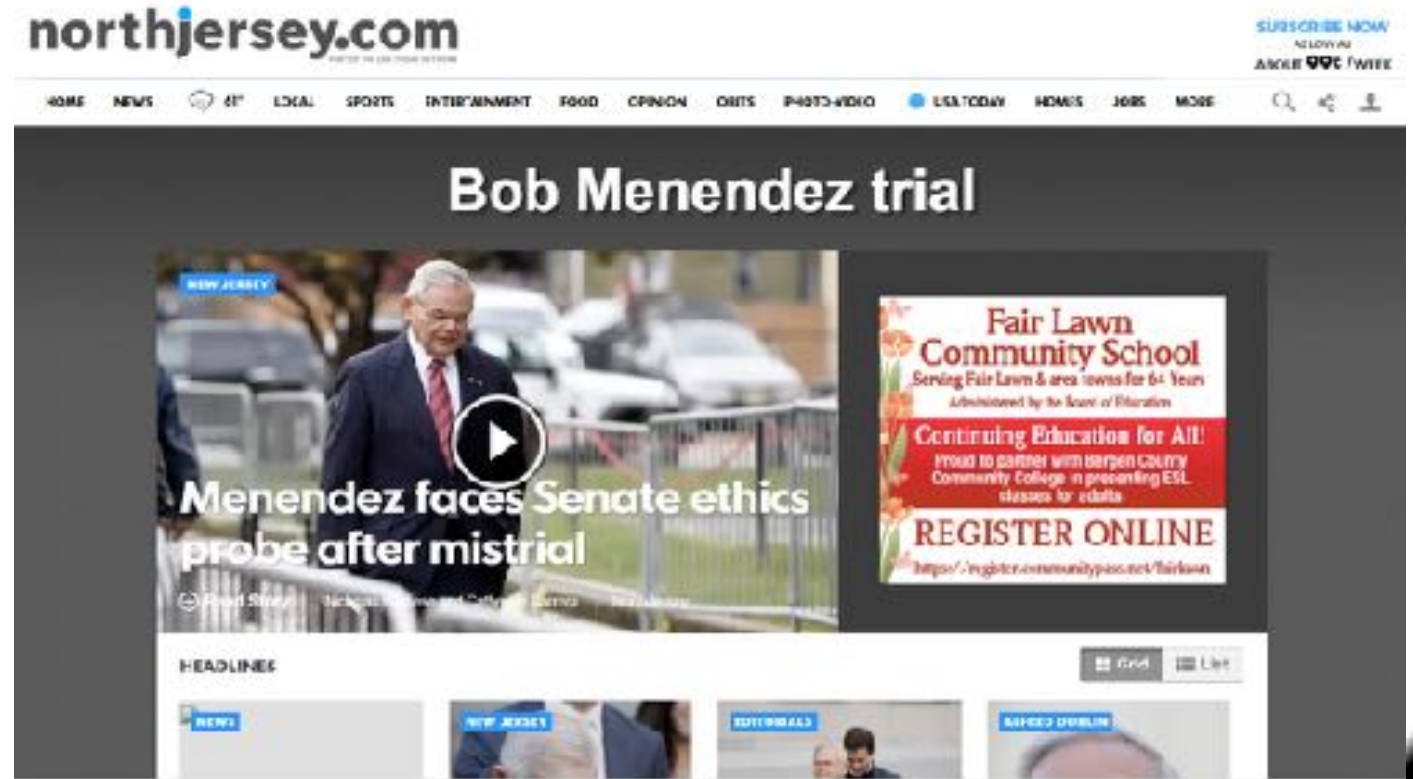
Daily

SECOND PLACE

Staff

The Record (Bergen County)

Menendez Trial



Best Web Event

Daily

FIRST PLACE

Staff

The Star-Ledger

New Jersey government
shutdown



Best Use of Social Media Weekly

THIRD PLACE
Jason Cascais
The SandPaper

MTV Beach House



Best Use of Social Media Weekly

SECOND PLACE
Staff
Atlantic City Weekly

50 Bites +

Post Details

Atlantic City Weekly
Published by Atlantic City Weekly (1) · November 7 · AT

Did you know that 50 Bites is more than half over? And did you know that passes are now just 20 bucks? And you haven't purchased one yet... why? Back Bay Ale House AC The-A-Libi Pub Koloc's Atlantic City

Navigating 50 Bites-- Week Four
OK, so the easy part is done. You got to spend the last three weeks picking back and saving bites in all the suburbs outside of Atlantic City. But now

ALCATTICWEEKLY.COM [Learn More](#)

4,827 people reached [Boost Post](#)

Active Sources
Boosted on Nov 07
Audience: United States: Atlantic City (150 mi) New Jersey: Hamilton County · Posted 44 days ago
[View Results](#)

21 Like **18** On Post **5** On Shares
1 Retweet **0** On Post **1** On Shares
2 Comments **2** On Post **0** On Shares
9 Stories **5** On Post **4** On Shares

95 Total Clicks
0 Photo Views **59** Link Clicks **66** Other Clicks

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK
2 Hide Post **0** Hide All Posts
0 Report as Spam **0** Unhide Page

Engagement activity is reported in the Pacific time zone. Ad activity is reported in the time zone of your ad account.

Like **Comment** **Share** **Buffer**

Best Use of Social Media Weekly


FIRST PLACE
Jason Cascais
The SandPaper

Mary Lee Great White Shark

Post Details

The SandPaper
Published by Jason Cascais on June 5, 2017

Our favorite celebrity Great White Shark, Mary Lee, had 2 plings off the coast of NJ this morning. I think she's heading to Harvey Cedars! You can track her here: http://www.usesa.org/profile/mary_lee/



Get More Likes, Comments and Shares
Boost this post to reach up to 600 people

256,351 people reached

346 Reactions 200 Comments 750 Shares

Like Comment Share

Performance for Your Post

256,351 People Reached		
4,786 Reactions, Comments & Shares		
2,408 Likes	771 On Post	1,717 On Shares
57 Love	28 On Post	28 On Shares
61 Haha	2 On Post	59 On Shares
484 Wow	148 On Post	345 On Shares
5 Sad	0 On Post	5 On Shares
1 Angry	0 On Post	1 On Shares
851 Comments	275 On Post	576 On Shares
704 Shares	750 On Post	25 On Shares
21,004 Post Clicks		
3,147 Profile Views	2,260 Link Clicks	14,557 Other Clicks

Best Use of Social Media

Daily

THIRD PLACE

Staff

Asbury Park Press

Meet the Editor; Ask the Editor: Fake news and more; Ask the Editor: Chat with Hollis Towns and Opinion editor Randy Bergmann



Best Use of Social Media Daily

SECOND PLACE
Carly Romalino
Courier-Post

#FridayLIVEdrives



Best Use of Social Media

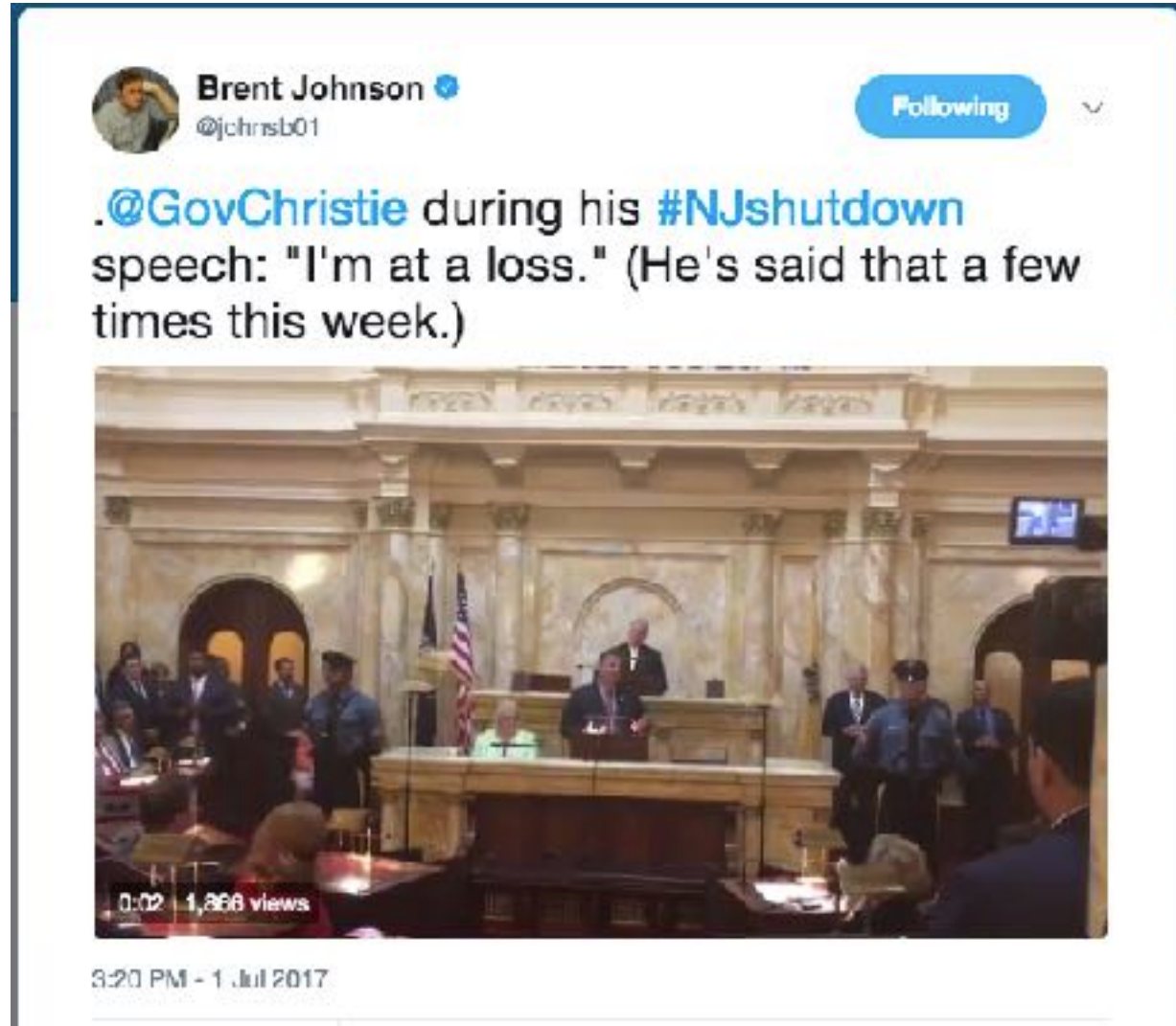
Daily

FIRST PLACE

Staff

The Star-Ledger

New Jersey government
shutdown



Responsible Journalism Awards

Editorial Comment

Weekly, over 6,500

No awards given

Editorial Comment

Weekly, under 6,500

THIRD PLACE

Garry Herzog
The Madison Eagle

Portfolio

· EDITORIAL ·

Never more proud

We have had countless occasions over the years to be proud of Madison, but never more so than Monday night, when a majority of the Borough Council declared Madison a "welcoming community" in stark contrast to President Trump's refugee travel ban and immigration policy.

