

**2022 New Jersey Press Association
Spring Awards Celebration**

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WalderHayden



At this time, I'd like to invite Richard Veza, NJ Advance Media and NJPA executive committee member, to come to the stage to begin the presentation of Photography Awards.

2021 NJPA Photography Contest Results

SPOT NEWS

Spot News

THIRD PLACE

Joe Lamberti

Courier-Post

Flood



Spot News

SECOND PLACE

Aristide

Economopoulos

The Star-Ledger

House fire



Spot News

FIRST PLACE

Tariq Zehawi

The Record
(Bergen County)

Flood lines



GENERAL NEWS

General News

THIRD PLACE

Michael Karas

The Record
(Bergen County)

Blacksmith



General News

SECOND PLACE

Joe Lamberti

Courier-Post

Women's March



General News

FIRST PLACE

Tariq Zehawi

The Record
(Bergen County)

In Mourning



NEWS PICTURE STORY

News Picture Story



THIRD PLACE

David Biggy
The SandPaper

Unmask the Kids



News Picture Story



SECOND PLACE

Saed Hindash

The Express-Times

Laid to rest



**News Picture
Story**



FIRST PLACE
Dave Hernandez
South Jersey Times

**Protest reaches fever
pitch in Mount Laurel**

SPORTS ACTION

Sports Action

THIRD PLACE

Al Amrhein

South Jersey Times

Duck and cover!



Sports Action

SECOND PLACE

Lori M. Nichols

South Jersey Times

Pandemic cheer



Sports Action

FIRST PLACE

Scott Faytok

The Star-Ledger

Facial



SPORTS FEATURE

Sports Feature

THIRD PLACE

Chris LaChall

Courier-Post

**The thrill of victory
and the agony of
defeat**



Sports Feature

SECOND PLACE

Scott Faytok

The Star-Ledger

Triple overtime loss



Sports Feature

FIRST PLACE

Peter Ackerman

Asbury Park Press

Consoling



SPORTS FEATURE PICTURE STORY

**Sports Feature
Picture Story**



THIRD PLACE

David Biggy
The SandPaper

**Summer
Swimming Finale**



Sports Feature
Picture Story



SECOND PLACE
Peter Ackerman
Asbury Park Press



Battle for
Bragging Rights



**Sports Feature
Picture Story**



FIRST PLACE

Aristide

Economopoulos

The Star-Ledger

Friday Night Fights



FEATURE

Feature

THIRD PLACE

Lori M. Nichols

South Jersey Times

**Coollest pup at the
party**



Feature

SECOND PLACE

Tim Hawk

South Jersey Times

Snow dog



Feature

FIRST PLACE

David Nahan

Ocean City Sentinel

Celebration



FEATURE PICTURE STORY

**Feature
Picture Story**



THIRD PLACE

Tim Hawk
South Jersey Times



Goin' barefoot



Feature
Picture Story



SECOND PLACE
Reena Rose Sibayan
The Jersey Journal



Back to School At
Last



Feature
Picture Story



FIRST PLACE

Reena Rose Sibayan

The Jersey Journal



Back to School in
the Time of COVID



PORTRAIT

Portrait

THIRD PLACE

Adam Monacelli

The Daily Journal

Black Farmer POC
Joe Bartee KJ Farms



Portrait

SECOND PLACE

Reena Rose Sibayan

The Jersey Journal

Remembering 9/11



Portrait

FIRST PLACE
Mitsu Yasukawa

The Record
(Bergen County)

Haircut



PICTORIAL

Pictorial

THIRD PLACE

Ryan Morrill

The SandPaper

**American Cloths
Line**



Pictorial

SECOND PLACE

Lori M. Nichols

South Jersey Times

Thunder moon



Pictorial

FIRST PLACE

Ryan Morrill

The SandPaper

Beyond Ambient



BEST PORTFOLIO

Best Portfolio



THIRD PLACE

Saed Hindash

The Express-Times



Best Portfolio

**SECOND
PLACE**

Tim Hawk

South Jersey Times



Best Portfolio



FIRST PLACE
Peter Ackerman
Asbury Park Press

COVID-19

COVID-19

THIRD PLACE

Reena Rose Sibayan

The Jersey Journal

**COVID-19 Vaccinations
for the Homebound**



COVID-19

SECOND PLACE

Ed Murray

The Star-Ledger

**101st Birthday during
Covid**



COVID-19

FIRST PLACE

Joe Lamberti

Courier-Post

Nursing Home



PROTEST

Protest

THIRD PLACE

Kate Albright

Montclair Local

Women's March



Protest

SECOND PLACE

Thomas Costello

Asbury Park Press

Distress at the Capitol



Protest

FIRST PLACE

Thomas Costello

Asbury Park Press

Capitol Insurrection



Photo Best of Show

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION



BEST IN SHOW
PHOTO

HAIRCUT
Mitsu Yasukawa and Staff
The Record

PRIZE TIME!!!

At this time, I'd like to invite Audrey Harvin, Burlington County Times and NJPA executive committee member, to come to the stage to begin the journalism awards.

2021 NJPA JOURNALISM CONTEST Journalism Results

**Daily, over 25,000
Public Service**

Lloyd P. Burns Memorial Award

Public Service

Lloyd P. Burns

Memorial Award

Daily, over 25,000

THIRD PLACE

Staff

The Record (Bergen County)

Saturation Point

Vasquez: Jets' QB decision matters little to big picture
SPORTS, 15

Erectile Dysfunction?
• No Pills
• No Surgery
• Same Day Results
201-266-5000
Medwell Men's Clinic
Revive Your Intimacy

The Record
FRIEND OF THE PEOPLE IT SERVES
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2021
MIDTOWN, NEW JERSEY
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

SATURATION POINT
96A1 12-15
JUST RISK, NO REWARD
Despite more intense storms, these pricey flood prevention projects in NJ went nowhere
By Scott Miller
FOR THE RECORD'S 2021 JOURNALISM CONTEST

Rutgers \$150M football training facility still a 'top priority'
University promised progress on project in Schiano's contract
By Andrew G. Kaufman
FOR THE RECORD'S 2021 JOURNALISM CONTEST

Stop the spread
How to wear a mask so it will be as effective as possible and how to make it more likely to be used in the first place. BY SCOTT MILLER FOR THE RECORD'S 2021 JOURNALISM CONTEST

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Public Service

Lloyd P. Burns Memorial Award

Daily, over 25,000

SECOND PLACE

**S.P. Sullivan, Joe Atmonavage,
Blake Nelson, Ted Sherman**

The Star-Ledger

Abuse at New Jersey's Prison for Women

**Dozens suspended at N.J. prison after officers
are accused of beating women inmates**

Updated: Jan. 28, 2021, 10:29 a.m. | Published: Jan. 25, 2021, 1:20 p.m.



Public Service

Lloyd P. Burns Memorial Award

Daily, over 25,000

FIRST PLACE

Kayla Canne
Asbury Park Press

Illegal housing discrimination goes unchecked;
'Uninhabitable:' Mold leaves NJ renters to battle
health effects, costly cleanup



**Daily, under 25,000
Public Service
Lloyd P. Burns Memorial Award**

Public Service

Lloyd P. Burns Memorial Award

Daily, Under 25,000

THIRD PLACE

Carolyn Sampson,
Cheryl Makin, Mary Ann
Bourbeau, Joe Martino

Home News Tribune
Needy Cases Fund

CARING COMMUNITIES

MyCentralJersey Needy Cases Fund 2021: How to help your neighbors in need this holiday season

Scroll to the bottom of this article to find how you can help this holiday season



Joe Martino
MyCentralJersey.com

Published 5:01 a.m. ET Nov. 25, 2021 | Updated 10:07 a.m. ET Dec. 15, 2021

[View Comments](#)



Public Service

Lloyd P. Burns

Memorial Award

Daily, Under 25,000

SECOND PLACE

Susan Loyer

Home News Tribune

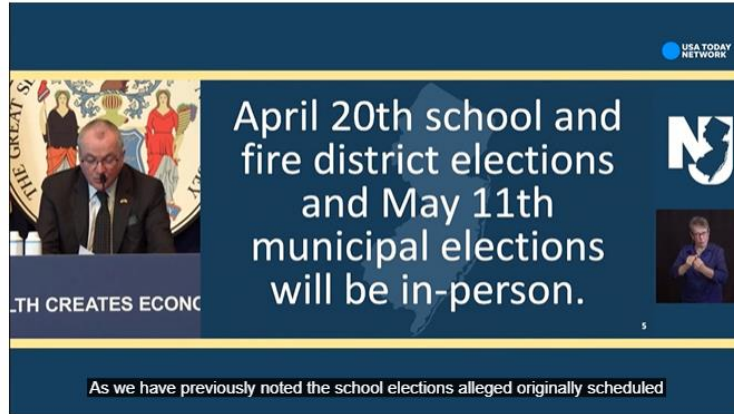
Officials fumbled an election in Middlesex County

GOVERNMENT

Officials fumbled an election in Middlesex County. Here's what happened and what's next

Susan Loyer MyCentralJersey.com

Published 5:01 a.m. ET Feb. 22, 2021 | Updated 8:03 a.m. ET Feb. 22, 2021



In-person voting allowed for upcoming NJ district elections

Gov. Phil Murphy announced on Monday that in-person voting will be allowed for upcoming district elections in New Jersey. Paul Wood Jr, NorthJersey.com

HIGHLAND PARK – Borough voters were denied the opportunity to fill a vacancy on the borough council in the November election because of confusion over "unclear statutory obligations."

Public Service
Lloyd P. Burns
Memorial Award

Daily, Under 25,000

FIRST PLACE

Joseph Smith
The Daily Journal

NEWS

Private financing proposal roils county sewerage authority meeting



Joseph P. Smith

Vineland Daily Journal

Published 5:01 a.m. ET May 24, 2021 | Updated 11:25 a.m. ET June 18, 2021

[View Comments](#)



BRIDGETON - The Cumberland County Utilities Authority will test the financial market for long-term investment deals that would give it up-front cash in exchange for concessions on revenue and operational control, but not ownership.

The CCUA Board of Commissioners, at the end of an often out of control meeting last week, voted to draft a public solicitation for investment proposals. The idea is that at least some responses could be received before the next board meeting in June.

More: [Investment firm looks for deal on Millville utilities](#)

More: [Court-appointed monitor named for Cumberland County Jail, federal court case continues](#)

How exactly such an investment deal might work and what the authority would do – or legally could do – with the money is unsettled, despite a two-hour meeting. Even the language of the bid solicitation is uncertain.

The proposal affects a broad area of southern Cumberland County. The authority is a regional sewerage system provider, with contracts with Bridgeton and the townships of Upper Deerfield, Hopewell, Deerfield, and Fairfield.

**Weekly Division
Public Service
Lloyd P. Burns Memorial Award**

Public Service

Lloyd P. Burns Memorial Award Weekly Division

THIRD PLACE

Jaimie Julia Winters Montclair Local

Repeal or Referendum



RESPONSIBLE JOURNALISM

Public Service

Lloyd P. Burns

Memorial Award

Weekly Division

SECOND PLACE

Joan Buehler

The Retrospect

Haddon Heights Affordable Housing Flap

Page 6 The Retrospect, Friday, May 20, 2021

Heights Affordable Housing Flap Draws Criticism

By Lloyd P. Burns
 Haddon Heights' public housing authority is facing a new round of criticism for its handling of the affordable housing program. The program, which is managed by the Haddon Heights Housing Authority (HHA), has been the subject of a series of complaints and lawsuits. The program is designed to provide affordable housing for low-income families in the Haddon Heights area. The program is managed by the HHA, which is a public agency. The program is designed to provide affordable housing for low-income families in the Haddon Heights area. The program is managed by the HHA, which is a public agency.

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Call Steve Miller at 856-924-9814 or email him at steve.miller@theretrospect.com for more information.

RETROSPECT

Heights BOE Appoints Delengowski as Interim Business Administrator

By Lloyd P. Burns
 The Haddon Heights Board of Education has appointed a new interim business administrator. The board has appointed Delengowski to the position. The board has appointed Delengowski to the position. The board has appointed Delengowski to the position.

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Public Service

Lloyd P. Burns

Memorial Award

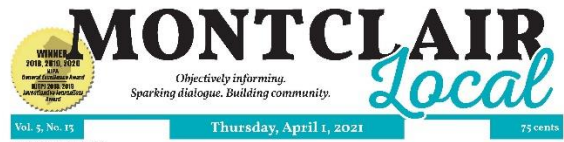
Weekly Division

FIRST PLACE

Staff

Montclair Local

Asian Americans in Montclair No Strangers to Prejudice



INSIDE



Parents, teachers worried about possible layoffs
Economics • Page 7



MHS gymnasts flying high over chance to compete
Sports • Page 15



Katy Rodriguez, former Miss N.J., empowers women
Culture • Page 18

RACISM

Asian Americans in Montclair no strangers to prejudice

But many see chance for solidarity after Atlanta killings

by RICHARD CORWEN
in Montclair Local

Sereza Lee, a sophomore at Montclair High School, encourages anti-Asian prejudice is easy as the Covid plague — being called “wrecked Chinese.” She’s been disappointed in the pandemic to see anti-Asian comments posted online sometimes by her classmates.

For Lee and many other members of Montclair’s Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, March 16’s Atlanta mass-shooting, that claimed the lives of eight people — six of them Asian women — had a particular impact. Lee, along with her best friend more Talana Deardar, called on classmates and peers for a show of solidarity.

They asked on social media for help organizing a



Montclair High School sophomore Talana Deardar, left, and Sereza Lee assembled a list of Asian-owned businesses in and around Montclair, to encourage people to patronize them.

list of Asian-owned restaurants and places to shop in and around Montclair, to encourage people to patronize them.

“We tried to turn this horrible situation and negative trend into something uplifting,” said Lee, 16, who is Chinese American.