"The Borough of Madison has long embraced and welcomed individuals of diverse racial, ethnic, religious and national backgrounds," the resolution states, affirming Madison's very different policy of "equal, respectful and dignified treatment of all people, regardless of their immigration status."

But even more to the point, under the resolution, "no department, employee or official of the Borough of Madison shall condition the provision of borough services or benefits on matters related to citizenship or immigration status."

In other words, no "immigration police" here. Further, borough employees are to monitor any efforts by the federal government to withhold or withdraw federal funding as a result of the policies in the resolution. And borough employees should look at any efforts by the federal government to "expend borough funds or resources to enforce federal immigration laws" — and to "take action to appeal or challenge any such requirement."

That is a very strong stance in standing up to the White House and affirming Madison's values.

Mayor Robert Conley said immigrants have made Madison, and America, stronger. "It is not fair and it is not right to be judged by the

» RELATED STORY

A crowd turned out Monday to hear the Borough Council declare Madison a "Welcoming Community." Please see the story on page 1.

Editorial Comment

Weekly, under 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Russ Crespolini

The Progress

Portfolio

· EDITORIAL ·

It's not okay

There are many disturbing things about the text message exchanges between the male members of the Roseland Mayor and Council.

» RELATED STORY

Please our story on page 1.

The racially charged and ethnic slur laden "banter" between Councilman Thomas Tullonis and David Jacobs is distressing, sure. As was the silent, tacit consent by Peter Smith, John Duhalde, Rich Leonard and Mark Vidovich who were privy to the messages but said nothing to denounce them.

Referring to racial and ethnic stereotypes and commenting on the size of people's genitals is not something that should be done in polite company. On some level, the folks on the exchange knew this because they opted not to include Councilwoman Michele Telli on the messages, even if this thread did touch upon borough business.

But for us, who is striking a chord right now are the justifications for the language given by Duhalde, the current mayor of Roseland.

When reminded of the language used in the thread he was included on, Duhalde said this was nothing more than "joking among friends that has no bearing on borough business."

Well that is certainly a sweeping statement to make in response to Tullonis using the term "ShwarzNigger."

No bearing on borough business? Tullonis has been elected to represent the people and their interests and right now one of those interests pertains to Roseland's affordable housing requirement. Does Duhalde trust Tullonis to make the best possible choice for the borough on a topic like that in light of these comments? Maybe he does. We do not. Duhalde went on to say that the jokes were delivered in language that has lost the shock value it once had in society and that it is no different than what would be bantered about in talk on a sidewalk.

Editorial Comment

Weekly, under 6,500

FIRST PLACE

Charlie Zavalick

The Bernardsville News

Portfolio

· EDITORIAL ·

Image over substance

In a decision that seems likely to backfire, the Bernards Township Committee has now decided to spend taxpayer dollars on a public relations campaign on the mosque battle.

RELATED STORY
Bernards Township has hired a public relations firm to combat lawsuits challenging the denial of a mosque in town. Please see page 1.

At a special meeting held on Friday afternoon while most of the community was still at work, the all-Republican governing body unanimously – and without comment – voted to hire a high-powered public relations firm for \$45,000.

Not surprisingly, officials made no public mention of the move beforehand.

The committee has been mercilessly pounded in the state and national media as a result of the Planning Board's 2015 decision to prevent a mosque from being built in Liberty Corner and the ensuing lawsuit from the Islamic Society of Basking Ridge (ISBR) and the federal Department of Justice.

Now the committee is striking back by hiring a PR firm to portray the township as an inclusive community. Officials apparently think the effort can help restore its image while it defends the mosque rejection in court.

It's a move right out of President-elect Donald Trump's playbook. Hire an outside firm to clean up a mess and take cover.

We don't buy it, and don't think residents who are footing the bill will either – even those who support the township's legal position.

The move is unlikely to influence the many news organizations that have cast the township as discriminatory in its dealing with the ISBR. And it certainly won't make anyone forget the mean-spirited comments and jokes shared by township officials on their private email accounts and social media.

Editorial Comment

Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE

John Berry
The Trentonian

Portfolio

Editorial

When both choices seem dismal, maybe none of the above is the answer

New Jersey is facing a historically dull election for governor. Democrats seem to default to Phil Murphy, Republicans seem to default to Kim Guadagno.

Neither base is really fired up to support their candidate. That's why The Trentonian cannot endorse either candidate for governor.

There are a lot of problems to fix in the state, many of them will get patched up under Guadagno, different problems will get patched up under Murphy.

Neither candidate is looking like they have what it takes to get permanent solutions and neither is poised to address all of the issues that our state has.

Maybe this is just because the campaigning is mostly bleating about negative aspects of the opponent, but maybe it is just that we have two mediocre candidates in a time when we need someone exceptional.

We hope that whoever gets elected proves us wrong. Kim or Phil, it would be great to see a leader in this state who cares more about the citizens of New Jersey than campaigning for the next big gig and raising their national profile.

We would love to see bold solutions that have lasting impact on the state and make New Jersey stronger economically and socially.

Nothing in the campaign materials, ads, interviews, or debates has shown promise of that from Murphy or Guadagno.

Sure, Murphy has been painted as a big tax and spend liberal who is soft on crime, but even those accusations are kind and true because they are the same lines thrown at almost every

Democratic candidate for any office in recent memory.

Conversely, we're seeing the same tired accusations directed at Guadagno that Democrats have been trying to make stick to her predecessor and boss, Chris Christie, and even his ties to Trump, through the transitive properties of political connections, become her ties to Trump.

There needs to be more to the race for governor than just the two major parties jabbing each other with these old, dull swords.

It is time to reject the two party politics and let some of the independent voices at least enter the conversation.

New Jersey missed a huge opportunity this year when third party candidates were given almost no voice in the process. Even if there is little shot for one of them to win on Tuesday, getting more than just the two votes in this race may have brought some more creative solutions to the discussions.

The saddest part of all this is that we all need to go out and make our voices heard for the local elections, but a boring title card means less voters motivated to get out to the polls.

So even if you can't hold your nose and pick one of these two less-than options to sit in the governor's chair, please give your vote for the races that actually have more bearing on your day-to-day life in the local and county contexts.

Leave the top spot empty if you want, or send a message to the two-party system and vote for a third party candidate.

Editorial Comment

Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Keith Ryzewicz

Courier News

Portfolio

Our View

Put brakes on bus-camera plan

New Jersey's latest attempt to stick it to motorists under the guise of improved safety is up for an Assembly committee vote Thursday, this time dressed up in "protecting our children" garb.

The proposal to allow installation of so-called traffic cameras sounds wonderfully laudable on the surface. What, after all, could argue with a system that has the potential to enhance the safety of our kids as they enter and exit school buses? Motorists who violate traffic rules near school zones certainly deserve to be punished, don't they? Even the least of violations is too many, ignorance of the laws is no excuse, and our children are at stake.

That's the pitch behind this proposal, in which violators would receive tickets in the mail through an automated system disturbingly similar to the much-bated red-light cameras that torment motorists until lawmakers wisely chose not to renew the program. In fact, one of the companies pushing for the bus cameras — Redflex Traffic Systems — was also part of the red-light camera fiasco, a reminder that these programs are most of all about money, not safety.

Remember what turned the red-light cameras into such a debacle. They would generate tickets for even the most innocuous of technical violations — a "rolling stop" at a right-of-way intersection on an empty highway, for example. That is, lights themselves were sometimes improperly calibrated providing shorter yellow caution lights than required given road and speed-limit conditions, unduly creating more violations. The cameras quickly became mandatory cash cows, with at best mixed safety results.

The same bus cameras could in some respects be even worse. Some of the applicable rules are largely unknown to motorists. For instance, cars must stop at least 25 feet from a stopped school bus. Even drivers who know that rule can't instantly gauge that distance. Someone moving to a safe stop of 24 feet gets a ticket. While a spoiler slamming on the brakes at 25 feet won't hurt anyone can proceed past a stopped bus if traveling on the opposite side of a road, at no more than 10 miles per hour. They'll get a ticket at 11 mph! Penalties for violations would be increased as well, the better to ensure big profits.

There are no indications of unusual or heightened safety concerns around school buses in New Jersey that would prompt some type of enforcement reform. We recognize the loss of even one child's life to an accident is too much, but regardless of what government does it can't guarantee safety at times. We could outlaw playground equipment on which children could be injured, perhaps fatally. Should we do that? There are countless ways we could take such a policy to incremental steps to increase the physical safety of our children, and of them in general. That doesn't by itself demand we take these steps.

Lawmakers should reject this plan. It's not about the children.

Editorial Comment

Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Elliot Goldberg
South Jersey Times

Portfolio

EDITORIAL

In TD deal, a penny sought is a penny burned

The people who used TD bank because its coin-counting machines often always deliver a penny's worth of money for a pound of change have earned their pound of flesh.

A federal judge in Canada has reportedly accepted a settlement proposal under which the bank agrees to pay \$9 million for short-changing folk who suspect their piggy banks lie in the gutter.

The class action suit was filed after various media outlets exposed TD's so-called *Money Machine* and discovered that not every coin was counted. The bank's first reaction to the news reports was to temporarily sideline the machines to be re-calibrated. The bank's second reaction, following news of the lawsuit, was to shut down the counting machines permanently.

So a convenient parade of friendly customer service that had been in vogue all of TD's advertising is no longer so kind. That is, to change a few dollars worth of coins into the old one-dollar bills, and possibly give you three in coin so the teller still accept them. Or, use a super-sized coin machine, which will fill you quite a right about the percentage if you want cash. Good, as an anecdotal NJ *Advocate* *Money* story stated, the coin machines can be inaccurate, too.

No bank should cheat people. Not in a subtle scheme to cause change disputes that work accurately, and to ensure that it's the customer's loss. In TD's case, the suit by *Public Law* says that it's not so. The *News from around* has been different, of course, money.

It's lawsuits like this one that give our civil litigation system a bad name.

What makes us aware about the litigation wheels was filed last year was how little each member of the "class" of aggrieved customers were likely to get back, so the public at large has a reasonable idea of what's going on. The proposed settlement here is not likely to change this view.

The TD named plaintiffs in the suit include *Banking*, which is, after all, a TD name that has been changed.

For those of you who are not a TD customer, you'll have to file a claim form. You may qualify for up to \$500, but good luck with that if you haven't saved all your *Young Adults* money going back to 2011.

Regular TD customers whose history of coin machines are now to be resolved — if the compromised automatically — with a 26 percent of the change they get in. So if you exchanged \$500 in coins, and the settlement is approved, look for that cool 26-cent credit on your statement soon. Our advice is not to spend it all in one place.

What's it like been better for nearly everyone if TD had just said it was sorry, reopened the coin counter after fixing them, and in so doing that to make amends it was doing a right from now to start?

It's hard to see the case that gives us a right to sue you had come. Class action and other court mechanisms are vital to get companies to remove unsafe products and prevent them from knowingly defrauding customers. But, the TD suit is far removed from what might have been after *Charleston* for a stable *Carrollton* were killing people.

The lawsuit who filed the suit against TD's *Good* you sides. They'll collect \$1.3 million of the \$9 million settlement. In one of the changes that TD is making. *Banking* says that *Banking* will order that the \$1.3 million be paid out to cash — specifically, in the form of 26-cent coins.

Editorial Comment

Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE

Dave D'Alessandro
The Star-Ledger

Portfolio

Editorial

Punishment? House arrest in a mansion

The recent decision by the state's highest court to allow a judge to order a defendant to be held in a mansion as a form of house arrest is a step in the right direction. It is a step that should be taken more often.

The court's decision is a step in the right direction. It is a step that should be taken more often. It is a step that should be taken more often.

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In the end, former Port Authority Chairman David Samson not only got his Chairman's Flight, he got the chairman's flight from justice.

The decision is a step in the right direction. It is a step that should be taken more often. It is a step that should be taken more often.

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Editorial Comment

Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Alfred Doblin

The Record (Bergen County)

Portfolio

EDITORIAL



One of the 100 poles that will be removed in Mahwah that officials say are prohibited under the new law.

Mahwah goes wrong way in limiting eruv

Religious observance is guaranteed to the Free State of New Jersey. But when it comes to the right of Jews to observe their religious practices, Mahwah is not.

As a result of a New York-based Jewish community's lawsuit, Mahwah has ordered a New York-based Jewish community to remove its eruv from the town. The town's regulations do not prohibit such a removal, but Mahwah officials say it is a violation of the town's regulations.

The town's regulations do not prohibit the removal of the eruv. In fact, the town's regulations do not prohibit the removal of the eruv. In fact, the town's regulations do not prohibit the removal of the eruv.

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Editorial Comment

Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Randy Bergmann
 Asbury Park Press

Portfolio

4A SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2017

ASBURY PARK PRESS APP.COM



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 Noelle E. Towns, Executive Editor and Vice President/News
 Randy Bergmann, Editorial Page Editor

Established 1870
 Pulitzer Prize
 Winner 2008

Our View

Who will deliver on tax relief?

Few's a shocker: Property taxes went up in New Jersey last year. Despite all the talk from Gov. Chris Christie and state lawmakers last year about actually reducing property taxes, nothing was done — again.

We're tired of hearing the government boast about how high property taxes would have been if they grew at the rate they did during the decade before he took office seven years ago. That's ancient history. It was a different time and a totally different economic climate.

Last year's increase, according to a New Jersey 101.5 compilation of tax data, was 2.35 percent, the same as the previous year and the most since 2011. Increases in many towns, thanks to some gaping loopholes in the 2 percent property tax cap, were more than three times higher than that average increase.

The latest bit brought the average property tax bill in New Jersey to \$8,589 — \$296 higher than in 2015. And in more than one-fourth of New Jersey's 565 municipalities, the average residential property tax bill now exceeds \$10,000.

A 2.35 percent increase may not sound like much — unless you are already scraping to meet your payments with high large numbers of lower- and middle-income New Jerseyans are doing. Many have given up and headed to tax-friendly cities in the Carolinas, Florida, Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

Christie has gotten a lot of mileage out of the property tax cap he (and the Democrats) enacted during his first term. Tough medicine? For those economic times, not at all. Most states in financial distress took similar or even harsher measures. But none of the others had the highest property taxes



Trend of average property taxes (then do something about it!)

in the nation — a distinction New Jersey continues to hold. New Jersey not only has the highest average and median property tax, but the highest median property tax as a percentage of a home's value. In other words, taxes aren't high just because New Jersey has a high cost of living. It also should be noted that the states that rank second and third in that category, West Hampshire and Texas, don't have an income tax.

Responding to the latest property tax increase figures, recently speaker Vincent Prieto, D-Hudson, who has rarely even given lip service to the notion of reducing taxes, said this: "That's not acceptable. Our goal should be to cut property taxes, not just curtail the rate of growth."

He and every other state legislator — all of whom are running for re-election in November — and all of the go-

vernatorial candidates from both parties need to make that their mantra. And you, the overwhelmed taxpayer, must remind them, over and over again via email and phone calls, that if they want your vote, they need to pull out in data how they intend to fix the problem. The thought of losing an election tends to concentrate their minds.

Judging from the websites and Facebook pages of the major gubernatorial candidates, only one, Republican Assemblyman Jack Clayton, appears to have put any thought into how to cut taxes. Democratic frontrunner Phil Murphy doesn't include property taxes or tax reform as a drop-down item in his website's "agenda" section. He does, however, list a variety of things he wants to do that would put upward pressure on property taxes: increasing the minimum wage, mandating earned sick leave, expanding again) the

Earned Income Tax Credit, establishing a child and dependent care tax credit, "re-investing in our institutions of higher education and community colleges to make them affordable" and providing student loan relief for SLM employment. In short, very green but not, I think, the taxpayer.

Assemblyman John Wisniewski has yet to develop an issues section in his gubernatorial website. The only two tabs are "donate" and "volunteer." But his liberal voting record during his 20 years in the Assembly would seem to speak for itself on the property tax issue. State Sen. Roy Lesonski, who initially said he wasn't running for governor before doing a 180 last month, has yet to create a gubernatorial website, but he's a Democrat and he has been in Trenton for 38 years. Enough said.

On the Republican side, Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno lists lowering property taxes as one of three issues on her website. But there are no details on how she proposes to do that other than reforming the school funding formula. Her Facebook page doesn't include an issues section, but it does, however, allow you to sign up for a free download of her campaign theme song, "We the People," if you join her campaign.

In November, you have a chance to elect a whole new cast of characters in Trenton. Now is the time to insist that those who wear your vote — for governor, Assembly and Senate — apportion very specifically on their website, public forums and elsewhere what they are going to do to reduce your property tax bill. There is a shortage of ways to do it. All it takes is a commitment and some courage. By the time Election Day rolls around, make sure you know who is serious about giving you some relief.

Enterprise

Weekly, under 6,500

THIRD PLACE

Charles Toutant

New Jersey Law Journal

While Mosque Suits Proliferate, Lawyers Fear Retreat by Feds

While Mosque Suits Proliferate, Lawyers Fear Retreat by Feds

By Charles Toutant

Lawyers and municipalities are watching the Trump administration to see how strictly it applies a law that's increasingly been used to investigate allegations of religious discrimination targeting the construction of new mosques.

The U.S. Department of Justice has played a major role in enforcing the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act since its enactment in 2000, but some lawyers are contemplating what would happen if the government takes a lesser role

Continued on page 8



Enterprise

Weekly, under 6,500

SECOND PLACE

David Gialanella

New Jersey Law Journal

Two Years After Hospital Tax Ruling, Prognosis Still Uncertain



Enterprise

Weekly, under 6,500

FIRST PLACE

Caitlyn Bahrenburg

The Ocean Star

Brick neighbors fight to reclaim lagoon



COURTESY OF JOHN O'DONNELL

Nejecho Beach resident Buck Altavano demonstrated the shallow depth of the lagoon. Today, residents are fighting to dredge the waterway. View video on Starsnewsgroup.com.

Brick neighbors fight to reclaim lagoon

Shoaling has made lagoon impassable at Nejecho Beach

BY CAITLYN BAHRENBURG
THE OCEAN STAR

BRICK TOWNSHIP — Nejecho Beach resident John O'Donnell was once able to navigate his 29-foot boat through his neighborhood lagoon with ease.

But since Superstorm Sandy ravaged his community in 2012, flooding the area with more than 4 feet of water, shoaling has left the lagoon nearly impassable.

"We were getting in and out okay until after Sandy,"

Mr. O'Donnell said of the lagoon.

Today, Mr. O'Donnell said he can't even get his boat out of the lagoon during high tide.

In an attempt to access the mouth of the nearly 60-foot wide lagoon in 2012, Mr. O'Donnell's boat hit bottom, colliding with the nearby bulkhead and a neighbor's wrought iron fence. Mr. O'Donnell sustained a minor head injury during the crash.

Nearly 30 homes sit along the Nejecho Beach lagoon, a small, manmade waterway constructed just after World War II, which provides access to the Metedeoosk River.

Pre-Superstorm Sandy, the lagoon was approximately 5

"They're pointing the finger back and forth at each other, nobody wants to take responsibility."

JOHN O'DONNELL
Nejecho Beach resident

LOG ON TO VIEW VIDEO
starsnewsgroup.com

feet deep and easily navigable for boaters.

However, when Superstorm Sandy struck the small shore community off Manaloking Road, a shoal formed at the mouth of the waterway. Today, the opening

SEE LAGOON PAGE 21

Enterprise
Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE
Gina G. Scala
The SandPaper

**No Funding Relief for LBI
Tax Payers for Decade at
Least**

The SandPaper/Wednesday, June 14, 2017

CURRENTS

No Funding Relief For LBI Taxpayers For Decade at Least

60-Year-Old Southern Regional Pact Unfair

By GINA G. SCALA

New Jersey school funding + regional school districts + high property values = unfair. It's a formula so disproportionate it drew a nearly standing-room-only crowd to the Harvey Cedars Bible Conference chapel June 3 for a meeting to bolster a decades-old fight to change school funding for the Southern Regional School District. The meeting was hosted by the Joint Council of Taxpayers Association of Long Beach Island.

"New Jersey is a mess," Morris County based attorney Vito Gagliardi of the law firm Porzio, Bronberg and Newman said as he opened the two-hour meeting. "And if you're a member of a regional school district, it's a bigger mess."

Throw in high property values, the New Jersey born and bred Gagliardi said, and it's the worst kind of mess.

Southern Regional consists of seven constituent members: Stafford Township and the six Island communities of Barreget Light, Beach Haven, Harvey Cedars, Long Beach

Township, Shinnecock Bottom and Surf City. The cost to each municipality to educate its students is based on property value, not actual per-pupil cost. Waretown, which also sends its students to Southern Regional as a sending district, pays an annual tuition per student.

"It's a ridiculous structure," Gagliardi said, noting Stafford Township pays less than 20 percent of the costs associated with the school district, which educates students in grades seven through 12, but it holds a majority of the seats on the nine-member school board.

Gagliardi has successfully represented five municipalities, including Seaside Park, Avalon and Stone Harbor, in their quest to amend school funding in their communities. He is not new to the fight here on Long Beach Island and was part of the team that conducted the 2006 feasibility study - funded by Beach Haven and Long Beach Township - to investigate changing the Southern Regional school funding for Island taxpayers.

That effort didn't go anywhere.

Enterprise

Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Pat Johnson

The SandPaper

Taxi industry fighting to survive Uber

CURRENTS



Pat Johnson
NJPA 2017 Murray Rosenberg of *Enterprise* covers *Taxi Cab in Atlantic City*.

Taxi Industry Is Fighting to Survive Uber

City's Cab Medallions Worth Little to Nothing

Tuckerton resident Murray Rosenberg, president and owner of *Taxi Cab in Atlantic City*, is the city's assistant in a lawsuit to force Uber and Lyft ride-share drivers away from the city and stop them from operating in Atlantic City, claiming the drivers have unlawfully pocketed their fares by signing up at distances and getting locations of their customers.