See BIAS, page 9

Be Part of Our ‘Green’ Seminars
Join leading scholars for virtual discussions on sustainability issues

montclair.edu/learn/management-education/sustainability-seminar-series

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Daily, Over 25,000

Editorial Comment

Editorial Comment

Daily, over 25,000

SECOND PLACE

Elliot Goldberg

South Jersey Times

Portfolio

Opinion

What N.J. didn't know about the newly famous Mr. Ed | Editorial

Published: Nov. 07, 2021, 8:23 a.m.



By [South Jersey Times Editorial Board](#)

It's not often in New Jersey that the winner of a key legislative race celebrates the first hours after a victory [with an apology tour](#).

Such is the case with Edward Durr, the Republican who knocked off state Senate President Stephen Sweeney, D-Gloucester, in a shocking surprise that made national news. David beats Goliath. The giant killer who [reportedly spent just \\$153](#) to knock a powerful, 20-year lawmaker off of his perch. We all know the narrative by now.

Editorial Comment

Daily, over 25,000

FIRST PLACE

Paul D'Ambrosio

Asbury Park Press

**Fix deplorable and
discriminatory housing.
Now.**

EDITORIALS | Opinion *This piece expresses the views of its author(s), separate from those of this publication.*

Our view: Fix deplorable and discriminatory housing. Now.

Press Editorial

Published 5:02 a.m. ET Dec. 27, 2021 | Updated 1:18 p.m. ET Jan. 10, 2022

[View Comments](#)



'No, we do not accept Section 8;' Illegal discrimination blocks housing for many in NJ
Discrimination against Section 8 voucher holders is illegal under New Jersey's Law Against Discrimination. So why can't Tonya Wood find an apartment? *Ryan Ross and Tanya Breen, Asbury Park Press*

Fix. Housing. Now.

Daily, Under 25,000

Editorial Comment

Editorial Comment

Daily, Under 25,000

SECOND PLACE

Margaret Schmidt

The Jersey Journal

Portfolio

2 | OPINION THE JERSEY JOURNAL Monday, March 22, 2021

www.nj.com/bd801

IN OUR OPINION

WHAT IS THIS A FARSE?

Tuning in to 'Commissioners'

Which means back folks, to another episode of "I'm not a doctor, but I'll tell you what's wrong with you." The two-commissioner game within a show where elected officials snarl at the public while young, for, among other things, their own pay raises.

I think to COVID-19, today's episode was taped before a live audience on March 11 from the commissioners' and administrators' lounge and offices.

Let's our boss, board clerk (and Kathy Mayor, Al Santos, so let's Zoom).

6:01:00 Pre-meeting, board clerk Ed Florio is seen announcing a very adorable baby via his phone. "No, you can't have the phone," he tells her.

6:01:06 "Say clerk," Florio tells the speaking one. "Say 'welcome'."

6:02:00 Commissioner Jerry Walker comes on, eyes averted to the top left of the screen for people to comment on agenda items before the commissioners were on them, members of the public. Ah! Walkman starts to speak. "Hello. No good morning," she says. "I am disgusted, disheartened and just devastated right now. There must be a serious meeting addressing the ongoing racism that people of color, black men and women ..."

6:02:06 "All right, I get it, o'clock, and I see five five o'clock," Valenti announces. "Do a roll call, please."

For voters who may not be familiar, Valenti, who represents



ED FLORIO, counsel to the Hudson County Board of Commissioners, and an adorable baby were up on the audience before the start of the commissioners' meeting.



COMMISSIONER JERRY WALKER is seen with Kathy Mayor and Al Santos on the screen. The agenda is on the screen, too.

part of North Hudson, is mistakenly using the unapproved "free-lobe" term instead of the correct "commissioner" term for his office. The state Legislature voted last year to change the title of county commissioners to "commissioners" because the word "freeholder" carries with it a long history of racism and misogyny.

6:02:05 With the hour again for people to comment on agenda items before the commissioners were on them, members of the public, Ah! Walkman starts to speak. "Hello. No good morning," she says. "I am disgusted, disheartened and just devastated right now. There must be a serious meeting addressing the ongoing racism that people of color, black men and women ..."

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ARATA SLOTA Editor-at-Large



NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

Editorial Comment

Daily, Under 25,000

FIRST PLACE

Nick Falsone

The Express-Times

Express-Times Turkeys & Trophies

Opinion

Wilson Area's cowardly compromise in Native American school logo issue | Turkeys & Trophies

Updated: Sep. 25, 2021, 11:14 a.m. | Published: Sep. 25, 2021, 9:30 a.m.



By [Express-Times opinion staff](#)

TURKEYS

As if high school sports coaches don't have enough to deal with already. The pressures of the job, particularly in a region as competitive as the Lehigh Valley, are immense. The pay is generally low. Accolades – especially from parents who always seem to find something wrong with the team's strategy – are rare. And you're constantly disciplining teenagers who are always acting like... well... teenagers. A proposal concocted by

Weekly Division

Editorial Comment

Editorial Comment

Weekly Division

THIRD PLACE

Dave Polakiewicz

Echoes-Sentinel

Unneeded shock content; Zoom silence in Watchung

EDITORIAL

Unneeded shock content

If one is diligent, **RELATED STORY** provided by Zoom as a result of Zoom's search. In New Jersey, particularly in the northern part of the political state.

The state's largest news outlets and publications were slow to cover the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, which led to the 9/11 Memorial and Museum's website.

Perhaps Posehn was attempting to shake some constituents out of a slumber. She should have let her commentary stand on its own.

Zoom is a private company, and its policies are not subject to public scrutiny. However, it is not being successful in the current market.

Zoom also offers a free trial, but it is not being successful in the current market.

Zoom is a private company, and its policies are not subject to public scrutiny.

Zoom is a private company, and its policies are not subject to public scrutiny.

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Zoom is a private company, and its policies are not subject to public scrutiny.

Editorial Comment

Weekly Division

SECOND PLACE

Rick Mellerup

The SandPaper

Portfolio

SandBox

Been There, Done That

If Wind Farm Is Constructed You May Forget It Is There

By RICK MELLERUP

I'm going to have to buy Groucho Marx glasses, complete with a large nose, mustache and huge eyebrows, to dare show my face on LBJ after writing this column. But stupid or brave, here I go.

I support the Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind proposal to construct a wind farm in the Atlantic, with the westernmost point of its project just 10 miles from Barnegat Light and dwindling to 9 miles off Holgate before continuing off Atlantic County.

Wow, I said it.

Now, I agree more studies should be initiated before the project begins in earnest. I just hope endless talk and inevitable lawsuits

won't delay it for years or even possibly kill the idea. Better wind than fossil fuels or nuclear. Natural gas pipelines can blow up; as for nuclear, I have only six words – Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and Fukushima. Do

you remember when the Ocean County Health Department used to distribute potassium iodide pills in case of an incident at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station?

Commercial fishermen, especially clammers and scallopers, may have some legitimate meanness. I find it interesting, though, that some of the same people who are now whining about Atlantic Shores actually invested in a previous wind farm concern, Fishermen's Energy, which was formed in 2005 by owners of several South Jersey fishing companies, including Barnegat Light's Viking Village. The folks who supported Fishermen's Energy will point out they wanted to build only five turbines 2.8 miles off Atlantic City,

that it was a pilot project to see if the turbines would have any detrimental effects. But it sure seems like a 180-degree turnaround, going from proposing a wind farm to putting the brakes on another. If only flip-flopping could be harnessed to provide energy.

Still, commercial fishing is a huge part of South Jersey's and LBJ's economy, so I can understand the apprehension, although I would also love to hear from recreational fishermen, especially those who have visited the waters off of Block Island, where the first offshore wind farm in the U.S. was constructed. I hear tell they loved the windmills, saying the platform bases attracted a variety of fish species, much like artificial reefs.

As for environmentalists, I can fathom bird kill worry, considering the wind farm's giant blades will be whirling around in the Atlantic Flyway. Then again, birds slam into skyscrapers and smaller buildings as well, occasionally even into my windows. Should we level New York City? Should I leave my windows dirty so birds can see them?

Of course, there are concerns about critically endangered North Atlantic right whales because they tend to stay close to the continental shelf, which is where Atlantic Shores wants to locate its wind farm. It would seem like a collision course – except I think right whales can turn left as well as right and avoid wind farm platforms. And don't forget, one of the major threats to right whales is entanglement in fishing gear. I'm fine with studies, however, if they don't stretch out for years and years.

Continued on Page 86

What I'm not fine with is people who say the wind farm will destroy their views and destroy resale value. Come on, man!

Editorial Comment

Weekly Division

FIRST PLACE

Rick Mellerup

The SandPaper

Portfolio

SandBox

.....
 Been There, Done That

Try to Enjoy 'Normal Times' No Matter What That May Be

By RICK MELLERUP

It definitely appears that life is at least starting to return to normal in the U.S. after more than a year of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last Thursday Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said fully vaccinated individuals no longer need to wear masks, either outdoors or even indoors. Of course, there were many exceptions regarding crowded indoor settings such as planes, trains, buses, subways, prisons and homeless shelters. And while New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy said his administration is reviewing the CDC guidelines, the indoor mask requirements remained in effect in the state through the weekend.

Still, with the numbers of new infections, hospitalizations and deaths dropping dramatically not only in New Jersey but across the country, it will soon become very difficult for Murphy and like-minded governors to continue requiring that residents – vaccinated or not, because how can anybody tell, absent “vaccine passports,” who has had their shots – to wear masks.

Meanwhile, professional sports teams are allowing more and more fans to attend games, travel is way up even before Memorial Day weekend, and people can sit at bars again in New Jersey. The signs of a general reopening are everywhere. Yes, things are rapidly returning to normal in the U.S. of A.

But what is normal?

As the pandemic recedes in the U.S., there are plenty of new dangers out there. Inflation is threatening to become a big problem. There is a massive labor shortage. A generation of students has lost much of two years’ worth of school. Cyber threats. Rising crime rates. The Israel/Palestinian situation has again flared up.

Indeed, most of the pre-pandemic problems remain. Nuclear weapons in North Korea. A resurgent Taliban in Afghanistan. Right-wing political parties gaining strength in Europe as well as in our homeland. Racial tensions. Pov-

erty. An American political division as wide as the Grand Canyon. Gun violence. Global warming and more and more active hurricane seasons. Immigration.

Normality can be a personal issue. If you were just diagnosed with cancer, life isn’t normal. If your son or daughter was just killed in a car accident, life isn’t normal. If a forest fire races toward your home, as it did in Little Egg Harbor on Sunday afternoon, life isn’t normal.

To repeat, what is normal? This fragile Planet Earth is a dangerous place even in the best of times.

Humans are responsible for that to a great degree. Consider, for example, that throughout human history there have been wars and runoffs of wars.

Nature, too, can be held responsible. You never know when an earthquake can hit, even in the most unlikely of places. Sure, states such as California and Alaska are the usual suspects. But did you know a powerful series of earthquakes hit present-day Missouri in 1811-1812, with the last centered in the

.....
 Continued on Page 10

Letters

Township Misusing M&M

To the Editor:

Why is Long Beach Township trying to buy the old M&M Steam Bar, a viable, tax-paying commercial property, so the town can turn it into pickleball courts? If we need more pickleball courts in the township, there are other less expensive alternatives.

One of these is to add pickleball lines to the existing tennis courts at the Acme. This is done in other communities and enables the use of the same courts for either game and costs almost nothing.

Why is it so urgent that the township is willing to condemn the property, take the property rights away from the current owner,

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THIRD PLACE

Steve Politi

The Star-Ledger

The Predator in Plain Sight

The Predator in Plain Sight

When an ex-Rutgers athlete was charged with killing a woman in Tijuana, it left communities in Mexico and New Jersey stunned and asking the same question: Why?



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SECOND PLACE

Staff

The Record (Bergen County)

The Jersey Four



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Rebecca Everett

The Star-Ledger

Father wants us dead

Father wants us dead

John List murdered his family, then vanished. The lasting scars left by 1 of N.J.'s most notorious killers.



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Cheryl Makin

Home News Tribune

Hurricane Ida

ANIMALS

Future of Middlesex County zoo remains uncertain



Cheryl Makin

MyCentralJersey.com

Published 5:01 a.m. ET Oct. 13, 2021

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South Bound Brook woman reunites with her two dogs after Hurricane Ida

In the aftermath of Hurricane Ida, St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center was able to care for and then reunite Indy Carmen, a South Bound Brook resident, and her two dogs - Brownie and Chloe. The three had been displaced from their flooded second-floor apartment. *Cheryl Makin, MyCentralJersey.com*

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SECOND PLACE

Rudy Miller

The Express-Times



**How a 'powerhouse'
reached brink of collapse**

Weekly Division

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THIRD PLACE

Allison Perrine

The Two River Times

Red Bank Senior Center

THE TWO RIVER TIMES
 TWO RIVER, N.J. • WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2021 • \$5.00

Real Bank Supports Immigrant Rights
 By Allison Perrine

Residents Outraged By Borough's Handling of Senior Center
 By Allison Perrine

Murny Attends Historic Inauguration Ceremony
 By Allison Perrine

LOCAL
Vulnerable and Waiting in the Vaccine Vacuum

Enterprise

Weekly Division

SECOND PLACE

David Biggy, Gina G. Scala, Monique M. Demopoulos

The SandPaper

Portfolio

PANDEMIC
In Perspective
Sports Landscape Has Changed a Lot But Positives Arise

Allyshia Diversano, Coaches, Players Make Adjustments to 'New Normal'




It's not the same as it once was. The sports landscape has changed a lot since the pandemic began in early 2020. Many athletes and coaches are adjusting to a "new normal" that includes wearing masks, social distancing, and limited fan attendance. However, there are also positive developments, such as the return of many sports and the implementation of safety protocols that have helped reduce the risk of infection.

THE NEW NORMAL The sports landscape has changed a lot since the pandemic began in early 2020. Many athletes and coaches are adjusting to a "new normal" that includes wearing masks, social distancing, and limited fan attendance. However, there are also positive developments, such as the return of many sports and the implementation of safety protocols that have helped reduce the risk of infection.

ADJUSTING TO THE NEW NORMAL The sports landscape has changed a lot since the pandemic began in early 2020. Many athletes and coaches are adjusting to a "new normal" that includes wearing masks, social distancing, and limited fan attendance. However, there are also positive developments, such as the return of many sports and the implementation of safety protocols that have helped reduce the risk of infection.

Amid Pandemic, Athletes Thankful for a Season



Despite the challenges of the pandemic, many athletes are grateful for the opportunity to compete and stay active. They appreciate the support of their coaches and teammates, and the sense of community that has been maintained throughout the season.

Photo by [Name] for [Publication]. The athletes are grateful for the opportunity to compete and stay active during the pandemic.

Enterprise

Weekly Division

FIRST PLACE

Talia Wiener

Montclair Local

Whistleblower inquiry



PRIZE TIME!!!

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**Matthew Stanmyre,
Steve Strunsky**
The Star-Ledger

**Hazing allegations at Wall High
School football program**

**District stayed silent as football
hazing scandal erupted. Inside an N.J.
town that protects its own.**

Updated: Dec. 14, 2021, 4:11 p.m. | Published: Dec. 14, 2021, 7:00 a.m.



First Amendment

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SECOND PLACE

Andrew Ford, Agnes Chang,
Jeff Kao, Angel Philip

Asbury Park Press

How the police bank millions through
their union contracts

■ FOR SUBSCRIBERS INVESTIGATIONS

How the police bank millions through their union contracts

by Andrew Ford, Asbury Park Press, and Agnes Chang, Jeff Kao and Agnel Philip, ProPublica

Published 5:00 a.m. ET Feb. 8, 2021 | Updated 5:05 a.m. ET Feb. 8, 2021

[View Comments](#)



Do you know about police misconduct?

APP and ProPublica need your help exposing police misconduct Andrew Ford, @AndrewFordNews

This article was produced in partnership with [ProPublica](#), a nonprofit newsroom that investigates abuses of power. The Asbury Park Press is a member of the ProPublica Local Reporting Network.

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FIRST PLACE
Susanne Cervenka
Asbury Park Press

'It's deception': Monmouth County commissioners secretly gave themselves raises

■ FOR SUBSCRIBERS ANALYSIS

'It's deception': Monmouth County commissioners secretly gave themselves raises



Susanne Cervenka
Asbury Park Press

Published 5:02 a.m. ET April 8, 2021 | Updated 4:17 p.m. ET April 15, 2021

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OPRA: College student committed to free flow of information

Frustrated by attempts to get government records under NJ OPRA law, college student created his own open records website. *Wochit, Wochit*

Monmouth County commissioners secretly gave themselves raises in December 2019, with the first pay bumps hitting their take-home checks the following month,

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NJPA 2021 JOURNALISM CONTEST

RESPONSIBLE JOURNALISM

First Amendment Art Weissman Memorial Award

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FIRST PLACE

Peter D'Auria

The Jersey Journal

www.nj.com/hudson

NICE WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT

Retired Hudson schools chief getting \$1.1M by staying on the payroll

BY PETER D'AURIA

JOURNALISM WRITER

Frank Gargiulo, the former superintendent of the Hudson County Schools of Technology, has paid himself close to \$1 million for unused time off and other perks since then.

Since he stopped working in August 2018, the school district has paid Gargiulo over \$840,000, a sum that includes a one-year sabbatical, payoffs for an accumulated 41 1/2 sick and vacation days, and an annual end-of-year bonus payment, according to records obtained through an open public records request.

District payroll records still list Gargiulo as a full-time employee—the highest-paid in the

district. "While these compensation numbers are significant, they are clearly consistent with state law and negotiated personnel contracts and they reflect Superintendent Gargiulo's extraordinary contributions to public education in Hudson County," Hudson County Schools of Technology spokesman Jacobson said in an email.

Gargiulo could not be reached for comment. A 2018 contract included an astronomical 37 sick days annually.

The 82-year-old former superintendent, who is also a commissioner for the township of North Bergen, began work at the district—then called the Hudson County Vocational School District—in 1980. The public school district consists of six schools throughout

the county and educates roughly 2,700 students. Its newest school, the Secaucus campus of High Tech High School, bears Gargiulo's name.

In the fall of 2018, Gargiulo stopped working. But by making a year-long "sabbatical" authorized by his contract, he continued to receive his salary of \$279,484.

Then after his official retirement a year later, he continued to get paid, records show. Gargiulo made \$297,441 for the 2019-2020 school year, \$226,609 for the 2020-2021 school year, and stands to make another \$122,200 in the second half of the 2021 calendar year. In addition to his salary, the district pays Gargiulo an amount of roughly \$270,000 a year.

Since stopping work in 2018, he

Friday, July 23, 2021 2M JERSEY JOURNAL NEWS 15



FRANK GARGIULO, HUDSON COUNTY SCHOOLS OF TECHNOLOGY

THE NEW Hudson County Schools of Technology campus in Secaucus is dedicated to former superintendent Frank L. Gargiulo during a ceremony on Friday, Sept. 7, 2018, which was followed by a tour. Gargiulo has not worked for the district since fall of 2018, but he is still receiving a salary of nearly \$270,000 a year—more than any other district employee.

has made a total of \$940,543. That will increase to nearly \$1.1 million by the end of the year.

Schooler said Gargiulo does not receive health or other benefits stipulated in his contract, which included a car, laptop, and cell phone. His salary is nearly \$90,000 more than that of Avery Lilo Rodriguez, the district's current superintendent.

Asked if that money would not be better spent on students, Incubator said the superintendent "has positively impacted the lives of tens of thousands of local students and Hudson County families will continue to benefit from the schools and programs that he created for decades to come, including the new High Tech High School campus in Secaucus that

he made a total of \$940,543. That will increase to nearly \$1.1 million by the end of the year. Schooler said Gargiulo does not receive health or other benefits stipulated in his contract, which included a car, laptop, and cell phone. His salary is nearly \$90,000 more than that of Avery Lilo Rodriguez, the district's current superintendent. Asked if that money would not be better spent on students, Incubator said the superintendent "has positively impacted the lives of tens of thousands of local students and Hudson County families will continue to benefit from the schools and programs that he created for decades to come, including the new High Tech High School campus in Secaucus that

brings his name."

It's not the first time Gargiulo has cashed in sick days. A 2006 State Commission of Investigation probe into public school administrator contracts found that between 1999 and 2002 he cashed out \$184,833 worth of sick days on top of a \$175,902 salary.

That report cited Gargiulo as an example of "questionable and excessive practices that, collectively, cost taxpayers New Jersey taxpayers millions of dollars."

In 2018, the state Legislature capped such payouts at \$150,000. But officials whose jobs predate that law—like Gargiulo and state Sen. and North Bergen Mayor Nicholas Sacco, who cashed out over 800 sick days for nearly \$270,000—are exempt.

Senator's DWI case stalls — her attorney still waiting on 'discovery' evidence

BY JOSHUA ROSARIO

JOURNALISM WRITER

The wheels of justice are moving slowly in the prosecution state Sen. Sandra Cunningham, who was charged in March with driving while intoxicated.

At a status hearing yesterday in front of Bergen County Superior Court Judge Anthony Gallina, who heads the Municipal Facilities, Michael Rubas, Cunningham's attorney, said he is still awaiting "significant" amount of "discovery"—evidence available to the

prosecution and defense that is necessary for the case to move forward.

Rubas told Gallina that he has reviewed the initial reports, including crash reports and investigation reports, but that she said he said he is still missing "significant" amount of discovery related to the March 4 crash on Colver Avenue in Jersey City, Cunningham struck two parked cars that she told police she thought were a motorcycle.

Video of the post-crash investigation by police obtained by The Jersey Journal through a public record request and posted on NJ.com show Cunningham posing to complete a field sobriety test which was videotaped in the DWI charge.

Prosecutor Linda Schwager said she has given Rubas everything she has, but also pointed out to the court that she has to make the request to the Hudson County authorities that handled the investigation, and then await their response.

"It was multiple agencies involved and it is going to take

(Schwager) a while to get what's needed," Rubas told Gallina.

The 70-year-old Cunningham did not appear at the hearing which was conducted in person.

There's a strong likelihood that the DWI case will be resolved before Election Day, when Cunningham, who represents the 3rd District, is expected to be re-elected.

Cunningham's case was moved from Hudson County to avoid a conflict of interest because her district includes parts of Jersey City. Also, city Municipal Prosecutor Jacob V. Hudnutt is

running for city council on the same Hudson County Democratic Organization line as Cunningham.

Cunningham, who is also deputy majority leader, was first elected as a senator in 2007; three years after her husband, Jersey City Mayor James Cunningham, died in office.

Cunningham pleaded not guilty to DWI and reckless driving in her first appearance in early June. Gallina said another status hearing will be held in six to eight weeks.

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Weekly Division

THIRD PLACE
Louis C. Hochman
 Montclair Local

Black firefighters allege bias in promotions test



INSIDE

Wellmont Plaza finally gets its grand opening
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You can 'Adopt a Family for the holidays
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Refugees find a haven in Montclair
 Culture • Page 15

INVESTIGATION

Black firefighters allege bias in promotions test

They say scoring rubric was slanted against them

by **LOUIS C. HOCHMAN**
hochman@montclairlocal.com

Two Black Montclair firefighters allege a scoring rubric for a recent promotions test was deliberately stacked against them to favor other candidates.

Their allegations, outlined to Montclair Township Council members in a Nov. 15 email from the township's Civil Rights Commission, resulted in demands from the commission and the township chapter of the NAACP alike to investigate the matter. Today, Councilman Peter Yacubellis confirmed to Montclair Local several members of the governing body had agreed such an investigation would take place, handled by outside counsel.

"It's my understanding that this isn't the first time accusations like this have been raised, whether formal or otherwise. And what I'm concerned about here is whether we have ourselves a textbook example of structural racism," Yacubellis said in a statement sent to Montclair Local late Friday morning. "I certainly hope not.



Two Black Montclair Fire Department members allege a recent promotion exam's scoring rubric was designed to disadvantage them — if it's anything as dire as past practices there for decades-old Black firefighters.

But we need an independent, comprehensive investigation to draw a conclusion one way or the other."

It's out of two racially charged allegations to come to the council recently. In the other, members of the NAACP chapter say township Appro-

See ALLEGATIONS, page 10

The Names We Gave Him

College of the Arts Non-Words Initiative
 Dec. 8, 9, 10 @ 7:30 p.m., Dec. 11 @ 2 p.m.
 Memorial Auditorium 150

Tickets: montclair.edu/theatre-and-dance

Montclair State University

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First Amendment Award

Weekly Division

SECOND PLACE

Matt Enuco

The Retrospect

Woodlynne Councilmember Faced with Fine

Page 1A, The Retrospect, Friday, November 12, 2021

Woodlynne Councilmember Faced with Fine

Woodlynne Councilmember Matt Enuco is facing a \$500 fine for allegedly violating the state's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) by withholding information from a public records request. The fine was levied by the state's Office of Information Access (OIA) after Enuco's office failed to provide certain documents within the 45-day deadline.

Enuco, who represents the 10th ward, was notified of the fine in a letter from the OIA on October 28. The OIA stated that Enuco's office had received a request for records on October 15 and had not provided the requested information by the deadline. Enuco's office claimed that the records were exempt from disclosure under FOIA, but the OIA disagreed.

The OIA said that the records in question were not exempt from disclosure and that Enuco's office had failed to provide them in a timely manner. The OIA also said that Enuco's office had failed to provide a written explanation for why the records were withheld.

Enuco's office has appealed the fine to the state's Office of Administrative Law. The OIA said that it will continue to monitor the case and may take further action if necessary.

The fine is the first of its kind levied against a local government official in New Jersey. It is a violation of the state's FOIA law, which requires public officials to provide records to anyone who requests them, unless the records are exempt from disclosure.

The OIA said that it will continue to monitor the case and may take further action if necessary.

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FIRST PLACE

Louis C. Hochman

Montclair Local

Township attorney accused of racist remark; Township attorney resigns; Ex-township attorney still to get about \$86,000

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Township attorney resigns He'd called an NAACP member 'three-fifths of a human'

by LOUIS C. HOCHMAN
lchoc@montclairlocal.com

Montclair's township attorney has submitted his resignation, the news they've sent a letter of apology for calling a Black housing official "three-fifths of a human," saying the statement was "stupid, insensitive" and "inappropriate."

Montclair Mayor Sean Spiller confirmed to Montclair Local the night of Wednesday, Dec. 1, that township attorney had resigned. In Karasick's resignation letter,

early that day, Karasick sent Montclair Local a copy of a letter he'd shared with several individuals who filed a suit for a September 16 police Court hearing on Montclair's recent council ordinance — a largely legal ban that ended last week in defeat for the township (expressed by Karasick), when the court ruled Montclair's clerk had been wrong in loss of a number of admissions, signatories to a petition that would force the matter of rest control to a referendum.

According to one of those individuals — William Scott, who serves both as chair of Montclair's Housing Commission and as chair of the NAACP chapter's Housing Committee — a group of five people was headed into to a diviser after the hearing when they noticed a sign saying the assistance occupancy was four.

"When I mentioned that, I'm Karasick said, 'You're only three-fifths of a human, and don't even know what Montclair's local last month. Others who were there — Montclair Housing Commission ex chair Lester Malloy and Parents Organization of Montclair ex president Joe Martin — confirmed the account to Montclair Local last week.

In his apology letter, sent to the people who'd been present as well as Montclair NAACP President Roger Terry, Karasick said he'd been making "a blip on the Constitution that popped out of my mouth, tightly, but served to remind African Americans of the systemic discrimination that we suffered and which I'm wrongfully referring to." He said he was grateful to those who helped him fix the hearing, and I feel proud he about what I said.