But Rosenberg said it is the taxi industry that should be using the ride-sharing companies because they have an unfair operating advantage over taxi drivers, who must pay a \$5,000 license fee and require a \$10,000 cash bond to the city and a \$25,000 cash bond to the state. Uber drivers also have to pay a \$100,000 liability insurance. Taxi drivers also have to pay a \$100,000 liability insurance. Uber, in particular, does not require its drivers to have these checks, a policy factor that Rosenberg said is a safety factor that endangers his business. They also let's their own cars and do not need to pay liability insurance. The *Taxi Cab in Atlantic City* is suing Uber and Lyft.

Enterprise

Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE

Kristen Kelleher,

Eric Avedissian,

Craig Schenck, David

Nahan

Ocean City Sentinel

Opioid Epidemic

OCEAN CITY SENTINEL



SWIMMING PLAYOFFS



HOUSE OF THE WEEK



VOL. 115, NO. 44 SINCE 1890: HOMETOWN PEOPLE BRINGING YOU HOMETOWN NEWS 75 CENTS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2017

‘How could you live through that? But you do.’ Mother shares struggles of coping with son’s addiction, getting him help

Editor's note: The newspaper conducted in-person interviews, but the names have been changed to protect the identities of those involved.

By **KRISTEN KELLEHER**
Sentinel staff

CAPE MAY COUNTY - When a phone rings, Lisa still shakes inside. It's a residual affect from living a recovering addict.

Her son Matt's voice and an assurance that he is still doing well allows the shaking sensation to subside.

What it doesn't do is erase the



memory of countless other phone calls - calls from a hospital after her son overdosed, from Matt's friend when her son drank all of the alcohol in her home.

Her 28-year-old son is four years sober. He owns a fencing

company, rents a home about two hours north of his native Cape May County, and attends and leads Alcoholics Anonymous meetings.

Now, he is thriving. This success is preceded by years of darkness, what Lisa called a journey "to hell, from hell, and back."

She still worries about that misery becoming their lives again.

Lisa attends support group meetings for family members of loved ones struggling with addiction at Christians United for Recovery (CURR), an addiction recovery ministry through The

Lighthouse Church in Cape May Court House.

She said she has heard people speak about being clean for 10, 15 years, and then relapsing.

She can't understand that. "Why on Earth would you choose a chance at killing yourself?" she said.

‘How could you throw it away?’

Though she has lived with it, there are aspects of addiction she does not understand.

"Even to this day talking to people, I don't comprehend how

(substances) affect you.

How could you possibly do that? You have everything in life. How could you throw it away?" she asked.

She answers her own question. "It's just the drug itself," Lisa said. "Some people can't control it."

Her son is one of those people. Lisa raised her family in Cape May County.

For a while, "life was wonderful."

They were "the absolute perfect family" - a husband, wife

See **Mother Shares**, page A11

Enterprise
Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Isaac Avilucea
The Trentonian

Portfolio

EDUCATION

Arbitrator vindicates Trenton teacher of 'time theft'

By Isaac Avilucea
@isavilucea2218-antonio-juni-
dia.com
isavilucea@trentonian.com

TRENTON — Michael Coe went through the ringer for \$63.

That's the short of a complicated and nuanced tale involving Trenton's tenured teacher, rung up on fabricated time theft charges and exonerated by an arbitrator, and one of his former students whose family is suing the state Department of Education and Trenton Board of Education because their sick son wasn't given a proper education and "fell through the cracks."

The boy, identified only by his initials, S.E., in documents, suffered from Proctus Syndrome, a rare disorder that causes disfiguring tissue overgrowth, which often landed him at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

The condition sometimes made the boy home-bound and required him to receive home instruction. The boy grew attached to Coe, who was his home instructor for five years until he was reassigned without explanation.

The 16-year-old boy died in May, and his family filed a federal lawsuit against Trenton's BOE, accusing it of violating the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act — concerns that had previously been raised by two local groups.

The boy's situation is intimately connected to the travails of Coe, a teacher who has been with the Trenton school district for 17 years. He was suspended without pay in February following an internal audit that uncovered alleged time theft.

The school board tried to fine Coe over more than three dozen instances over two years in which it claimed there were inconsistencies in his timesheets.

The board said the long-time teacher, who was assigned extra-duty assignments, had "failed to account" for breaks and was double dipping by getting paid for multiple assignments at once.

His timesheets appeared to show he was either lying to school officials or had cloned himself, appearing to be in two places at once, the school district said. But basic facts were missing from the 47-page decision, such as how much time and money the district alleged Coe stole.

An arbitrator cleared Coe of the charges in November and ruled he be reinstated with "full back pay, benefits, and emoluments."

"The Board had not sustained the tenure charges of conduct unbefitting and/or other just cause against Respondent Michael Coe. The charges are dismissed in their entirety," arbitrator Robert C. Gifford wrote.

Coe offered to repay the board \$63 for "errors," he admitted he had made on timesheets in August 2011 and March and October 2011.

Trenton school union officials criticized the district for going after Coe and noted the windfall for the law firm that represented the school district in the Coe matter is more than \$63.

"That's all the board does is waste money," Trenton Education Association President Naomi Johnson-Lafleur said.

The district refused to answer questions about Coe, who is back at work but still waiting for his payout.

"I have been informed the case is still in active litigation," spokeswoman Ali Robinson-Rogers said. "Out of respect for the confidentiality of our employees, we will not be discussing the



Michael Coe, a tenured Trenton Public Schools teacher, was cleared by an arbitrator who ruled he didn't steal time as the school district alleged.

details of the case at this time."

Robbing the District

The \$83 decision was a costly one for the school district, which had to pay the law firm of school district general counsel Perry Lattiboudere to litigate the Coe matter.

Teaching union officials called it a "conflict of interest" for Lattiboudere, a named partner at Newark-based Adams, Guterrez & Lattiboudere, to serve as the district's general counsel.

School officials couldn't provide a figure of how much the district spent on the Coe matter but records reviewed by The Trentonian show a steady stream of money being funneled to Lattiboudere's firm.

The newspaper found

unsubstantiated," the attorney said.

Coe makes roughly \$7,088 a month before taxes. Multiplying that by the unpaid four months, the payout owed to Coe is at least \$28,355 and likely more.

Johnson-Lafleur said the school district took a financial bloodbath to pursue a "trivolous and retaliatory" case.

"Over \$63, how much do you think they spent?" she asked. "It's crazy what they do."

When asked about the legal fees paid to Lattiboudere's law firm, the TEA president said the firm was "robbing the district blind."

Coe's attorney said the board should be spending money on the students of Trenton rather than legal fees.

"You're not going to get an argument from me," he said. "I can't get into the mind of the board decision makers."

The Decision

The district threw the book at Coe, accusing him of "willful and intentional conduct" of submitting made-up payroll records. They used words like "falsified timesheets," "committed theft of time, services, and public funds." The district said Coe engaged in "inappropriate and unprofessional conduct" that violated law and board policy.

Looking to fire him, the board said the teacher's actions were "sufficiently flagrant and egregious" and he was unfit to be a teacher.

Coe, a special education teacher at Joyce Kilmer Middle School, was suspended without pay a day after the board voted at a closed-door meeting Feb. 27 6-0 that there was probable cause to support tenure charges.

Before the charges, Coe

had never received a negative performance evaluation, had been rated highly and was well-liked by students, including the boy whose parents are suing the school district.

The boy's mother testified about the impact Coe had on her son at the hearing before the arbitrator.

"My son had a great deal of love for Mr. Coe," she said. "So did we. He counted on Mr. Coe to come every Monday through Friday to teach him. ... They even named each other nicknames. When Mr. Coe didn't come, he got into depression because he couldn't get next to him. He couldn't call him. He couldn't see him. So he questioned us but we couldn't tell him. Trying to protect his feelings. Before my son died he wanted Mr. Coe — he got his allowance and he wanted Mr. Coe to come — or us to call him so he could come and take him to lunch. We told Mr. Coe couldn't come. He got mad. He went in his room and a week later he died."

The school district was concerned about Coe's alleged actions because a previous audit from the 2007 and 2008 school years had revealed "home instructors were basically fronting the district with false documentation and timesheets," Jayne Howard, the board's business administrator and secretary, testified at the hearing.

The audit revealed duplicated and inflated hours submitted by several home instructors. Disciplinary actions were initiated against some of the home instructors, Howard said.

Coe was not among home instructors targeted by the previous audit, the arbitrator said.

Howard felt the state would audit the school district again soon so she had

TEACHER • PAGE 5

Enterprise

Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Kelly Kultys

Burlington County Times

Opioid epidemic grips county

Burlington County Times
Friday, October 13, 2017
\$1.00

Saving lives, reducing crime

PHOTO: JAMES J. GILBERT FOR THE BURLINGTON COUNTY TIMES
A man in a blue shirt and sunglasses walks past a man in a red shirt who is talking on a cell phone. They are walking on a sidewalk in front of a building with corrugated metal siding.

ADDICTION: COMBATING A CRISIS
A look at the epidemic. County officials, law enforcement and community groups are working to reduce the number of deaths and hospitalizations caused by the epidemic.

What's to come
The county is working to reduce the number of deaths and hospitalizations caused by the epidemic. Officials are working to reduce the number of deaths and hospitalizations caused by the epidemic.

BLIMP looking to expand its reach
The blimp is looking to expand its reach. It is currently flying over the county and is expected to fly over the county for several more days.

Enterprise

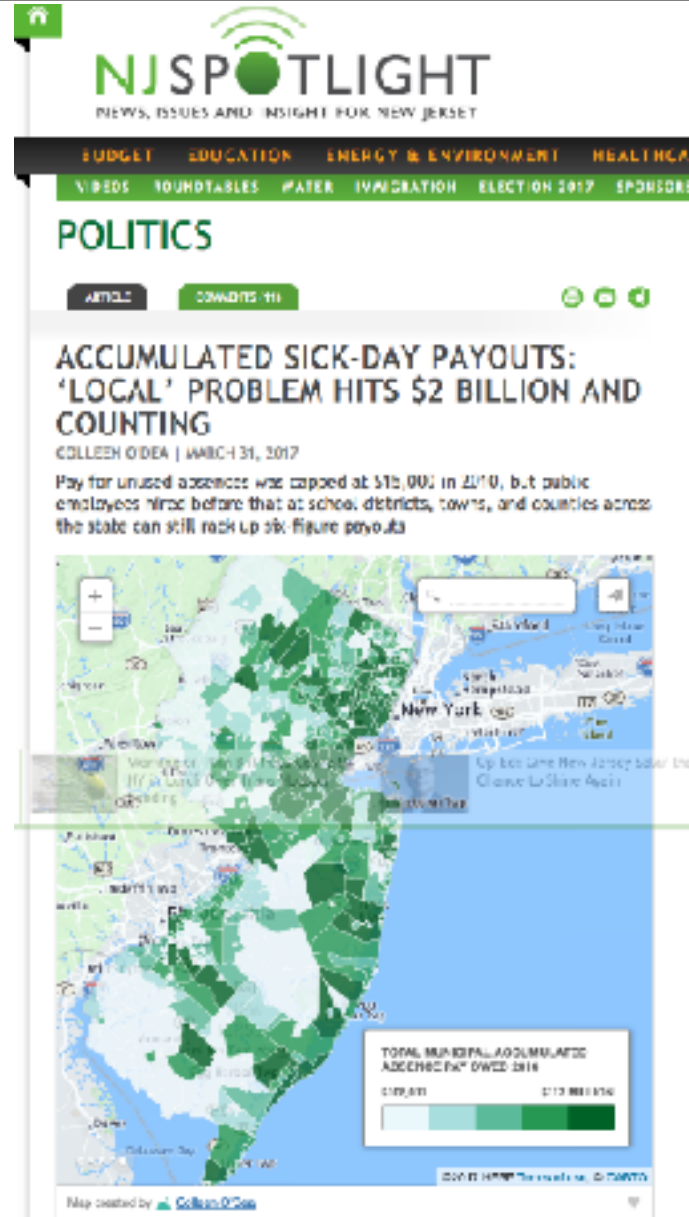
Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE

Colleen O'Dea

NJ Spotlight

**Accumulated Sick-Day Payouts: "Local"
Problem Hits \$2 billion and counting**



Enterprise

Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Matthew Stanmyre,

Steve Politi

The Star-Ledger

Escape from Eastside High

PHOTOGRAPH

H.S. hoops team with players from afar raises questions at home



PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE POLITI FOR THE STAR-LEDGER. A basketball player from the Newark Eastside High School team is seen on the court during a game. The player, who is from Nigeria, is seen in the foreground, while other players and spectators are visible in the background.