The "three-fifths" comparison



Montclair Township Attorney Joe Karasick during his own city's senseless oration on 9/11.

was an agreement between northern and southern states during the 1850 United States Constitutional Convention to count three-fifths of the slave population for determining representation in the House of Representatives.

Karasick's letter doesn't repeat the comment.

Commissioner Yacobellis said a lawsuit from Karasick regarding the resignation described it as for "hate" and other personal reasons. The resignation letter describes Karasick's formal retirement as effective July 1, 2021, but with terminal leave beginning Dec. 1. Montclair Local has sent the township's communications office a message asking clarification on how terminal leave will work for a position that's subject to annual reappointment, as the township attorney's role is.

The township's most recent salary ordinance puts the annual salary of a township attorney at \$49,500 for 2021 and \$49,548 for 2022, but also says payments for terminal leave at \$4,950.

"I am very, very sorry for the distance that I caused, both to the listeners and to everyone who has heard or read about my words," Karasick wrote in his apology letter. The date was dated Dec. 1 and addressed "to the Montclair community."

The remark prompted demands from the Montclair NAACP for an apology and an investigation. Both Scott and Malloy are NAACP members, and the council hired an outside attorney to conduct an investigation. But Cary Chavez, the NAACP's communications secretary, said as of last week the group still hasn't received any official notice of its findings.

With the end of the year meeting,

as was Karasick's term as attorney. He's served in the role for 11 years, extended each year by a council resolution. The latest was in December of 2020, appointing him for 2021. Last month, the council also hired an assistant township attorney, Cass DeWitt, filling that role for the first time since 2007 after coming out of a lengthy sabbatical period.

Christa Rapoport, chair of the Civil Rights Commission, told Montclair Local previously she agreed with the NAACP that Karasick's statements "were entirely in bad taste and show a lack of judgment."

"Our position is, if this is a case for a change, whatever change there is should be made consistent with the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion," Rapoport said.

Spiller, in an earlier email to Montclair Local before acknowledging receipt of the resignation, said Karasick's letter "appreciate Mr. Karasick taking the appropriate step of issuing a public apology given the offensive nature of his comments."

He noted that any appointment of a township attorney would be through a public resolution, but didn't comment in that context on a message whether Karasick was under consideration for a coming appointment.

"I am committed to ensuring that any individual who is appointed to a position representative of our township values," Spiller said.

Last year, according to Spiller, had shared to Facebook Montclair Local's first report on Karasick's comments, saying that "racist language, no matter the context or intent, is unacceptable and does not reflect the values of Montclair." He told residents of the post that he would speak to the professional's personal matter, but had committed to ensuring we live up to our ideals.

Malloy said she supported "William Scott in going public 2020," and said she'd hold on to giving her own public account "because I was giving the council the opportunity to follow due process, based off of whatever the investigation rendered."

She said she appreciates that a public apology was made, "although I'm concerned about the timing." Martin said she thought Karasick's apology "was an excellent letter, and it should have been consistent."

Terry, the Montclair NAACP president, said the branch "appreciates the sincere apology from Mr. Karasick and his resignation being the unfortunate incident to a close."

He also cautions the interaction with the township officials and would like to see them remain transparent in their communications. "I'm a highly educated person,"

lived in town for 20 years, served as township attorney for 11 and was personally filming fiscal attorney for five.

"I've worked for the township, and my career as your legal career have largely been in instances of social justice and equality under the law," he wrote. "Being called out for my own words has rights forced me to focus the same scrutiny on myself that I have frequently applied to the words and actions of others."

Karasick said in an appreciation that Karasick "both acknowledged his mistake and took responsibility for it."

"I have heard from several commenters who have been outraged and/or hurt by what transpired, rightfully," he said. "There simply is no room for language like that in Montclair or anywhere, and the present-day struggle for true justice and equality for people of color stands with all of us in leadership positions involving the right language and the right language to be used in our lives. Hope more that some leveling comments."

The accounts of Karasick's remarks were made public the same week the township board met. In planning another, separate announcement involving issues of race. Two individuals say they have a personal relationship with Karasick's attorney, Yacobellis, and he's agreed last month to be an outside counsel to review that matter as well.

"Most township positions report to the township manager, but the manager and the attorney are both direct employees of the Township Council. Because the manager would have been involved in the development of personnel lists, governing body members appear to have an outside attorney, Yacobellis told Montclair Local at the time.



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THIRD PLACE

Staff

Courier-Post

Ida Tornado

NEWS

Burlington County tornado reached windspeeds of up to 90 mph



Jim Walsh

Burlington County Times

Published 4:29 p.m. ET Sept. 2, 2021 | Updated 11:32 a.m. ET Sept. 4, 2021

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Drone video captures stunning damage from Hurricane Ida tornado in South Jersey

Tropical storm Ida brought a tornado to Mullica Hill in the South Jersey town of Harrison, leveling several homes and causing significant damage to others. *Tariq Zehawi, Thomas P. Costello and Paul Wood Jr, Cherry Hill Courier-Post*

[WESTAMPTON - A tornado followed a 2.8-mile path as it rumbled through](#)

Breaking News

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FIRST PLACE

Staff

Burlington County Times

Mount Laurel Racism

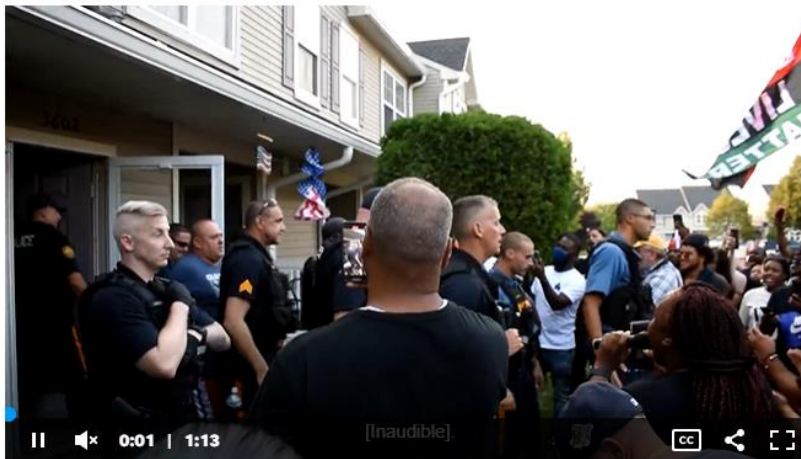
NEWS

Bias-crime suspect and police are pelted with bottles in Mount Laurel

[Nicolette White](#) and [Jim Walsh](#) Burlington County Times

Published 2:55 p.m. ET July 5, 2021 | Updated 9:29 a.m. ET July 7, 2021

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Watch: Bias-crime suspect arrested during protest in Mount Laurel

Bias-crime suspect Edward Cagney Mathews arrested Monday at his Mount Laurel home after hours-long protest by demonstrators. [Jim Walsh](#) Burlington County Times

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Breaking News

Breaking News

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THIRD PLACE

Staff

The Daily Journal

Fairfield Mass Shooting

NEWS

Two killed, many wounded in mass shooting at Fairfield house party



Jim Walsh

Vineland Daily Journal

Published 10:46 a.m. ET May 23, 2021 | Updated 11:58 a.m. ET May 24, 2021

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WATCH: Pastor hopes for change after mass shooting in Fairfield

Pastor Michael Keene at Trinity AME Church hopes for change following a mass shooting in Fairfield, N.J., last weekend.
Adam Monacelli, Vineland Daily Journal

Breaking News

Daily, Under 25,000

SECOND PLACE

Staff

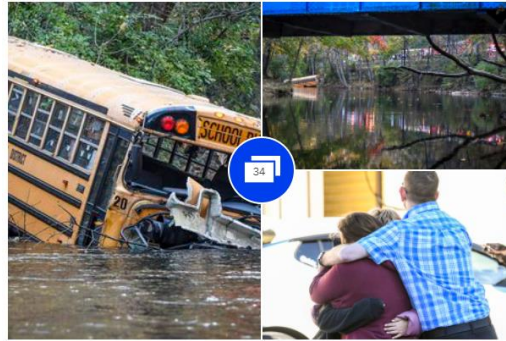
The Express-Times

Easton school bus crash

News

Easton Area school bus with about 30 middle school students lands in Bushkill Creek

Updated: Nov. 08, 2021, 3:27 p.m. | Published: Nov. 08, 2021, 8:44 a.m.



An Easton Area school bus crashed into the Bushkill Creek in Easton on Nov. 8, 2021.



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By [Tony Rhodin](#) | For [lehighvalleylive.com](#) and [Rudy Miller](#) | For [lehighvalleylive.com](#)

UPDATE: Easton Area School District bus is pulled out of

Breaking News

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FIRST PLACE

Staff

Courier News

Hurricane Ida coverage

FLOODING

Ida flooding leaves at least 8 dead in Central Jersey, 23 in NJ, Murphy says: Live updates

[Mike Deak](#), [Susan Loyer](#) and [Nicolas Fernandes](#) [MyCentralJersey.com](#)

Updated 7:40 p.m. ET Sept. 2, 2021

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Home of Yankees' affiliate Somerset Patriots completely flooded by Ida muddy waters

In the wake of Ida passing through Somerset County, muddy flood waters surround TD Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater.

[Thomas P. Costello](#) and [Tanq Zehawi](#) [MyCentralJersey.com](#)

Weekly Division

News Writing

News Writing Weekly Division

THIRD PLACE

Joan Buehler
The Retrospect

Audubon Couple Initiates Newton Lake Rescue



Collingswood Schools Anticipate Full Fall Reopening

Collingswood schools are already preparing for a full fall reopening, according to Superintendent Robert G. Collins. Collins said that the district is currently in the final stages of planning for the upcoming school year. He noted that the district is currently in the final stages of planning for the upcoming school year. He noted that the district is currently in the final stages of planning for the upcoming school year.

Haddonfield Says No to Cannabis for Now

Haddonfield officials are currently reviewing the implications of legalizing cannabis in the state. The town's board of trustees is expected to make a decision on whether to support a local ordinance. The town's board of trustees is expected to make a decision on whether to support a local ordinance.

Audubon Couple Initiates Newton Lake Rescue



Audubon couple John and Mary Smith have initiated a rescue operation for a dog named Max who fell into Newton Lake. The couple has organized a group of volunteers and police officers to search for the dog. The couple has organized a group of volunteers and police officers to search for the dog.

Heights Begins School Superintendent Search

The Heights School District has begun a search for a new superintendent. The search process will involve reviewing resumes and conducting interviews. The search process will involve reviewing resumes and conducting interviews.

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News Writing

Weekly Division

SECOND PLACE

Maria Scandale

The SandPaper

Cameras, Snares on Beaches Aid in Coyote Survey

The SandPaper.com Jersey Journalism Contest 2021

CURRENTS Cameras, Snares On Beaches Aid In Coyote Survey

Action in Barnegat Light Over Animal 'Menace'

On the sign at the entrance to Barnegat Light is a fierce warning: "Do not should stay on a leash at all times." There's a new reason for that curtness: A tracking program that also involves trapping is underway to survey the artificial coyote population on Long Beach Island.

"It's very important, we're trying to come up with an idea of where we have coyotes on the beach," said Mayor Kirk Larson during the Feb. 10 monthly borough council meeting via Zoom. The borough hired a pest control service for two weeks and is trying to keep dogs from either encountering a coyote or a snare trap, or making tracks in the sand where the project is looking for any coyote tracks, the mayor and council members said.

"I don't want a dog getting mixed up with a coyote anywhere. We are looking at more and more coyotes. They are small, they're about the size of a large German shepherd," Larson said.

The population of Barnegat Light and nearby areas is full of new residents who want to know more, and long-established locals who have been coming to town over the last two years with questions, occasional sightings that have since recently occurred and been confirmed by photographs.

In answer to a question, the mayor continued, "We hired a pest control guy who's not just a ketchup hot job but the kind of a menace that is starting to attack dogs in town and starting to scare people." He added, "If he ever starts killing, they're going to run out of there, it's just enough wildlife to send them."

"We do have snares out there, and we'll have more traps, which aren't like foot traps, they're snares," Larson described. "It's an animal, you walk in a trap and there's a wire that gets caught in your neck. It won't hurt the animal, it doesn't kill them, it hooks onto their neck and you can get them in the morning."

Larson added that the system used by the pest control contractor for this project is "totally humane," and that the borough "doesn't have interference even on beaches."

"It's not about 10 cameras out there, and they're looking for coyotes. It's setting a lot of traps and a lot of cameras but not a lot of coyotes, but what we'll see, both trying to trap in on one."

That's one of the reasons the borough is asking people to refrain from walking their leash dogs on the beach temporarily, he said.

"So we can see coyote prints and not just 50 different dogs."

For clarification about what officials meant by asking to keep dogs off the beach during the survey, one answer was that borough ordinances don't allow unleashed dogs on the beach anyway, and Councilwoman Dorothy Reynolds, who chairs the beaches and parks committee. Secondly, if walks of dogs with leashes would refrain from walking them on the beach right now, "it would be a great help for us," Larson said. "For the next couple weeks... so we can find out what we have here and sort it down anything. This if we're using traps, you don't want your dog to get caught in the traps."

One photograph taken at the North Street beachside and run in The SandPaper last week showed a coyote instead of a dog at a dead end in its mouth. Reynolds, who is also founder and past president of Friends of the Southern Ocean County Annual Beaches, said, "We have had more calls from people saying that there are in numbers."

She continued, "But we have no evidence that they're missing because of the coyotes or running for other reasons... actually get older, get

News Writing

Weekly Division

FIRST PLACE

Christine Sablynski

The West Essex Tribune

Emergency Personnel Take Part in Dramatic Water Rescue as Hurricane Ida Drops 10 Inches of Rain on Livingston



First responders braved inclement rain, and so did residents, as they deep flooded areas to rescue motorists during the storm. Additional storm-related photos may be seen on page B-2. Bob Moushon Photo

A Thousand-Year Storm: Emergency Personnel Take Part in Dramatic Water Rescue As Hurricane Ida Drops Ten Inches of Rain on Livingston

The remnants of Hurricane Ida, which spawned more of 1 inch of rain and the Call Center, swept through Livingston, Wednesday, September 1, causing widespread flooding and damage. It also necessitated a dramatic rescue involving personnel from the Police Department, Fire Department, the Department of Public Works, and the East Hanover South Water Rescue team.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Livingston was in a hard rain that lasted up to six inches of rain in a period of six hours, the top slice of a thousand-year storm. Chief Southworth, acting superintendent of Public Works, confirmed that the town had about 10 inches of rain. "There was flooding in the small areas," Southworth said, "but the town had no fatalities and only very few injuries. The amount of rain we received in such a short period of time."

As of press time on Wednesday, after initially being left off the list, Essex County has been approved to receive FEMA aid related to storm damage from Hurricane Ida, according to County executive Joseph D'Amico.

Dramatic Rescue

The rescue of a Fairfield woman necessitated, in turn, the rescue of those responding—three Livingston police officers and Assistant Fire Chief Kevin Franciose—who were swept away in the flood.

On Wednesday evening, Canoe Brook overflowed the banks, flooding roadways. According to police officials, at about 9:30 p.m., the Livingston police received a 9-1-1 emergency call from the Fairfield Police Department reporting a woman trapped inside her car in flood waters on East Hobart Gap Road. The woman reported that her vehicle had

been swept from the roadway into a wooded area.

Officers Nick Lanzoni, Joseph Franciose, and 17th Street were

dispatched to the scene with Assistant Fire Chief Kevin Franciose arriving minutes later. Fire Chief Chris

(Continued on Page A-2)



At the height of the storm, police and firefighters rescued a stranded motorist on East Hobart Gap Road. The rescue got more complicated when some of the first responders were themselves swept away by the floodwaters. LPD Photo



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THIRD PLACE Bill Barlow

The Press of Atlantic City

Portfolio



Shelley Barlow, the author of the article, is seen in the photo above. She is standing in the produce aisle of a grocery store in Atlantic City, N.J., where she is reporting on the issue of food deserts.

Plenty of oases in A.C. 'food desert'

City has many food options, but residents looking forward to new supermarket

By Bill Barlow
 ATLANTIC CITY (AP) — The Atlantic City area is often called a "food desert" because of its lack of fresh produce. But a new supermarket is set to open in the city, which could help change that. The new store, called "The Market," is located in the heart of the city and will offer a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables. It is expected to open in the next few months.

Biden: 'Democracy survived' Capitol riot because of police

By Bill Barlow
 WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden said on Sunday that democracy survived the Jan. 6 Capitol riot because of the actions of police officers. Biden said that the riot was a "dark day in our history" but that the police officers who stood their ground were the heroes of the day. He praised the officers for their bravery and sacrifice.

Rugers visits to Northwood

The Northwood team is set to visit Rutgers University for a game. The game is scheduled for next week.

March in the middle

The middle school students are participating in a march to raise awareness for a cause. The march is scheduled for next month.

ELECTION 2021 GOP seeks to defend gains in 1st District

By Bill Barlow
 ATLANTIC CITY (AP) — The GOP is looking to defend its gains in the 1st District during the upcoming election. The party is focused on key issues and is working to mobilize its base.



The GOP is looking to defend its gains in the 1st District during the upcoming election. The party is focused on key issues and is working to mobilize its base. The district includes Atlantic City and parts of the surrounding area.



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Spencer Kent

The Star-Ledger

Some days are hell; The lost generation; The invisible pandemic

The lost generation

The opioid crisis is over for some drug companies. But not for mourning N.J. families.



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Joshua Rosario
The Jersey Journal

Portfolio

4 | NEWS The JERSEY JOURNAL Friday, December 10, 2021 www.nj.com/hudson

2 YEARS LATER, COMMUNITY READY

BY JOSHUA ROSARIO
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

The building on Martin Luther King Drive in Jersey City looks like so many others you see during the coronavirus pandemic — a storefront with a metal roll-up door locked in place, in a sort of permanent limbo.

There is nothing to remind people that less is the kosher market where two years ago today, three people were gunned down, a short time after a Jersey City police officer was shot, dead by the same shooters in a different part of town.

The Hasidic Jewish and Black communities that share the Greenville neighborhood prefer it that way, saying it's time to move on and leave the mass shooting as a distant memory.

Baruch Leplerker, rabbi of the Sons of Israel Nussach Chabad in Journal Square, said the general feeling of the people he has spoken with is, "let's forget about it and let's hope life will go on." He says people are still trying to cope with the tragedy.

Leplerker, who lives in Greenville, said the victims are honored often on various anniversaries, but otherwise this day is remembered "in a more private way."

Moshe Schapiro, rabbi of Chabad of Hoboken and Jersey City, said the Hasidic community doesn't focus on Dec. 10, 2019, the day the shooting occurred. "Everything," they just use that day to remind themselves to be careful and vigilant."

More evidence that many would rather leave the tragedy behind them is that no public events are planned for today to honor those who died that day. Only a momentary lighting last week to mark the street of Harnisch, a city hall both Mayor Steve Fulop, Gov. Phil Murphy said only consisted of candles, commemorated the tragedy.

In September, Bayonne dedicated a park bench and an access road at 16th Street DiDonato Park to Jersey City Detective Joseph Seals, one of the four victims killed. And a small plaque was placed in Raystave Cemetery in Jersey City, where he was killed. Michael Perez, 22, who owned the store on MLK Drive with her husband, Moshe Deutsch, 24, a Brooklyn rabbinical student and customer, and store employee



ON WEDNESDAY, a man walks past 223 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Jersey City, the site of a former kosher deli where a mass shooting on Dec. 10, 2019, left five people dead, including the two assailants. Earlier in the day, the shooter killed Jersey City Police Officer Detective Joseph Seals in Bayonne Cemetery.



LAST YEAR, on Dec. 8, 2020, there was still a mural painted on a wall overlooking the storefront that was the site of the mass shooting on Dec. 10, 2019.



A CANDLELIGHT vigil on site. The Jersey City City Hall annex was held on Dec. 13, 2019, to honor and remember the victims of the mass shooting, boarded up.

Douglas Miguel Rodriguez were also killed that day. Their killers, David Anderson, 47, and Francine Crabbun, 30, were shot dead by police who stormed the store about an hour into the shooting.

The families of Perez and Deutsch have left the city where they lost their loved ones. Deutsch's family moved to Brooklyn while Perez's family moved to Rockland County, New York, to be closer to family to help with the children.

Leplerker said more families have moved into the area than have moved out. He doesn't have

exact figures, but at this time last year about 80 Hasidic families lived on the south side of Jersey City. The yeshiva where 30 young students sheltered in place as the tragedy unfolded outside has moved to Journal Square. The storefront on MLK Drive sits

boarded up. Schapiro said the children have gotten therapy to help cope with the tragedy. "They have a nice property where the school moved to and the kids are safe," Schapiro said. While the Hasidic community was the apparent target of this

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William Westhoven

Daily Record

Funeral mom and son; Holiday calendar Randolph; Trump supporters



Mock Draft: Giants must weigh which star can deliver most

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Daily Record

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How Murphy's schools budget will affect aid

Newsroom Editor
7/22/21 10:58 AM EDT

The Board of Education (BOE) would cut the state of New Jersey's aid to schools by 10% if the state's budget is cut by 10% in the next fiscal year, according to a report from the state's Department of Education (DOE) released on Tuesday.

MORE ONLINE

More information on this story is available on our website. Click on the link below to read the full story.



New Jersey Acting Department of Education Commissioner Douglas A. Gifford (right) speaks at a press conference on Tuesday, July 20, 2021, in Trenton, N.J. Gifford is seen with Governor Phil Murphy (left).

Funeral for mother, son fills street with mourners



Mourners gather for the funeral of Sarah H. Reed and her son, Christopher, at the James M. Smith Funeral Center in Trenton on Friday. Reed and her son died in the Hackensack River at Great and Park on Tuesday.

Local News Editor
7/22/21 10:58 AM EDT

It was a somber scene as a crowd of mourners gathered for the funeral of Sarah H. Reed and her son, Christopher, on Friday. The funeral was held at the James M. Smith Funeral Center in Trenton.



Mourners at the funeral gathered for Sarah H. Reed and her son, Christopher. The funeral was held outside to allow for social distancing. Hundreds of people lined the street.

Local News Editor
7/22/21 10:58 AM EDT

COVID-19 vaccines likely safe for pregnant people

Local News Editor
7/22/21 10:58 AM EDT

The state's health officials say COVID-19 vaccines are likely safe for pregnant people. The state's Department of Health said that pregnant women can get the COVID-19 vaccine.

Local News Editor
7/22/21 10:58 AM EDT

Take a ride and check out NJ's scenic byways

Local News Editor
7/22/21 10:58 AM EDT

The state's Department of Transportation is promoting scenic byways in New Jersey. The state's Department of Transportation is promoting scenic byways in New Jersey.

Local News Editor
7/22/21 10:58 AM EDT

Stop the spread : COVID-19 is still a threat. Stay safe and healthy. Wear your mask, wash your hands, and avoid close contact with others.

USA TODAY : The nation's largest newspaper, available in print and online.

New legislation : The state's Department of Health is proposing new legislation to improve public health.

Weather : The state's Department of Environmental Protection is forecasting a hot and humid day.

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Kurt Bresswein

The Express-Times

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THIRD PLACE

Jaimie Julia Winters

Montclair Local

Portfolio

EQUALITY

Council moves on LGBTQ-inclusive policies



DIEGO JESUS BARTESAGHI MENA/STAFF

Councilman Peter Yacobellis and Mayor Sean Spiller raise the Progressive Pride Flag in front of Montclair's town hall on Friday, June 4, to mark Pride Month. Yacobellis, the township's first openly gay elected official, has introduced ordinances that would expand Montclair's antidiscrimination protections to cover gender identity, and to require single-occupancy bathrooms in town to be unisex.

Unisex bathrooms could be mandated

BY **JAIMIE JULIA
WINTERS**

winters@montclairlocal.news

The Montclair Township Council has introduced a set of ordinances meant to establish more LGBTQ+ inclusive policies — but some council members say they're worried a requirement for unisex bathrooms throughout town hasn't had enough discussion yet.

The ordinances, placed on the June 1 council agenda as "discussion only" items to

Inside
Pride
Flag-
Raising,
Events
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See LGBTQ, page 12

Coverage of Government Art Weissman Memorial Award

Weekly Division

SECOND PLACE

Jaimie Julia Winters
Montclair Local

Portfolio

Page 4

News

Thursday, October 28, 2021

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Audit finds issues in library budget

Township seeks more transparency with funding requests

by JAIMIE JULIA WINTERS
wintersj@montclairlocal.com

A forensic audit of the Montclair Public Library's budget found problems including more than half a million dollars in overstated expenses, and recommends several practices consultants say will smooth the budgeting process going forward.

Among them, the consultants told the Montclair Township Council last week, the library should come up with a baseline budget for only the funding state law requires it receives — even though Montclair has historically provided hundreds of thousands of dollars past that amount. Any spending above the statutory requirement should be presented separately with a detailed analysis to aid in transparency, they said. And the consultants recommend separate budgets for Montclair's main branch and its Bellevue Avenue branch.

Library Director Peter Coy, who compiles the budget, told Montclair Local he just received the audit on Friday, Oct. 15, and could not comment on the details of the report. But he said library officials would respond to the council on the findings, some of which he called "unfactual."

The Montclair Township Council

1/10th of a cent. In Montclair this year, that worked out to \$2,680,192.

But for decades, the library has requested and received several hundred thousand dollars more than the required amount. In recent years budget negotiations have become contentious when library officials presented the township council with budgets that went above the statutory number. The pandemic brought about more questions in relation to the library's budget, and prompted steep cuts to planned funding for 2020. Twenty-one part-time staffers were let go in October of that year.

The pandemic shut down both the branches in March 2020. In June of that year, the main branch began curbside pickup and opened some in-person services to patrons in October.

But the Bellevue branch didn't reopen until in June of this year, with hours cut back, after budget negotiations ended with the library receiving about \$420,000 over the statutory limit, according to Bennecke.

Library officials were not able to provide an accounting of cost savings for the closure of the Bellevue Library and from the change in operations and programs from in-person to virtual, Gannon said. The library also continued to pay



ALAN ANNOFOR MONTCLAIR LOCAL

The Montclair Township Council authorized a \$1.1 million audit into the Montclair Public Library budget.

stated expenses of \$540,000 by improperly duplicating pension benefits by \$280,000 and adding an expense labeled "Designated funds to transfers to 2022" of \$260,000, the audit found. The 2021 budget also labeled \$180,000 of transfers from 2020's fund balance as revenues.

Mayor Sean Spiller said practices such as counting unspent dollars as revenue and fund balances as expenses distort the budget.

"The double pensions matter when we talk about monies that are needed. ... When they are double listed, that artificially inflates costs that are needed. Potentially those dollars weren't needed to move through the year," he said.

necessarily funding each branch at the same level, but putting them on "equal footing."

Bennecke suggested an agreement for the township and library to consider. That agreement includes equal access for the public to services and programs at each branch. He said each year, the library should send the township a budget update by Oct. 31 — detailing projected and actual costs to that point. Any changes to hours, programs or staffing would be presented to the township manager. The library would pursue all available grants. It would have statements for consistent policies, plans and programs at the two branches. Anticipated revenues in a library budget wouldn't

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Weekly Division

FIRST PLACE

Jacob Perry

The Bernardsville News

Cop DWI revealed; Life a tidal wave;
High static at meeting

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Cop DWI revealed in new reports

By W. JACOB PERRY
STAFF WRITER

A Bernards Township police officer being charged with driving drunk while on duty was among the revelations that came to light last week as a result of a new state requirement that all police departments publicly disclose officer misconduct.