Guardianship of six athletes from Puerto Rico, Nigeria murky at best

By Steve Politi and Matthew Stanmyre

A basketball player from Nigeria, who is currently in the custody of the Newark Eastside High School basketball team, has a murky future. The player, who is currently in the custody of the Newark Eastside High School basketball team, has a murky future. The player, who is currently in the custody of the Newark Eastside High School basketball team, has a murky future.

"It's absolutely ridiculous what's going on in this state. It's winning a state championship that's important to people's lives that you'd have six kids living with you? I don't care if you give me LeBron James, Kevin Durant and Chris Paul, they're not living with me."

**First Amendment
Award**

Weekly, under 6,500

THIRD PLACE

None awarded

First Amendment Award

Weekly, under 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Brett Ainsworth

The Retrospect

Missing Public Notice Underscores Need for Publication

Missing Public Notice Underscores Need for Publication

by Brett Ainsworth

An accidental oversight means the Audubon Board of Education meeting violated New Jersey's Open Public Meetings Act at its December 13 meeting, said district business administrator Robert Delengowski this week. By

New Jersey statute the meeting date, changed from the originally scheduled December 21 date, should have been published as a public notice but was not.

Reporter Bethany Mitros

(Continued on page 2)

First Amendment Award

Weekly, under 6,500

FIRST PLACE

Jay Cook

The Two River Times

Government Transparency Reinforced by OPRA Decision

Government Transparency Reinforced By OPRA Decision

Story and photo by Jay Cook

A STATE SUPREME Court decision last week reaffirmed what many Sunshine Law advocates have known as gospel for years: email records are public records.

After years of banging among New Jersey courtrooms, Open Public Record Act (OPRA) activists were afforded a win with the John Paff v. Galloway Township decision on June 20, which found that emails are deemed information stored electronically, lawfully falling under state OPRA guidelines.

"(This decision) puts New Jersey in the vanguard in terms of access to electronic records," said Walter M. Luers, the attorney who represented Paff throughout the litigation. "It puts us right in the 21st century."

On June 28, 2013, Paff filed

an OPRA request with Galloway Township, Atlantic County, seeking information from emails sent between the township's clerk and chief of police. In the request, Paff highlighted the terms "sender," "recipient," "date," and "subject."

His request was ultimately denied, with Galloway Township claiming that fulfilling the OPRA request would mean creating a new record, as some courts have said is not permitted through OPRA.

Paff's case won at trial court, though was eventually overturned by the Appellate Division. That court found creating an email log with requested information would indeed be creating a new record.

When researching the case,

Continued on Page 6

**First Amendment
Award**

Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE

None awarded

First Amendment Award

Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Rick Mellerup

The SandPaper

'MTV Beach House' to be Set on LBI, Shot in Loveladies

14 CURRENTS 'MTV Beach House' To Be Set on LBI, Shot in Loveladies

The SandPaper / Wednesday, June 7, 2017

Private Concert at Bayview Park This Week

MTV is busy on Long Beach Island. On Thursday, the channel announced in a press release that it would be moving its "MTV Beach House" show, which was a hit in the 1990s. What MTV didn't announce was the program is being shot on LBI.

"MTV and MTV Live! Spiked Lamentable today announced," reads the press release. "And they will bring back on music 'MTV Beach House' for a new generation of fans. MTV channel, Adult News (90's Hit) and City Channel (70's Hit) and Chris Brown (90's Hit) will host the all-star beach party from a hidden-out 50s-themed beach house located at the famed Jersey Shore. The newest iteration of the ultimate summer party will play out on-air and in-person, with exclusive behind-the-scenes and all-access beach House content across MTV, Comedy Central and Spike social and digital channels throughout the month of June and showcase like New York's

Excesses. The festivities kick off June 8 with the first-ever MTV Beach House (90's Hit), featuring headliners Miley Cyrus, Katy Perry, and more."

The SandPaper has revealed that after a weekend festival concert will take place on Long Beach Township's Bayview Park, Monmouth. The show itself will be shot at an undisclosed home in the Long Beach neighborhood of the township.

Last week, The SandPaper had learned that Long Beach Island hotels had booked off rooms of rooms for MTV, between June 7 and June 9, to accommodate the MTV press release, and sending a connection, it immediately reached out to MTV for comment but received no response.

But Jon Adams, the head of the Long Beach Township Bayview Park & Recreation Department, told The SandPaper on Friday afternoon that a "private event" would be taking place at the park on Thursday June 8. Upon further questioning, she said she had been dealing with someone, the parent



Adams' photo
SHOW This week's music festival featuring Miley Cyrus, Katy Perry and other bands is closed to the public. The location, in an area enclosed, is a rather secluded Loveladies location, but the show photo has been confirmed as the photo.

company of MTV for the right to use the park. Originally Adams said a conversation would be held at the park but, later said that commercial would include footage from a concert.

"The park," she said, "will be closed to the public on Wednesday for setup, Thursday for the concert, and on Friday for breakdown... for a while." She added that one lane of traffic in front of the park would be closed to accommodate the event; but a second the Boulevard would not be closed to traffic.

Adams also stressed, reportedly, that the concert was a private event and that Long Beach Township was not promoting it. Indeed, the township, which is quick to notify the public via electronic roadway signs about events such as expected bus water pressure due to water main drilling or upcoming roadway work, had given the public no warning of the event.

Adams said the public would not be allowed to attend the concert, instead attendees would be limited to ticket holders selected by MTV. She didn't know the time of the festival-concert/concert on Thursday, but online sites now say it will kick off at 10:30 p.m.

"There can never be a concert ticket to the MTV Beach House festival by following MTV on Twitter and requesting designated transportation tickets starting today," says the MTV press release. In fact, though, a website called Project Casting has a post reading "MTV is now looking for people to go to the MTV BEACH HOUSE 2017 in Jersey Shore, New Jersey... People who are selected will be able to listen to music, watch comedy, receive bus government and free food!"

Long Beach Township Chief of Police Anthony DeLuca said on Twitter:

First Amendment Award

Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE

Al Sullivan

The Jersey City Reporter

Loose lips sink bids

Reports: Loose talk sinks bids

Political tongues wag over accidentally-recorded voicemail between Fulop officials

By Al Sullivan
Reporter and writer

A pending court decision regarding an ex-employee's 2012 lawsuit against the city has political tongues wagging during the current mayoral election.

In depositions taken last month as part of the 2015 suit, two city employees said they felt intimidated into shooting a bid from particular energy consultant. They also said that a voicemail recording inadvertently captured two other key members of the Fulop administration discussing the choice.

The main issue that has emerged as a political story is unrelated to the cause of the initial lawsuit, in which the former employee alleged a hostile work environment. But administration opponents seem to think these depositions reflect how city business may have gone behind the scenes at that time, when choosing vendors.

Depositions given last month by Dominick Prud'homme, an employee of Jersey City, and Robert Kalkotek, business administrator, said that a voicemail left on Kalkotek's phone by Mayor Steve Fulop's then chief of staff several years ago accidentally captured, in the background, two close aides to Fulop discussing possibly influencing the hiring of a particular consultant.

Late last week, Civ. IC, a community activist group with ties to Fulop's challenger for re-election, former Jersey City Corporation Counsel Neil Matkoculis, called on Mayor Fulop to release the tape. The group's director, Esther Winner, is a



AN INSIDERS VIEW — A phone message may prove an inside view as to how some former associates of Mayor Steve Fulop may have operated.

candidate for council on the Matkoculis side.

The recording was apparently made in February, 2014 after the mayor's then chief of staff, Muhammad Ali had left the message for Kalkotek but failed to hang up his telephone.

The motion filed by attorney Gregory B. Noble seeks to force Jersey City to release the voicemail. Noble's law firm represents the plaintiff in the hostile environment lawsuit whose prime target is city director Anthony Cruz, who figured into the depositions of Kalkotek and Prud'homme.

Undue influence on the selection process?

Prud'homme is supervising administrative affairs who works in the business administrator's office at

see **TAPE** page 4

First Amendment
**Art Weissman
Memorial Award**

Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE

Staff

The Trentonian

Prior Restraint fight

FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2017

CHILD CUSTODY

DCPP failed to protect child who took drugs to school, docs reveal

TRENTONIAN STAFF REPORT

TRENTON — A state agency entrusted with making sure children are protected in New Jersey “dropped the ball” by allowing a city boy to remain with relatives after the first time he was found with drugs at school last year, legal experts said.

Father soon immediately places the boy in foster care, the Department of Children and Families (DCF), which has been under the watch of



Merger County Courthouse in Trenton

court documents obtained by The case involving the Trentonian

failure to act after the 5-year-old boy was found with drugs the first time at school. It also raises questions about authorities’ decision to charge the boy’s father in connection with the heroin incident. The complaint appears to exonerate the boy’s father as police admitted they believed the heroin may have come from another man.

A prominent city activist who is friends with the family and has mentored the boy disagreed with DCPP’s decision

caused with child incarceration two years ago and his father has four active criminal cases in Trenton and spent time in prison after reaching a plea agreement with prosecutors stemming from charges that he was an accomplice to murder in 2005.

The Complaint

Before any of the drug incidents, the child was in the custody of the grandmother, family

THE TRENTONIAN | NEWS | 3

ly members told The Trentonian.

When The Trentonian published an initial story Sept. 19 about the Trenton kindergarten being found with drugs at school, it asked a police spokesman whether the boy had been taken to a state custody center or contacted with his parents.

The Trenton Police spokesman, Lt. Stephen Varr, declined to answer the question. The newspaper later found out from an interview with Ford that the boy was reunited with his grandmother, Christine Woodard. Woodard was given “temporary residential custody” of the boy on Sept. 20, according to court documents, even after he was found by a teacher at school Sept. 12 with packets of heroin wrapped in gum wrapper.