That incident, which later led to the officer's departure from the 38-member department, was the only

significant misconduct listed for Bernards Township during the reporting period between June 15 and Dec. 31, 2020.

It was also the only one listed for the five police departments in the Somerset Hills area during that period.

Online links to internal affairs reports for the Bernardsville, Bedminster Township, Far Hills and Peapack-Gladstone police said there were no "major" disciplinary actions, fines

>> RELATED EDITORIAL

New state reporting requirement long overdue. Please see page 4.

or suspensions of 10 days or longer for violations of department rules and regulations.

The way in which such records were accessed from each department's online police page varied.

In Bernards Township, there is a link from the po-

lice department website to "Internal Affairs," which in turn has links to "Major Discipline Report," "2020 Ten Days or More Suspension Report," and "2020 Public Synopsis of Internal Affairs Complaints."

The "Major Discipline Report" for June 15 to Dec. 31, 2020, lists one officer; David Martin, being suspended for 55 days.

"Officer was convicted of DWI while on duty," the synopsis said. "Officer has resigned from the Bernards

Township Police Department."

Previously the only public disclosure of Martin's departure was when the Bernards Township Committee meeting agenda for Feb. 23, 2021, listed a resolution providing him compensation for accrued unused vacation time.

The resolution said that with Martin's employment having "terminated" on Jan. 31, 2021, he had accrued 149.5 hours of vacation time at a rate of \$59.70 per hour

and was entitled to \$8,925.15. Martin was with the department for nearly 13 years, having been hired in June 2008.

DWI Report

He was on duty when he was arrested and charged with DWI on Dec. 3, 2019.

A police report of the arrest was obtained by this newspaper through an Open Public Records Act (OPRA) request.

PLEASE SEE COP, PAGE 2

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Asbury Park Press

APRIL 10, 2021

APR 10, 2021



Community rallies for pizzeria owners
TODAY, 8A



FRIDAY 10.01.21

ASBURY PARK PRESS
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Schools chief defends pandemic protocols

Denies responsibility for illnesses in Toms River

More on mobile
FOR MORE ON THIS STORY, VISIT [WWW.NJPA.COM](#). YOU CAN ALSO FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK, TWITTER AND INSTAGRAM.

TOP STORY
TOMS RIVER — The superintendent of the district's schools, Dr. Robert J. ...

Tillie on the move



Work assesses the Tillie mural as crews site on the north side of Asbury Park's Convention Hall.

Iconic mural comes out of storage, but no one knows final destination

Iconic mural comes out of storage, but no one knows final destination

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Brother vs. Brother
Sunday's marionette begins center Jason Valle against Charles Hoff and Travis Kece, among others.

Fans enjoy return to ShopRite Classic

By [Name] [Email]
[Text about the ShopRite Classic event, mentioning fans and the return to the field.]



Photo by [Name] [Email]

RIISING TIDE

Flooding events, over time, are expected to reach the doorsteps of Atlantic City's schools

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Photo by [Name] [Email]

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Chronic flooding risk at area schools



Women's march



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RELIEF AT THE PUMP

THE STATE'S GASOLINE PUMP WILL BE 25 CENTS CHEAPER AS THE REGULAR PRICE FALLS TO 33 CENTS PER GALLON. BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS FOR THE STAR-LEDGER



ATLANTIC CITY
TAKE THE STAGE.

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

With promise kept, a family grows by three



Leah Torres, a Jersey City teacher who recently moved to Hoboken, Monmouth, Adjunct Professor, State University of New Jersey, and her family. From left, Leah Torres, 10-year-old daughter, 11-year-old son, 10-year-old son, and 10-year-old son. Photo by David J. Phillip for The Star-Ledger.

After losing her sister to COVID-19, Leah Torres, a Jersey City teacher who recently moved to Hoboken, Monmouth, Adjunct Professor, State University of New Jersey, and her family. From left, Leah Torres, 10-year-old daughter, 11-year-old son, 10-year-old son, and 10-year-old son. Photo by David J. Phillip for The Star-Ledger.



Torres holds a picture of her sister, Jackie, who died of COVID-19.

...of her sister's death. ...

WASHINGTON

Biden signs bill to avert partial government shutdown

Attention now turns to debt limit as other deadline looms.

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden on Thursday signed a bill to avert a partial government shutdown, but attention now turns to the debt ceiling. The bill, which would raise the debt ceiling through the end of the fiscal year, was signed into law at the White House. Biden said the bill was a "necessary step" to ensure that the government can continue to operate. The bill also includes provisions to extend the deadline for raising the debt ceiling. The debt ceiling is the total amount of money that the federal government is authorized to borrow to meet its obligations. It is currently set at \$28.4 trillion. The debt ceiling is a major point of contention between Democrats and Republicans in Congress. Democrats want to raise the debt ceiling, while Republicans want to keep it at the current level. The debt ceiling is a critical issue because it affects the government's ability to pay its bills. If the debt ceiling is not raised, the government will be forced to default on its debt, which could have serious consequences for the economy. The debt ceiling is also a major point of contention in the ongoing negotiations between Democrats and Republicans over the federal budget. Democrats want to raise the debt ceiling, while Republicans want to keep it at the current level. The debt ceiling is a critical issue because it affects the government's ability to pay its bills. If the debt ceiling is not raised, the government will be forced to default on its debt, which could have serious consequences for the economy. The debt ceiling is also a major point of contention in the ongoing negotiations between Democrats and Republicans over the federal budget.

NATION & WORLD



Demis clash over vote

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Burlington County Times

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NEWS

Skateboarders say the culture welcomes diversity in a way other sports don't. Here's why



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 Joe Martucci, Selena Vazquez, John Upton
 The Press of Atlantic City

Climate Central on sea level rise and Atlantic City



Flooding on the menu

In Atlantic City, rising seas threaten an already struggling industry

ALANTIC CITY
 BY JOHN UPTON

As the ocean rises, the threat of flooding is becoming a reality for Atlantic City's restaurant industry. Many restaurants are located in low-lying areas, and the threat of flooding is becoming a reality for many of them. The threat of flooding is becoming a reality for many of them. The threat of flooding is becoming a reality for many of them.



ABOUT THIS STORY

This story is a result of a partnership between Climate Central and The Press of Atlantic City. The story is a result of a partnership between Climate Central and The Press of Atlantic City. The story is a result of a partnership between Climate Central and The Press of Atlantic City.



Fla. collapse draws parallels to Trop tragedy

Florida's recent building collapse has drawn parallels to a similar tragedy in Atlantic City. The collapse in Florida was a result of a building that was not built to code. The collapse in Atlantic City was a result of a building that was not built to code.

From racism to activism

BRAIN BUSTERS

LOOK INSIDE

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Bally's Atlantic City is currently looking for full-time experienced dealers in slots, blackjack, pin-ball, pool, Pai Gow Tiles & Craps.

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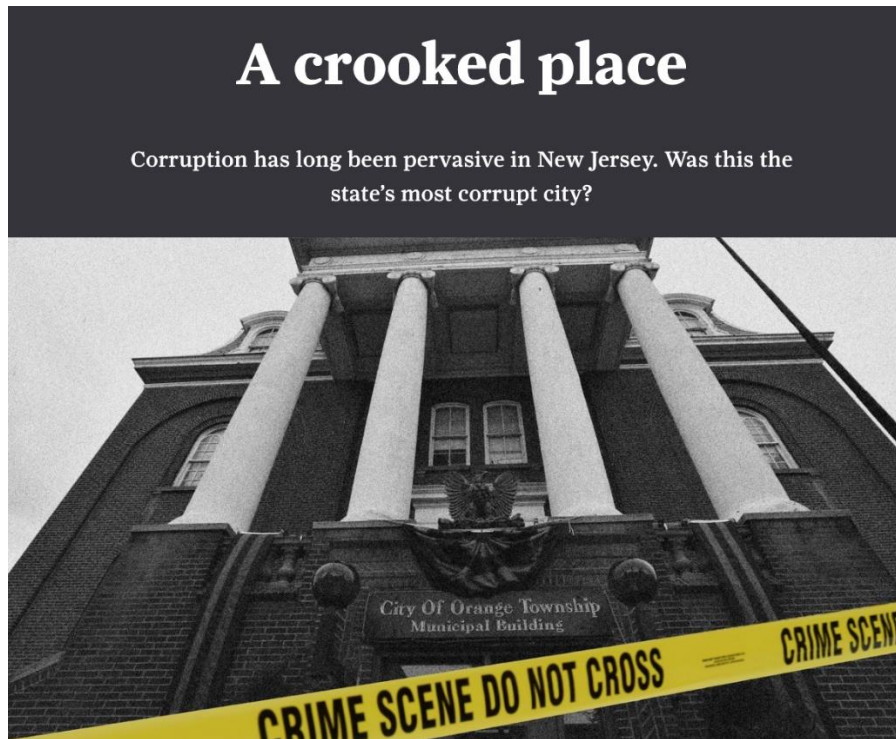
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Ted Sherman

The Star-Ledger

**A crooked place; Bags of cash;
An inside game**



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Alexander Santora
 The Jersey Journal

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12 | LIFE | THE JERSEY JOURNAL | Thursday, September 30, 2021 | www.nj.com/hudson

Life Faith

Funeral for a church in Secaucus

more online
 Click through our online photo gallery at NJ.com/Hudson



REV. ALEXANDER SANTORA PHOTO

THE FIRST Reformed Church of Secaucus' former pastor, the Rev. Will Henkel stands at the head of the church with its graceful arched-wood ceiling seen in the background just before the disbanding service on Sept. 15.



ETHEL DELLA BELLA, left, and Karen Wallenheiser, both 77, sit on the church steps before entering for the disbanding service.



THE CHURCH, at 51 Centre St. in Secaucus, may be sold to another denomination or a developer, a church official said.

As I approached First Reformed Church at 51 Centre St. in Secaucus two Sundays ago, I encountered two 77-year-old women sitting next to each other on the church steps. It looked like they were hesitating to enter the church. And they were — because it would be the very last time they'd worship there as part of the 130-year-old First Reformed congregation.

The president of the Greater Palisades Classis of the Reformed Church in America was there to disband their church.

I have been at countless funerals inside of church but never to a funeral for a church. And neither had the Rev. Terrence O'Brien, who has headed the classis of 40 churches since February.



Rev. Alexander M. Santora
 Faith Matters

"I have mixed emotions because it needed to be done but I'm sad for the members," he told me.

Karen Wallenheiser, one of the septagenarians, put it more bluntly. "We have been kicked out," she said.

Later, she came up to me to apologize and tell her remarks weren't Christian. But she wasn't alone in her anger. And it may have to do with the fact that while the Reformed members can no longer worship there, a second church, North Jersey United Pentecostal, can. "It's a shame," said the Rev. Will Henkel, who pastored First Reformed for 29 years before retiring in 2010. He grew up in the church and delivered a stellar and poignant history as part of the disbanding service. He noted that it is usually the church congregation that requests disbanding, which did not happen here. In June, the classis, which is

made up of all the pastors in the region 10 times is from the Community Church of Glen Rock. Informed First Reformed that it would close and had four weeks to leave. Since the small congregation, perhaps 15 active members, mostly seniors, could cover expenses, they agreed but only got one-third of the debts to support the appeal.

All the comes at a pivotal time in the Reformed Church in America's history. The national denomination will meet in convention in October for the first time since the pandemic and might allow more progressive Reformed churches to align with other denominations.

As for what comes next for the Secaucus church, O'Brien said that he would prefer the building be sold to another denomination and remain a church through it. Della Bella's died, Herbert Salch, was the church's developer.

superintendent of its Sunday school and enrolled 134 that when she was 3 years old. "Why couldn't we continue to worship?" asked Della Bella, one of the first women deacons there.

She noted that the classis said to wait six months and perhaps a new ministry could emerge, but they are not holding their breath.

About 15 ethnically diverse people attended the service only outnumbered by the waiting 18 Reformed clergy who showed up. Henkel said the parishioners went to dinner afterward, horsed and frolic.

Henkel tried to cheer them up when he recounted the rich history of the church.

He started by holding up an 1882 donation receipt for 25 cents, which, he said would amount to \$5.71 today. He noted the Post family as patrons of the first church on County Road, which was moved to its Centre Street location in 1913. He noted three longline patrons — Cornelius Munn in 1914, Lewis Kuzma, 1937, and Marvin Cadby, 1952. Christ Church in Union City merged with Secaucus in 1940.

Henkel's tenure was marked by incorporating the social justice movements of the day into the church's ministries. They became a peace site and supported Habitat for Humanity, CHOP hunger walks, the PECH shelter for the homeless in Union City, and First Friends for Immigrants. They hosted AA meetings and supported people with AIDS.

They also welcomed five other religious congregations to worship there through the years.

Henkel summed it up. "We leave this place, our church home, our second home, with great sorrow in our hearts but great rejoicing over what God has done with this little church."

The Rev. Alexander Santora is the pastor of the Trinity of Grace and St. Joseph, 400 Willow Ave., Hoboken, NJ 07030. Email: psantora@photos.com; Twitter: @psantoroborn.

Specialty Writing Portfolio

Daily, Under 25,000

SECOND PLACE

Sarah Cassi

The Express-Times

Portfolio

SUBSCRIBER EXCLUSIVE

Route 22 widening, decades in the making, no longer affordable. What happened and what's next.

Updated: Nov. 08, 2021, 7:27 a.m. | Published: Nov. 08, 2021, 7:00 a.m.



Looking over Route 22 at Route 191 (Nazareth Pike) and Highfield Dr. in Bethlehem Township. Saed Hindash | For lehighvalleylive.com

Specialty Writing Portfolio

Daily, Under 25,000

FIRST PLACE

Steve Novak

The Express-Times

Portfolio

SUBSCRIBER EXCLUSIVE

Don't drink the water: Local neighborhood thirsts for answers about chemicals in their wells

Updated: Nov. 15, 2021, 9:39 a.m. | Published: Nov. 15, 2021, 7:03 a.m.



The New Jersey DEP has been investigating PFAS water contamination in Washington Township, Warren County, since 2019. John Lombard, one of the area's impacted residents, has been critical of the state and township's response. Steve Novak | For lehighvalleylive.com

Weekly Division

Coverage of Crime, Police, Court

Coverage of Crime, Police, Court Weekly Division

THIRD PLACE

Craig D. Schenck
Ocean City Sentinel

Portfolio

OCEAN CITY SENTINEL



Atlantic proposes countywide court

Idea would save \$, offer uniform justice, provide improved social services

By CRAIG SCHENCK
Staff Writer

NEW JERSEY — The state's Supreme Court has proposed a countywide court system that would save \$100 million annually, offer uniform justice and provide improved social services.

The proposal, announced last week, would create a single court system for all 21 counties, replacing the current system of 21 separate county courts. The plan would also create a new judicial branch, the State Judicial Council, which would oversee the court system and make recommendations to the governor.

The proposal is part of a larger effort to reform the state's judiciary. The current system is criticized for being inefficient and expensive. The new system would have a single chief justice, a single chief judge, and a single chief clerk. It would also have a single judicial council, which would oversee the court system and make recommendations to the governor.

The proposal is expected to be passed by the state legislature in the next few months. It would take effect in 2023.

Family rescued in Seaville blaze



Fireworks Fire Company firefighters pour water on a building after a Seaville blaze. (Ocean City Sentinel/Craig Schenck)

State restrictions to ease on May 19

COVID limits changing in time for the summer

By CRAIG SCHENCK
Staff Writer

NEW JERSEY — The state's health department has announced that it will ease some of its COVID-19 restrictions starting on May 19. The new rules will allow for larger gatherings and the reopening of some businesses.

The health department says that the state's COVID-19 case rates have declined significantly since the beginning of the year. It says that the new rules are based on the current data and are intended to help the state's economy recover.

The new rules include allowing for gatherings of up to 100 people outdoors and up to 25 people indoors. They also allow for the reopening of some businesses, including restaurants and retail stores.

The health department says that the new rules are subject to change if the state's COVID-19 case rates rise again.

Mother hurt, children saved

Fast action by bystanders, firefighters in U.T. fire

By CRAIG SCHENCK
Staff Writer

NEW JERSEY — A mother was hurt and her children were saved in a fire at a home in Union Township on Tuesday. Firefighters and bystanders acted quickly to rescue the family.

The fire broke out in the early morning hours at a home on Route 138. The fire spread quickly, and the mother was injured while trying to escape. The children were rescued by bystanders who called 911 and helped them out of the house.

Firefighters arrived on the scene shortly after and worked to contain the fire. They rescued the mother and her children and transported them to a hospital. The mother's injuries are not life-threatening, and she is expected to make a full recovery.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation. Firefighters are working to determine what started the fire and how it spread so quickly.

Renewed call for action at Ocean City High School



Bill Barwick speaking at a podium during a school assembly. (Ocean City Sentinel/Craig Schenck)

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Weekly Division

SECOND PLACE

Jaimie Julia Winters

Montclair Local

Nine summonses so far; Leaf blower law heading to court; Leaf blower ordinance upheld

GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS

Nine summonses so far

Some wonder: Do people know about new law?

BY JAIMIE JULIA WINTERS
wintersj@montclairlocal.com

The consensus is still out on whether Montclair's newly amended restrictions on gas-powered leaf blowers are creating a quarter Montclair. The law cuts back on the days and hours when gas blowers can be used — including banning them in the second half of May and all of June.

Peter Holm of Quist Montclair, a group that aims to reduce the use of gas blowers in favor of quieter, healthier, greener alternatives, said the law has had some of its intended effect, but that more compliance is needed.

The township, as of June 10, had issued nine summonses to eight different landscaping companies charging violations of the gas leaf blower ban. Those summonses will result in court dates.

In addition, the township issued five summonses to landscapers for using gas blowers once the ban went into effect.

"That was the teeth in this law — that if you're caught, it's not just a slap on the hand, you're going to court, and the judge may fine you up to \$2,000," Chairman Peter Yessella, who penned the new law, said. "I would hope as these consequences reverberate, that companies do not continue to flagrantly break the law."

Officials have said in the past that warnings would be issued for first offenses, while second offenses would result in summonses and court dates.

Gas-powered blowers had previously been allowed March through June 30 and Oct. 1 through Dec. 15. In February, the township's Council voted 5-1 to restrict those dates to March 15 through May 15, and Oct. 15 through

Dec. 15. Starting times are now an hour later as well — 9 a.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. on weekends.

In all, that reduces the number of days gas blowers are allowed each year from 100 days.

Holm questioned if both landscapers and homeowners had been notified about the change in the law. Township officials said in the past that all of the 40 landscapers who registered with the town to conduct business would be notified via mail of the new hours and when the ban took effect. The New Jersey Landscapers Association was also aware of the change, Holm said.

Only two towns currently have limitations on gas blowers: Montclair and Maplewood.

Maplewood passed its law in May, limiting gas blowers by landscapers to Oct. 1 through May 14, with restrictions prior to and after on Sundays. Prior to that, Maplewood had no restrictions on when gas blowers could be used.

Montclair's law creates a minimum fine of \$200, a maximum of \$2,000, and a possible 90-day jail term for violation, the maximum allowed under municipal ordinance.

Holm said he would like to see escalating fines like those in Maplewood, rather than having it up to the discretion of the court. But he concluded the goal of the law was not to fine landscapers, but to lower the usage of gas blowers.

Some landscapers have pivoted from gas to electric blowers, which are allowed all year long. But for other landscaping companies, the cost to replace their blowers is prohibitive, and the need to recharge batteries can hurt workflow. The cost of a professional-grade, battery-powered leaf blower is about \$300 to \$400 (the same as a gas blower), and it comes



NINE summonses have been issued to eight landscaping companies, charging them with using gas-powered leaf blowers under a ban that goes into effect this year. It's the first time in the town's history that any of the blowers they previously used have been at issue.

with one battery, according to Dan DeChenail, who owns Commercial-based lawn care company MontGreen LLC, and speaks to municipalities on the benefits of electric landscaping tools over gas-powered ones. He said an electric blower has power on par with a gas one. DeChenail made the comments at a May 4 Maplewood Township Committee meeting.

Tunde Ramhagbo, owner of Grasscutters, told Montclair Local it was an easy choice when he started his Montclair-area landscaping business this year. He went all-battery or electric for all of his tools, trimmers, mowers and blowers.

Ramhagbo said buying battery-powered tools was a little more expensive, and he needs to have multiple batteries on hand for each tool. But he saves money by charging equipment up at a cost of 25 cents on hour versus filling up with gas. He also charges up equipment while driving to job sites, and some homeowners are reluctant to charge among their outdoor outlets.

"It's all worth it when you think of the effect gas has on people's lives," he said. "Times are different now. There's a health crisis, and there's climate change."

DeChenail said he's been able to raise his rates at \$40-\$45 an hour, which is the market rate.

Doris Duxon, owner of

Quist Gardens, invested in battery-powered blowers in the spring to use during the off-season, but sent out letters to her 350 clients explaining how the reduction in hours would affect fall and spring cleanups, and notifying them of a small increase in prices.

But customers don't mind paying a little more, said Ramhagbo, who can't hire enough workers to meet his demand.

Resident Jeannine Cox, who has been a vocal proponent of leaf blower ban, questioned how many residents know about the change in usage dates, or that Montclair even has a law regulating gas blowers. Cox has suggested that there is a violation, the homeowner and landscaper both be ticketed. And enforcement should be conducted routinely, no matter models, she said.

Yessella said residents and businesses should let landscapers they hire know they want them to follow the law.

Although only two towns in New Jersey are limiting gas blowers, 100 towns throughout the U.S. have enacted regulations on the machines, Maplewood officials said at their May meeting.

Devenhall said he's been able to raise his rates at \$40-\$45 an hour, which is the market rate.

Doris Duxon, owner of

from June 1 to Aug. 31 of this year.

Dr. Alvin H. Stronick, a professor at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and a Montclair resident, said at a Jan. 5 Montclair Township Council meeting that the two-stroke engines of gas-powered blowers "are terribly toxic" and produce fumes that linger for days. He said the pollution leads to asthma and could lead to cancer.

Soon after Maplewood passed its ban, the New Jersey Landscapers Contractors Association and nine landscape companies filed a suit against that township, charging that the ban discriminated against businesses because it does not apply to private residents and the town's DPW crews. Montclair's ordinance, however, applies to private residents as well, though the DPW is not restricted. The Maplewood suit is still in the federal courts.

Montclair's gas leaf blower ordinance was first created in 1995, limiting use to March 15 to April 30 and Oct. 15 to Dec. 1, and was soon challenged by Dante Landscaping and so other "John Does." In 1996, the group of landscapers successfully petitioned the township to take the ordinance to referendum, and 57.5% of the voters

agreed to a repeal. The suit was dismissed after the landscapers and township reached a settlement in 2000 that limited use from March 1 to June 15 and Oct. 1 to Dec. 15.

In February, Michael D. Byrne of Pilgrim Pruning said that the settlement prohibited the town from further restrictions on leaf blowers. But the settlement, obtained by Montclair Local, does not state that the town is prohibited from making amendments to its ordinance.

At the time, Township Attorney Ira Karasik said, "Courts cannot normally assign legislative bodies from making laws—they can only address the law if it already exists."

Coverage of Crime, Police, Court Weekly Division

FIRST PLACE Gina G. Scala The SandPaper

Portfolio

CURRENTS Ship Bottom, NJDOT OK Additional Traffic Signal

City of Ship Bottom officials are in the process of installing a traffic signal at the intersection of Highway 206 and the Ocean Boulevard. The project is being funded by NJDOT.

The project is being funded by NJDOT. The city is currently in the process of reviewing the project and will be submitting a request to NJDOT for funding.

The project is being funded by NJDOT. The city is currently in the process of reviewing the project and will be submitting a request to NJDOT for funding.

Little Egg Harbor's \$4M Disaster Loan Balance Forgiven

Little Egg Harbor's \$4 million disaster loan balance has been forgiven by the state. The loan was used to fund the city's recovery efforts following the 2010 earthquake.

The loan was used to fund the city's recovery efforts following the 2010 earthquake. The state has forgiven the balance of the loan.

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Patrol Officer [Name] stands next to a patrol car in a residential area.

Pennsylvania Woman Charged Father, His Girlfriend Killed In Bayfront Surf City Home

A Pennsylvania woman has been charged with the murder of her father and his girlfriend. The incident occurred in a home in Surf City, North Carolina.

The incident occurred in a home in Surf City, North Carolina. The woman is currently in custody and facing multiple charges.

The woman is currently in custody and facing multiple charges. The incident is being investigated by local law enforcement.

The incident is being investigated by local law enforcement. The woman is currently in custody and facing multiple charges.

The woman is currently in custody and facing multiple charges. The incident is being investigated by local law enforcement.

The incident is being investigated by local law enforcement. The woman is currently in custody and facing multiple charges.

Trump-Loving Dog Draus Karnegat Resident's Concern

A resident in Karnegat is concerned about a dog that appears to be a Trump supporter. The dog is seen wearing a hat with the word 'TRUMP' on it.

The dog is seen wearing a hat with the word 'TRUMP' on it. The resident is concerned about the dog's behavior and the message it is sending.

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THIRD PLACE

Keith Sargeant

The Star-Ledger

My father was a war hero who
saved lives and I never knew



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Celeste Whittaker

Courier-Post



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FIRST PLACE

Bobby Olivier

The Star-Ledger

**The Rock 'N' Roll
Consigliere**

For nearly 50 years, Steven Van Zandt has been the man behind the man. It's time we heard his side of the story.



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THIRD PLACE

Connor Lagore

The Express-Times

SUBSCRIBER EXCLUSIVE

For the birds: Masonic Temple demolition leaves chimney standing for annual migration through Bethlehem

Updated: Jan. 01, 2021, 12:24 p.m. | Published: Jan. 01, 2021, 9:30 a.m.



A chimney swift, the species of bird that annually takes up residence in the Bethlehem Masonic Temple chimney during migratory season. Courtesy of Scott Burnet

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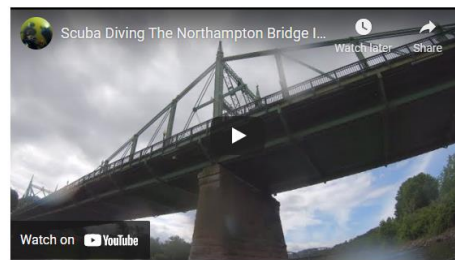
Sarah Cassi

The Express-Times

Easton

What's lurking in the Delaware River? This Lehigh Valley diver takes you on his adventures

Updated: Aug. 17, 2021, 7:36 a.m. | Published: Aug. 17, 2021, 6:30 a.m.



[Scuba Diving The Northampton Bridge In the Delaware River \(Free Bridge\)](#)



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By [Sarah Cassi](#) | For [lehighvalleylive.com](#)

Matt Schade has crossed the iconic Easton-Phillipsburg free bridge hundreds of times, looked out at the Delaware River and wondered what was underneath the water's surface.

Feature, Lifestyle, Entertainment Portfolio

Daily, Under 25,000

FIRST PLACE

Cheryl Makin

Home News Tribune

BUSINESS

These toys promote Hindu faith and South Asian culture in a fun and meaningful way



Cheryl Makin
MyCentralJersey.com

Published 5:00 a.m. ET July 29, 2021

[View Comments](#)



'Women can be where men have been for centuries': Black and South Asian Wisconsin women speak about Kamala Harris

Black and South Asian Wisconsin women and girls express their thoughts of the inauguration of Kamala Harris, the first female and Hindu vice president. *Tony Cox, Green Bay Press-Gazette*

At this time, I'd like to invite Dan Sforza, The Record, and NJPA editorial committee member, to come to the stage to continue with the journalism awards.