DCPP » PAGE 20

First Amendment
Art Weissman
Memorial Award
 Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE
Eric Obernauer
 New Jersey Herald

High Point's Ripley
 criticized as pay hike
 shelved

High Point's Ripley criticized as pay hike is shelved

By ERIC OBERNAUER
 eobernauer@njherald.com

After sending out mixed signals over the weekend about the prospect of an early contract extension and pay increase for Superintendent Scott Ripley, officials of the High Point Regional High School District stated Wednesday that the proposal has definitely been removed from consideration for now.

If approved, the proposal would have given Ripley — whose current contract does not expire until July 2019 — what would have amounted to a two-year extension and a pay hike retroactive to nearly 18 months ago.

The acknowledgment that the proposal is now off the table, which High Point Board President Betsy Volney confirmed Wednesday in a text message, follows what was said to have been a heated closed-door discussion about the matter Tuesday among High Point's board

members prior to their reconvening for their regularly scheduled public meeting.

The High Point board's handling of the matter, including its earlier plans to approve the contract extension without the state's legally required 30-day notice and public hearing, appears to be the latest issue of contention between the High Point administration and at least two of the four K-8 districts from which High Point draws its students, both of whose board presidents publicly chastised the High Point administration Tuesday night.

Bob Heiden, president of the K-8 Sussex/Warpage Board of Education, said that in light of "major cuts" and layoffs approved by the High Point board earlier this year, "we're asking everybody to do more with less, and we have to lead by example — and that goes right from the top to the bottom."

"I understand the necessity to continue your day-to-day business" including filing immediate recom-

mendations such as a memo or classroom teacher, Heiden said. "But when a superintendent's contract expires over a year from now, the necessity isn't there to encumber a future board."

Heiden's comments were backed by Amber Simons, a fellow member of the Sussex-Warpage board, who questioned the timing of the contract extension and then its removal.

"Waiting events that have transpired over the past year, I have come to the educated conclusion that something's not right here," Simons said. "Just the fact that this contract was there, then it's gone and it disappeared — it all seems very shady."

Simons also made indirect reference to a High Point board member — Deborah Anderson — having previously stepped down in July 2014 so Anderson's daughter could be hired, and then returning to the High Point board and voting two months later to approve an earlier

contract extension and raise for Ripley that he received in September 2014.

The Sussex-Warpage board enacted an enhanced nepotism policy for this purpose two years ago that went beyond the state's prohibition on hiring relatives of current board members. Under Sussex-Warpage's policy, the district now requires a "cooling off" period of nine months after a board member's term of office ends before that member's relatives may be considered for employment.

Anderson, addressing her role on the High Point board, indicated in a phone conversation Wednesday that she has since been informed by High Point's board attorney that it is a conflict of interest for her under the state's school ethics law for her to be involved in any further deliberations affecting the employment of her daughter's supervisors, including Ripley, and stated unambiguously that she will no longer do so.

Simons, however, questioned the fact that conflicted board members could still take part in other personnel matters — including the layoff of 17 High Point employees in the spring, none of which included Anderson's daughter.

"When you look at it from the eyes of the public, it doesn't look good," Simons said.

The K-8 Montague School District appears to be having its own difficulties with High Point — even after it appointed a new board president and a new chief school administrator earlier this year.

Glen Plosky, the Montague board president, indicated recently that he has been attempting to improve cooperation between the districts, "not to fight but just so we're communicating." But at Tuesday's meeting, Plosky suggested to the High Point board that its representatives have not been cooperating. "I just want to be able to talk to

See HIGH POINT, Page A8

First Amendment
Art Weissman
Memorial Award
Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Lori Comstock, David
Danzis
New Jersey Herald

County pays \$150k to
settle ex-inmate's
lawsuit

County settles suit over jail inmate beating

By LORI COMSTOCK
lcomstock@njherald.com

A settlement has been reached between the county and a former Sussex County jail inmate who filed a lawsuit alleging he was severely beaten by three other inmates in an attack arranged by a corrections officer. The victim was left to die in his own blood and was refused medical treatment for 12 hours, according to a lawsuit filed on April 29, 2015.

Details of the settlement have not yet been released pending its execution, according to sources.

The lawsuit was filed in state Superior Court in Newton by Sports attorney Jeffrey Pitt on behalf of Robert Woodruff, of Warren. It named various officials in their individual and official capacities as defendants, including Sheriff Mike Strada, then-Undersheriff Homer Wamsler, the then-jail warden — who was not named in the suit — and other corrections officers and inmates.

Strada, Freeholder Director Carl Luzzaro, John Williams, who represented Woodruff during his burglary case and is now county counsel, and Gregory Poff, county administrator, declined comment on Thursday.

The lawsuit states that Woodruff, who was sentenced in March 2013 to a four-year state prison term after pleading guilty to his involvement in a rash of burglaries in

incarcerated at the Keogh-Dwyer Correctional Facility — allegedly against orders of and unbeknownst to a Sussex County judge — and had been the victim of a “hit” arranged by then-Sussex County Corrections Officer Leslie Port.

Port, the lawsuit states, was one of the victims of Woodruff’s burglaries.

The lawsuit states a judge had issued a writ to lodge Woodruff in the Warren County jail until his sentencing due to the fact that Port was a victim of Woodruff’s crime. Woodruff was lodged in Warren County up to and even after his sentencing, but was transported to the Sussex County jail on April 26, 2013, for “processing and housing despite the fact a court had ordered (Woodruff) to be lodged in the Warren County jail,” according to the lawsuit.

The lawsuit claims that the named defendants arranged for Woodruff to be taken to Keogh-Dwyer from Warren County.

Lodged in the Sussex County jail on the fifth floor, cell 516, the lawsuit states, the defendants left Woodruff alone in his cell with the door open.

It is then alleged that three inmates — “purposefully arranged” by said defendants — entered the cell and “intentionally commenced to inflict a savage beating on (Woodruff), causing severe and permanent injuries and

First Amendment **Art Weissman Memorial Award**

Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE Jean Rimbach, Hannan Adely The Record (Bergen County)

Charter schools under scrutiny

SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

INTERNATIONAL INTRIGUE SURROUNDS EXPANDING CHARTER SCHOOL GROUP

Leaders, founders of New Jersey campuses
linked to controversial Turkish cleric



IAN BRADY
PHOTOGRAPHY
BY IAN BRADY

A network of charter schools has grown from 100 to 1,000 in the last decade, according to a report by the NJPA. The report says that some of the schools are linked to a controversial Turkish cleric, Fethullah Gulen, who is accused of orchestrating a global network of schools. The report also says that the schools are often operated by individuals who have ties to Gulen.

The report says that the schools are often operated by individuals who have ties to Gulen. It also says that the schools are often operated by individuals who have ties to Gulen. The report also says that the schools are often operated by individuals who have ties to Gulen.

The FORBES Report



- The report says that the schools are often operated by individuals who have ties to Gulen.
- The report also says that the schools are often operated by individuals who have ties to Gulen.
- The report also says that the schools are often operated by individuals who have ties to Gulen.



Fethullah Gulen, founder of the Hizmet movement, is accused of orchestrating a global network of schools. He is also accused of orchestrating a global network of schools.

First Amendment
Art Weissman
Memorial Award
Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Curtis Tate
The Record (Bergen County)
NJ Transit Investigation



The Record
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK
NORTHJERSEY.COM

NJ Transit in 'peril,' ex-officer says

Executive director rejects comments, says safety system deadline will likely be met

CURTIS TATE
STAFF WRITER, NJRECORDS

NJ Transit's former chief compliance officer said Friday that the agency "is in great peril" and will likely fail to meet a December 2018 deadline to install a safety system that could have prevented last year's fatal crash in Hoboken.

Todd Barretta, who was fired this month, told lawmakers in a hearing in Trenton that agency leaders consistently tried to suppress his warnings about safety and cultural problems and said Executive Director Steve Santoro is not qualified to lead the agency.

In his testimony to the Senate Legislative Oversight and Assembly Judiciary committees, Barretta painted a picture of an agency with a baked-in resistance to change that retaliated against employees who spoke up about misconduct. The agency showed little tolerance for his own efforts to question its culture, he said.

See DEADLINE, Page 6A

COMING SUNDAY
Not just oil trains
CSX railroad won't disclose its progress on installing a collision-avoidance system required by Congress nine years ago, saying the information is "confidential, proprietary and security sensitive."

Best story originating from a
legally required

Public Notice

Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE

No award given

Best story originating from a
legally required

Public Notice

Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Lori Comstock

New Jersey Herald

Frankford rescinds bid to
kill construction

Hundreds turn out at Frankford meeting on construction office



Former Frankford Mayor Gary Larson stands at a head of a line of people waiting to comment at a Frankford Township Committee meeting on Tuesday at Frankford Township Middle School in Frankford.

By LORI COMSTOCK
lcomstock@njherald.com

FRANKFORD — Former Mayor Gary Larson took to the microphone Tuesday evening in front of nearly 300 people, including an armed New Jersey State Police officer, and expressed his disappointment in a Township Committee he once was part of.

"We sat together for six years, Sam, and though we didn't always agree, we made a commitment to transparency and good government," Larson said to Sam Costanzo, one of three members of the Frankford Township Committee, at the meeting in the Frankford Township Middle School gymnasium.

What was to be a regularly scheduled meeting inside the township's municipal building was moved to the Frankford Middle School due to an anticipated large turnout.

"What you did on April 11 was neither," Larson said. "Last time a meeting was moved to a larger venue was in 2009. That time, we stood together to put an end to the shenanigans going on right now."

Larson was one of more than two dozen people who addressed the Township Committee, many citing their disappointment of a "surprise" ordinance introduced during a regularly scheduled meeting on April 11.

At that meeting, Deputy Mayor Ed Radon and Committeeman Sam Costanzo voted in favor of moving forward on an ordinance that, if adopted on Tuesday evening, would eliminate the Frankford Township Construction Department, and with it, five paid positions.

Discussions went late into the evening.

See **FRANKFORD**, Page A2

Best story originating from a legally required

Public Notice

Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE

David Danzis, Katie Moen
New Jersey Herald

Green residents question plans for treatment facility

YOUR TOWN

newsroom@njherald.com New Jersey Sunday Herald | njherald.com Sunday, April 30, 2017 | A7

Ambrosia Treatment Centers eyeing Green

Would build substance abuse treatment facility on Pequest Road

By David DANZIS
ddanzis@njherald.com

GREEN — The township Land Use Board has received an application for a property on Pequest Road which, if approved, would permit the operation of a high-end injection substance abuse treatment facility.

Ambrosia Real Estate of North Jersey LLC filed an application on March 6 seeking a conditional use variance, or in the alternative, a use variance, permitting the operation of an approximately 20-bed treatment facility. The application had not been placed on an upcoming board agenda as of Friday afternoon, but a technical review committee did briefly review the application on March 30, according to meeting minutes. On April 13, a site visit of the proposed location at 70 Pequest Road was attended by members of the board and about 60 residents.

The applicant is part of an affiliated group of facilities known as Ambrosia Treatment Centers, of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. Ambrosia operates a state licensed facility in Medford (Burlington County) in addition to three in Florida and one in Beverly Hills, Calif.

The Medford location is a New Jersey Alliance of Recovery Residences certified residence.

According to a statement required to accompany the application, the dormitory facility would be an additional 15,000- to 18,000-square-foot residence on the property. The residential structure located on the 444-acre property would remain and serve as the primary site of care and treatment facility, according to Ambrosia Real Estate of North Jersey LLC's

See **AMBROSIA**, Page A8

Photo by David Danzis for the Herald

Recently, members of the Green Township Land Use Board and about 60 township residents toured a possible site for a substance abuse treatment center on Pequest Road.

Best story originating from a legally required

Public Notice

Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE

S.P. Sullivan

The Star-Ledger

Trooper makes deal,
avoids jail

The Star-Ledger

\$1.50 ESSEX COUNTY EDITION

AFFILIATED WITH **nj.com**

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2017

STATE POLICE

Trooper makes deal, avoids jail

Detective allegedly intoxicated in '09 crash set to have charges dropped in Dec., now seeking disability pension

S.P. Sullivan For The Star-Ledger

After State Police Detective Sgt. William Billingham smashed his unmarked car into an SUV on a state highway in Camden County in 2009, he told his fellow troopers he fell asleep at the wheel.

They never tested him for alcohol and took down a fake name from the detective's undercover ID on police reports, keeping the other driver in the dark.

An internal investigation later found Billingham had a blood-alcohol level three times the legal limit. When the scandal became public, it sparked a crackdown on DWI investigations involving troopers and a big, taxpayer-funded lawsuit settlement.

But records obtained by NJ Advance Media show that, years after the story receded from the spotlight, the trooper struck a court deal in December allowing him to avoid jail time — or even a guilty plea — and is now seeking a disability pension.

Billingham was the subject of a 2011 Star-Ledger investigation that found the victim of the crash, Clayton Tankley, spent the months afterward chasing a ghost, filing insurance claims and hiring a private investigator to find a man who didn't exist.

SEE TROOPER, 6



Clayton Tankley's SUV was heavily damaged after he was rear-ended by State Police Trooper William Billingham, right. An investigation found Billingham had a blood-alcohol level three times the legal limit. Star-Ledger file photo.

RESPONSIBLE JOURNALISM

Best story originating from a
legally required

Public Notice

Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Sarah Nolan, Keldy Ortiz,

Kristie Cattafi

The Record (Bergen County)

Satin Dolls

Satin Dolls could be sold

Liquor license will be transferred

Sarah Nolan
North Jersey Record
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

LODI - Liquor licenses for the borough's famed Satin Dolls and its Seacucus subsidiary, A.J.'s Gentleman's Club, may soon change hands, after state authorities said earlier this month that the strip joints must relinquish their liquor licenses because they were being run by a convicted racketeer.

Two companies have applied to take over liquor licenses for the clubs. Councilman Vincent Martin is partnering with Joseph Fallonetti for ownership of the Seacucus location. Fallonetti has applied separately for ownership of the Lodi bar.

Martin said Friday that should the purchases be approved by the state Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, he would have "absolutely nothing to do with the Lodi establishment" and would recuse himself from not only any matter involving the Lodi club, but any liquor license matter that comes before the Borough Council.

"There's no relationship between my governing body position in Lodi, a Bergen County town, and my intent of purchasing a liquor license in Seacucus, in Hudson County," he said. "One has nothing to do with the other. They would be owned by two separate entities."

Satin Dolls garnered fame after it served as the location for the fictional Bedu-Bling! go-go bar in "The Sopranos," where mobster Tony Soprano and his friends routinely held business

See LICENSE, Page 3L

Best story originating from a
legally required

Public Notice

Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Jim Walsh

Courier-Post

State to restore
Cramer Hill riverfront

State to restore Cramer Hill riverfront



Discarded tanks litter a forest that blocks access to the Delaware River near Camden's Cramer Hill neighborhood. JIM WALSH/COURIER-POST

DEP's plan calls for site
to be used for recreation

Jim Walsh
Courier-Post
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

CAMDEN — A long-hidden vista here could be coming into view.

The state Department of Environmental Protection is launching an ambitious project to restore the waterfront along the Delaware and Cooper rivers in the city's Cramer Hill neighborhood.

Workers also will cap the former Harrison Avenue landfill, allowing the long-hidden spot to be used for recreational purposes, according to information from the DEP.

The agency expects it will cost about \$25 million to restore a 62-acre tract

near the Salvation Army Knox Center. The 120,000-square-foot community center opened three years ago on a restored section of the landfill near Harrison and State Street.

The planned project is to include a 2-acre fishing pond near Harrison Avenue and East State Street, according to a notice to potential contractors.

About 5 acres of forested land will be preserved "as bald eagle forage areas," it adds.

Public-use elements could include trails, an amphitheater, a kayak launch and exercise stations in an area that's now largely inaccessible.

The project "will give the public its first waterfront access to this area of Camden in nearly 70 years," said the

See RIVER, Page 3A

Public Service

**Lloyd P. Burns
Memorial Award**

Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE

None awarded

Public Service
Lloyd P. Burns
 Memorial Award
 Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Erika Norton
 Sparta Independent

Opioid crisis



Public Service
Lloyd P. Burns
Memorial Award
Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Al Sullivan
The Jersey City Reporter

Portfolio

Fulop: I'll defend our immigrants against Trump *President pledges to crack down on 'sanctuary cities'*

By Al Sullivan
Reporter and writer

During his first week in office, Donald Trump said he'll crack down on immigrants who may have entered the United States illegally, including those in designated "sanctuary cities" in the United States. In response, Mayor Steven Fulop said Jersey City will join a number of other nationwide that will resist Trump's executive order despite the threat of losing federal funding.

"We intend to stand by our principles and values as a city," Fulop said. "Jersey City was founded as a city of immigrants, and we are unwilling to be part of orders that break families apart or harm immigrants who are in this country."

Thirty-six cities around the country have designated themselves "sanctuary cities" whose local police are told not to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement unless suspects are involved in criminal activity. Jersey City is not one of them, but Fulop said that he would resist efforts of federal officials to investigate people living here for immigration violations.

City Council President Antonio Luvarro also appointed local people to oversee a new committee on immigrants' affairs last week (see brief).

Jersey City has an estimated 23,000 people who could be targeted, according to city officials, who based that figure on information from Family Services and other agencies.

Trump signed order on Jan. 25 that would strip federal grants from cities that fail to cooperate with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Trump and the GOP campaigned on the promise that they would expand efforts to investigate illegal immigrants.



Mayor Steven Fulop

Immigrants come to the United States for various reasons, some escaping unrest in places like Central America or Syria, some for a better life. Once here, they may have children or meet up with family members. Local officials are concerned that families that contain both documented immigrants and those who are undocumented may be split up, especially while some may be working to stay here legally.

Leaders in several Hudson County towns such as Union City said they would not cooperate with the executive order.

Public Service
**Lloyd P. Burns
Memorial Award**

Weekly, under 6,500

THIRD PLACE

Bethany Mitros
The Retrospect

Opioid addiction

Opioid Addiction in Our Backyards



THE PURPOSE OF WEARING PURPLE: People from all over South Jersey wore purple shirts last Thursday in honor of Overdose Awareness Day, including, shown left to right, Camden County Health Officer Dr. Paschal Nwako, Mark Owens of Audubon, Addictions Awareness Advocate from Gloucester Twp, Patty DiRenzo, whose son Sal Marchese died of an overdose in 2010, Commissioner Rob Jakubowski of Audubon and Jamie DiFrancesco of Audubon.

by Bethany Mitros

It's nearly impossible to come across someone who has not lost a friend, family member, classmate or coworker to addiction. Last year, it was the leading cause of accidental death in the country, but in New Jersey, it's even worse. The rate of drug overdose deaths in the state per 100,000 people is three times the national average. That's why last week, people all over Camden County and the rest of the nation donned purple shirts to support Overdose Awareness Day on August 31.

"Heroin and opiates have become a growing public safety and health crisis, creating devastating effects on the region, the state and the nation. These narcotics are ubiquitous in every community in our region," said Freeholder Director Louis Cappelli, Jr.

(Continued on page 4)

Public Service
**Lloyd P. Burns
 Memorial Award**

Weekly, under 6,500

SECOND PLACE

**Steve Janoski,
 Megan Burrow, Sarah
 Nolan**

Glen Rock Gazette

Can North Jersey communities afford \$273M in worker payouts?

2 Friday, November 18, 2017 Glen Rock Gazette

Can North Jersey communities afford \$273M in worker payouts?

STEVE JANOSKI, MEGAN BURROW AND SARAH NOLAN
 NORTH JERSEY RECORD
 (NORTH JERSEY RECORD) NEWARK, N.J.



Michael McMorow

When Michael McMorow, the former Englewood, N.J.'s deputy police chief, retired last winter, he took with him an extra \$441,000 in his pay stubs to compensate him for unused sick time, vacation days and holiday pay over his four-decade-long career.

When Robert Carnay, the former Kenilworth police chief, retired on New Year's Day, the township paid him nearly \$250,000, courtesy of the same benefits.

And when Michael Pastorino, the Paterson fire chief, decides to re-

tire, he'll get at least a \$237,000 payout from the pension city. He's just one of 24 city police officers and firefighters whose pending severance payments, each totaling more than \$250,000 — will further bleed the Paterson budget by forcing the City Council to borrow \$5 million to cover the tab.

These payouts are common and legal in the Garden State. However, they make public officials cringe because they divert resources and millions of dollars from other priorities, paving roads,

hiring cops and lowering property taxes. But the lack of a statewide policy capping or ending these end-of-career payouts for veteran employees means municipalities are left to deal with the liability on their own — with sometimes wildly different results, an investigation by The Record and NorthJersey.com reveals.

The benefit is often built into contracts negotiated by labor unions or individual professionals with the public agencies. Some municipalities have negotiated contracts so that the benefit is eliminated or is mitigated. But the challenge is so great in some cities that they have been forced to add to their debts by borrowing to pay for large individual

payouts or the payouts of several employees who retire in quick succession.

Marc Pfeiffer, assistant director of the BlueTeam Local Government Research Center at Rutgers University, said payouts were once a benefit for public employees whose salaries were typically lower than those of their private-sector counterparts. And being able to bank those days discouraged employees from taking their sick and vacation time, he said.

"No one ever had a real reason to put it aside, because the numbers weren't that great," Pfeiffer said. "But clearly as time has gone on, salaries have increased... and it's become a very expensive benefit."



Tommy's Police Chief Robert Carnay hugs his wife, Leslie, during his work retirement ceremony on Dec. 8, 2016. MICHAEL CASARNO/RECORD

If all the municipal employees in Bergen, Morris, Passaic and most of Essex counties retired today, they would be owed more than \$273 million, according to an analysis by The Record and NorthJersey.com of state Department of Community Affairs data. That figure excludes school districts and county employees.

Public Service Lloyd P. Burns Memorial Award

Weekly, under 6,500

FIRST PLACE

Edward A. Burke,
Russ Crespolini, Derek
Allen
The Progress

Roseland



ROSELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

Racial slurs, anti-semitic text messages sent by councilman

Thomas Tsilonis shared messages with members of the governing body

By EDWARD A. BURKE
and RUSSELL WHITE

ROSELAND — A text message string containing racial and anti-semitic slurs was sent to the members of the Roseland Borough Council last week, according to a council member.

Mayor Keith Leonard and Councilmen Rick Leonard, Peter Smith, David Jacobs, Earl V. Covelli and Thomas Tsilonis were listed as part of the chat that received the messages.

Councilman Michele Solli said...



THOMAS TSYLONIS, DAVID JACOBS, RICK LEONARD, PETER SMITH, EARL V. COVELLI, MICHELE SOLLI

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RELATED LOCAL

Please read our take on page 4.

Boarding the Roseland...
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Public Service
**Lloyd P. Burns
Memorial Award**

Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Nick Muscavage
Home News Tribune

**Law Barring Criminals From
School Boards Inspired by
Reporting**

**Officials
helped
ex-con get
on ballot**

2 school board members
signed petition in Edison

NICK MUSCAVAGE @NIMUSCAVAGE

EDISON - An ex-con running for a township school board seat had two school board officials sign his petition to get on the ballot.

In order to receive a spot on this year's ballot for the school board election, Niles Dasondi, who pleaded guilty to a count of conspiracy to launder money through trafficking documents relating to legal resident status, had to secure 12 signatures on a nominating petition.

Dasondi's petition, which was filed on July 21, had the required 12 signatures — two of which were Edison school board officials.

Frank Heelan, Edison Township Board of Education president, signed the Dasondi's petition along with Ralph Erico, another member of the school board.

"I had a meeting with him," Dasondi said of Heelan. "We just chatted and he found that I am very useful."

According to him, Heelan believed Dasondi's knowledge of computing was a valuable skill, and that the board wanted a candidate who is passionate about

See **BALLOT**, Page 5A

Public Service
Lloyd P. Burns
Memorial Award
Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE
Bill Duhart, Rebecca
Everett
South Jersey Times

**Officers: Chief not doing
anything for his pay**

HADDON TOWNSHIP

Officers: Chief not 'doing anything' for his pay

Rebecca Everett For South Jersey Times

Several ranking officers in the Haddon Township Police Department allege that Police Chief Mark Cavallo is not "doing anything for the money he is paid," and that township officials have not investigated or tried to rectify the situation.

The four officers — Capt. Scott Bishop, Lt. Sean Gooley, Sgt. Thomas Whalen and Detective Sgt. Joseph D. Johnston — have notified the township that they intend to sue it and the chief.

They allege that after they complained to then-Commissioner and Public Safety Director John Foley about Cavallo, the chief violated their rights by retaliating against them and creating a hostile work environment. Solicitor Eric J. Riso said Mayor Randall Teague and Commissioner Paul Dougherty never heard of the officers' concerns until the tort claim notice came Feb. 1.

"Now that they have been made aware of these concerns, an investigation of the allegations is being undertaken," he said.

The notice was obtained, along with several emails and letters on the topic, through a public records request by NJ Advance Media.

Township officials redacted — without giving a specific reason — nearly an entire page of the officers' claim. The redaction is under the heading "circumstances regarding the occurrence or accident."

According to the parts not blacked out, the officers claimed Cavallo was not doing his job, the department was suffering for it and Foley failed to act on their complaints or grant requests for a meeting with Teague. Foley resigned Feb. 24 and was replaced by Jim Mulroy.

They also said Cavallo was creating an unnecessary lieutenant

position and interviewing candidates, though he was prejudiced against the two sergeants who had complained about him.

Foley declined comment, as did Cavallo's attorney, Patrick J. Madden. Messages left for Cavallo and the officers' attorney, John Eastlack Jr., got no response. Eastlack wrote in the notice that allegations against Cavallo "go back to 2008," but it's not clear if he is referring to the claims about Cavallo's job performance or other allegations that were redacted. Cavallo, 58, who has worked in law enforcement for over 30 years, was paid \$131,502 in 2015, according to state records.

OFFICERS' ALLEGATIONS

In a Jan. 18 email to Foley, Bishop requested a meeting with Teague, Foley and a group of officers who were concerned about how Cavallo was running the department.

"It has been almost a year since I met with you in your office regarding the chief and the issues we have been having with him not doing anything for the money he is paid," Bishop wrote. "He's doing even less now, does not provide any direction or leadership and we are struggling and have been for some time."

The notice of tort claim includes a list of 30 responsibilities the officers feel he failed to perform, ranging from not preparing an annual budget estimate or maintaining a police records system to not implementing rules and regulations within the department.

The four ranking officers allege that because Cavallo does not perform those duties, they fall on the ranking officers "by default."

In a later letter to Foley, Eastlack said Cavallo had eliminated employee performance reviews.

Public Service
Lloyd P. Burns
Memorial Award
Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Kyle Bagenstose,
Kristina Scala Nasuti
Burlington County Times

Unwell Water

Burlington County Times

Winner of the New Jersey Press Association's General Excellence Award for six consecutive years (2011-2016)

\$2.00

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2017

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Records: Military knew of foam dangers in 2001

By **KYLE BAGENSTOSE**
STAFF WRITER

By 2001, the U.S. military knew freighting foams used at bases across the country could break down into toxic chemicals, that the chemicals had entered streams and groundwater at several military bases, and that they could potentially be polluting drinking water wells.

But despite one Department of Defense employee's prediction that phasing out the foams could be an environmental task rivaling the magnitude of asbestos removal, the military continued to use the foams — without investigating whether anyone on or off the bases had been sickened, according to

military records and emails.

The records were obtained by Philadelphia law firm Williams Coker Berwick, which is suing the federal government over groundwater contamination near a trio of former and current military bases in Bucks and Montgomery counties.

Over the past several years, more than 16 public and 200 private wells, currently serving an estimated 70,000 people along the counties' shared border, were found to be contaminated with high levels of PFOS and PFOA, which came from the firefighting foams. The problem is national in scope: The military is investigating 400 sites for water



Documents show military slow to respond to foam hazards. **A10**

Congressmen successfully tie PFC measures to military spending bill. **A13**

contamination, finding it at more than two dozen bases so far. The contamination has reached drinking water supplies in states as diverse as New Jersey, New Hampshire, Colorado and Washington.

Mark Coker, the firm's lead attorney on the case, provided this

news organization with an exclusive look at the 170 documents, totaling more than 3,100 pages and spanning the 1970s to this year.

"Only recently have people learned of high levels of (foam chemicals) in their drinking water and in their blood. But the Defense Department and the foam manufacturers have known for over 30 years that these products endanger both human health and the environment," Coker said of his reaction to the documents. "Yet, they quietly continued to make and use these deadly products. They need to take responsibility for what they have done."

This news organization reached out to the Department of Defense

for comment on this story. Due to litigation, the request was forwarded to the Department of Justice.

"The Government declines to comment," wrote Mark Abzug, public affairs specialist with the Justice Department.

3M: HALTING FOAM MAKING

Of particular interest are actions the military took in the year following a 2000 announcement by chemical company 3M that it would stop producing firefighting foams because of concerns about an ingredient, PFOS. In the years before, 3M found PFOS in

See **FOAM**, Page **A9**

Public Service
Lloyd P. Burns
Memorial Award
 Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE
 Adam Clark, Jessica Remo
 The Star-Ledger

Passing the trash

The Star-Ledger

11.20 THURSDAY

ATLANTA, GA 30309

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2017

It's called **passing the trash**. Teachers accused of sexual misconduct move from school to school, a reckless cycle that continues as former employers stay silent. And for years, little has been done to stop it.



Experts blame a culture of fear, resignation and separation agreements — which bar administrators from disclosing allegations — and say a tighter legal net of checks could improve students' safety.

By Adam Clark and Jessica Remo for The Star-Ledger

The 16th-grader David Hoffman and his 10th-grader friend, David Hoffman, were sitting at their desks in a classroom in a public school in New Jersey. Hoffman was talking about his friend's father, who he said had been accused of sexual misconduct. Hoffman said he had heard Hoffman's father had been accused of sexual misconduct. Hoffman said he had heard Hoffman's father had been accused of sexual misconduct.

It's called passing the trash. Teachers accused of sexual misconduct move from school to school, a reckless cycle that continues as former employers stay silent. And for years, little has been done to stop it.

"We didn't protect the kids enough in our field. We protect the adults."

By Adam Clark and Jessica Remo

NEWS

Ex-Gov. resigns as hospital chairman

He had asked to face pressure as friend's law firm's chief

By Adam Clark

Gov. Chris Christie's resignation as chairman of the board of the state-owned hospital system, the Jersey Shore Medical Center, was announced Tuesday. Christie had asked to face pressure as friend's law firm's chief.

Christie was named as a director of the board of the Jersey Shore Medical Center in 2015. He had asked to face pressure as friend's law firm's chief.

The system was the Jersey Shore Medical Center. Christie was named as a director of the board of the Jersey Shore Medical Center in 2015. He had asked to face pressure as friend's law firm's chief.

PHOTO



Photo credit for Adam Clark

By Adam Clark and Jessica Remo

Public Service
Lloyd P. Burns
Memorial Award
 Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Shannon Mullen,
Payton Guion
 Asbury Park Press

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BILLIONS FOR SQUALOR



LAST WEEK IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'S REPORT, THE STATE'S HOUSING STOCK WAS FOUND TO BE IN A STATE OF DISREPAIR.

Deteriorating living conditions threaten safety quality of life for hundreds of thousands in N.J.

BY SHANNON MULLEN AND PAYTON GUION

Just inside last week's closed glass doors the blinds and old, stained curtains were tattered and the walls were peeling. The apartment was a mess, and the landlord was unresponsive. Months ago the state had sent a team to inspect the building.

The apartment was in a state of disrepair. The landlord was unresponsive. Months ago the state had sent a team to inspect the building.

The apartment was in a state of disrepair. The landlord was unresponsive. Months ago the state had sent a team to inspect the building.

See **RENTERS**, Page 4A.

\$1.3 billion

Annual cost to government to fix up state's rental housing.

25 percent

of the state's rental housing stock is in poor condition.

We'll take our final break and ask Mark Blum from The Press of Atlantic City and Richard Vezza from The Star-Ledger, to come to the stage to announce the General Excellence Awards.

**2017 NJPA Newspaper
Contest General Excellence
Awards**

General Excellence

Weekly, under 6,500

General Excellence

Weekly, under 6,500

New Jersey Law Journal

General Excellence

Weekly, over 6,500

General Excellence

Weekly, over 6,500



General Excellence

Daily, under 20,000

General Excellence

Daily, under 20,000

Burlington County Times

Winner of the New Jersey Press Association's General Excellence Award for six consecutive years (2011-2016)

General Excellence

Daily, over 20,000

General Excellence

Daily, over 20,000

The Star-Ledger

CONGRATULATIONS!

To all the award recipients