Weekly Division

Interpretive Writing

Interpretive Writing

Weekly Division

THIRD PLACE
Elizabeth Wulfhorst
 The Two River Times

Portfolio

APRIL 1, 2021

The Two River Times

3

Dead Fish Could Signal Problems for NJ Waterways

By Elizabeth Wulfhorst

FAIR HAVEN — There is a not-so-pleasant sight on a tiny strip of sandy ground at the end of Fair Haven Beach: at least a dozen dead fish.

While not a rare occurrence, the presence of these lifeless menhaden here and at other locations throughout the Two River area, is a cause for concern for a number of reasons, explained Swarna Mathakrishnan, Ph.D., the staff scientist at Clean Ocean Action, a local nonprofit that works to improve the water quality along the Jersey Shore.

The menhaden — also known as bunker — an oily finfish that sits at the bottom of the food chain, can end up in shallow water after being chased there by larger predators. The shallow waters at times have less dissolved oxygen and can't accommodate the influx of fish so some die. Mathakrishnan called this a "natural" cause in a natural situation.

But the concern, she said, is, "at least in the Navesink and the Shrewsbury (rivers), we have been observing this more frequently."

The reasons for the increase are difficult to pinpoint and could be explained by a number of factors.

Oxygen variation in the coastal waters has a "diurnal pattern," said Mathakrishnan. This means the levels fluctuate between the daytime and nighttime. But as climate change brings warmer weather to the region sooner than expected, "tremendously higher and warmer temperatures much much earlier on in the season" can create a problem for the fish, she said. As recently as 2019, hundreds of the fish washed up in both rivers and along the Sandy Hook Bay. Mathakrishnan said normal dissolved oxygen levels in healthy water are around 6 to 10 milligrams per liter; readings have gone as low as 2 mg/L, which is alarming.

Another potential factor is "stormwater runoff from improperly managed fertilizer application," she said. Severe weather events, which have been occurring more frequently, drive nutrients into the waters which creates algal blooms. These nutrient-rich blooms also need dissolved oxygen for survival, depriving the native aquatic life of it and causing them to die, a process called "eutrophication."



ELIZABETH WULFHORST

Stormwater runoff from fertilizers, a factor that is a focus of the marine conservation, have washed up on the banks of local waterways.

"We are watching the temperature and the weather so we are wanting to kind of have a handle on this, because, especially in the Navesink... we definitely

know that runoff is a problem," Mathakrishnan said. Still another possible cause of the excess of dead fish is disease.

An unusual number of dead menhaden showed up on New Jersey shores in November and December, typically colder months when low oxygen levels should not have been an issue. Mathakrishnan said she and Alison Jones, COA's water-shed program coordinator, spotted a few fish washed up

in the Red Bank area in December 2019 when they were collecting water samples.

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife had been investigating occurrences and attributed the deaths to a disease, possibly a bacterial infection, that caused multiple-organ failure. Another disease, called "spinning disease," attacks the fishes' nervous system and can cause them to become disoriented and inflame in the water.

Rather than the deaths being caused by just one of these factors, Mathakrishnan said most scientists believe all of them are working in concert against the leaky menhaden. But why so much concern over a relatively small fish not even suitable for human consumption?

Menhaden filter up to four gallons of water a minute, cleaning the marine environment and keeping it healthy. Without menhaden, phytoplankton grow unchecked, killing other species, which in turn affects the entire food chain. Oyster, egret and

seagull and many larger fish like tuna and bluefish, call the menhaden food.

And the anticipated deaths of these fish aren't the only issue: Menhaden have been harvested in droves for years for their rich omega-3 oil, used in supplements, livestock feed and many other applications, and they are perfect as clam when fishing.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has begun limiting the Atlantic menhaden harvest to try to ensure a balance between maintaining a healthy ecosystem and the needs of the fishing industry.

Mathakrishnan said the community can help the menhaden by letting organizations like COA know when they spot dead fish on the shore.

"We want to try to assemble all the information that we can possibly get from these mortalities," to determine if the cause is something that's fixable, she said. "That is our goal."

Interpretive Writing

Weekly Division

SECOND PLACE

Gina G. Scala

The SandPaper

Dredge Materials Used to Fortify Beach

18
The SandPaper/Photo courtesy of USACE



Inlet Project One of 10 Nationwide

Dredge Materials Used to Fortify Beach



By GINA G. SCALA
In the Barnegat inlet, not far from Coast Guard Station Barnegat Light, the dredge Marden has been at work for nearly two weeks sucking up sand from the seabed before unloading it nearshore off Harvey Cedars in the vicinity of Hudson Avenue south to Union Avenue.

The project is one of 10 selected nationwide for testing innovative approaches to the beneficial use of dredge materials, according to Keith Watson, project manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The "ultimate goal" of the project is to prove dredge materials can have a positive effect on stabilizing the shoreline, he said.

The inlet is dredged twice annually for safe navigation purposes, with the sand typically deposited off Barnegat Light. This project, however, calls for the sand to be hauled and released off Harvey Cedars, which was chosen because of its history of chronic beach erosion. The sand placement area represents one-fifth of the borough's beaches.

"The technology is not new," Watson said, adding the challenge is that Barnegat inlet is one of the busiest inlets to dredge. It has both commercial and recreational boating traffic, and the water is dynamic, he added.

When similar projects have been done, the dredge materials have been unloaded closer to the original dredge site. An important element for project success is the dredged sand match the sand placement area as closely as possible.

Once the Marden arrives nearshore in Harvey Cedars, it stops, and the hull of the boat slowly opens to release the dredge sand into the ocean. Some of the sediment can be seen in the water as it begins to settle in its new home, but it just as quickly assimilates.

Watson said big waves will work the sand up and along the shoreline, creating a stabilizing effect. If the project proves to provide a positive impact on the shoreline, it could help fortify beaches between beach fill projects. The next beach fill for Harvey Cedars is expected in the fall of 2022, he said.

Three pressure sensors have been mounted on pipes in the ocean near the Harvey Cedars beaches at depths of about 5 to 20 feet to measure waves and associated hydrodynamics, the Army Corps has previously said.

"Swimmers and surfers should avoid these

Continued on Page 64

ON THE JOB: (Clockwise from top left) The dredge Marden has a full load. Water primes the dredge before it begins a new cycle of sucking up sand from the seabed. Capt. Vic Nelson takes in the project from the wheelhouse. The water and sand mixture flows through the pipes until it's just sand.

Photos by Ivan Merrill

Interpretive Writing

Weekly Division

FIRST PLACE

Charles Toutant

New Jersey Law Journal

Disciplinary Case Shines Spotlight

Attorneys and Adderall: Disciplinary Case Shines Spotlight on Drug's Benign Image and Popularity Among Lawyers

By Charles Toutant



The case of a former McCarter & English attorney who was arrested for possession of Adderall highlights attitudes that foster use of the drug by lawyers and law students.

The New Jersey Supreme Court issued a censure for Michael Collins Smith on July 8 after he pleaded guilty to possessing Adderall without a prescription. For Smith, the censure was a lucky break, since the Disciplinary Review Board had recommended a three-month suspension.

Continued on page 11

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Sports Writing Portfolio

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THIRD PLACE

Jerry Carino

Asbury Park Press

Portfolio

HISTORY

Longest home run ever? Josh Gibson and the incredible history of Belmar Memorial Field



Jerry Carino
Asbury Park Press

Published 5:01 a.m. ET April 5, 2021 | Updated 11:18 a.m. ET April 5, 2021

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Aerial view: The path of a legendary home run at Belmar's Memorial Field

Jerry Carino, Thomas P. Costello and Mike Davis, Asbury Park Press

Sports Writing Portfolio

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SECOND PLACE

Art Stapleton

The Record (Bergen County)

Portfolio

SPORTS



Giants coach Bill Parcells is carried out after winning Super Bowl XXV in Tampa, Fla., on Jan. 27, 1991. (AP/WIDEWORLD)



Giants center Bart Dates celebrates their Super Bowl XXV victory against the Bills at Tampa Stadium. (AP/WIDEWORLD)

30 years later, Giants share Super Bowl XXV memories

Art Stapleton | NEW JERSEY NEWS TO GOVERNMENT • NEW JERSEY

Sean Landeta went for a random walk last Wednesday night around his Fort Lauderdale neighborhood and unexpectedly found himself reliving Super Bowl XXV. He wandered onto the local football field, and suddenly the memories came flooding back. "I'm out for a walk, it's around 8 o'clock at night and it was really an unplanned nostalgic moment: 30 years later, to the day, to the minute of where we were for Super Bowl XXV," recalled Landeta, the 22-year NFL veteran and, on that Jan. 27, 1991, night in Tampa, Florida, the Giants' seven-time All-Pro punter. "Thought it was kinda cool, walking around a football field in Florida, visualizing in my mind, and I was able to go back 30 years ago in one second. Thought to myself, we were probably in the second quarter right now. So many big plays in the game made by so many players on both teams." See SUPER BOWL, Page 25



Giants linebacker Lawrence Taylor watches Super Bowl action on Jan. 27, 1991. (AP/WIDEWORLD)



Carl Banks of the Giants (58) tackles wide receiver Andre Reed in the second quarter. (AP/WIDEWORLD)

Sports Writing Portfolio

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FIRST PLACE

Steve Politi

The Star-Ledger

Portfolio



Losing Luther

Luther Wright, the 7-foot-2 former basketball star from Elizabeth, was lost to the streets. Then he found a road back to a better life in the most unlikely place.

Daily, Under 25,000

Sports Writing Portfolio

Sports Writing Portfolio

Daily, Under 25,000

THIRD PLACE

Kyle Craig

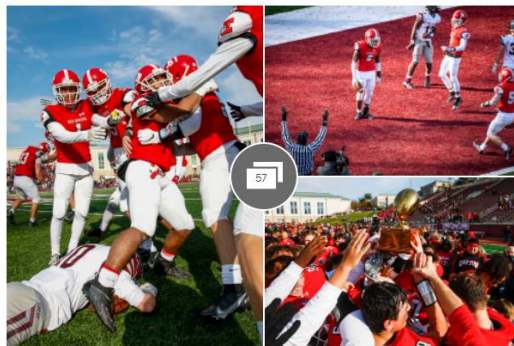
The Express-Times

Portfolio

High School Sports

‘We had to keep believing.’ Easton football rallies by P’burg in final minute to extend streak to 6

Updated: Nov. 25, 2021, 7:54 p.m. | Published: Nov. 25, 2021, 7:21 p.m.



114th Thanksgiving Day football game: Easton vs. Phillipsburg

Sports Writing Portfolio

Daily, Under 25,000

SECOND PLACE

Lauren Knego

Courier News

Portfolio

SOMERSET PATRIOTS

Patriots return to TD Bank Ballpark a week after flood

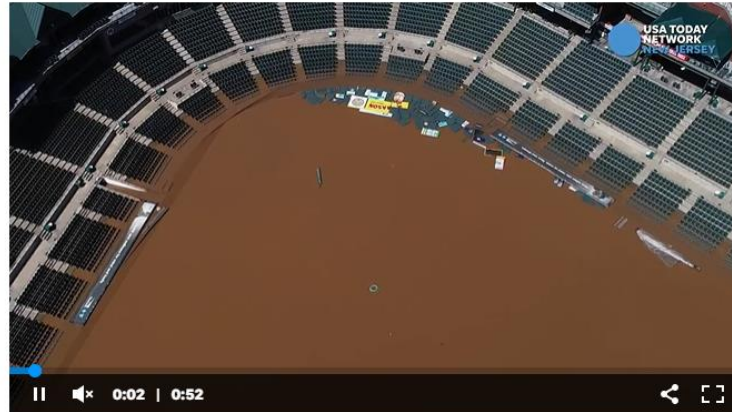


Lauren Knego

MyCentralJersey.com

Published 12:16 a.m. ET Sept. 11, 2021 | Updated 3:17 p.m. ET Sept. 11, 2021

View Comments



Home of Yankees' affiliate Somerset Patriots completely flooded by Ida muddy waters

In the wake of Ida passing through Somerset County, muddy flood waters surround TD Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater.
Thomas P. Costello and Tariq Zehawi, MyCentralJersey.com

Nine days after the remnants of Hurricane Ida flooded TD Bank Ballpark, the

Sports Writing Portfolio

Daily, Under 25,000

FIRST PLACE
Jason Bernstein
 The Jersey Journal

Portfolio



Former Ferris star finds he fits right in at Saint Peter's

COLLEGE BASKETBALL
 BY JASON BERNSTEIN
 FOR THE JERSEY JOURNAL

For years, Isaiah Daiber's basketball journey has been a road less traveled. Now after stops all across the country, his career has taken him to a place that no Jersey City product has gone over three decades home.

For Daiber, the one-time Ferris High School star, that last stop is a little more than a mile down Montgomery Street to Saint Peter's University. The senior guard is believed to be the first Jersey City native to play for the Peacocks in nearly 50 years.

"I'm really excited," said Daiber, who transferred from Portland to Saint Peter's this spring. "After being away from home for so long, I finally get a chance to play in front of my friends and family."

"Every basketball player wants to play in their city in front of their family and friends. Knowing that you have the city behind you is special."

Due to his travels and the Covid pandemic, Daiber has not played in front of his parents Judy and Andrew in more than three years since he was at State College of Florida junior college, where he averaged more than 17 points per game over two seasons.

Daiber's play at State College of Florida earned him a scholarship to the University of Portland, making him the first Ferris graduate to earn a Division I basketball scholarship since 2003.

Last season, Daiber started 18 of 20 games at Portland, averaging 7.8 points and 2.6 rebounds per contest for the Pilots. A desire to return to the East Coast led him to enter the transfer portal and shortly after he committed and



PHOTO COURTESY OF GARE HOLLOWAY AND SAINT PETER'S UNIVERSITY
SAINT PETER'S UNIVERSITY'S Isaiah Daiber dribbles between a pair of NJCU players during an exhibition game last Monday in Jersey City.

"Every basketball player wants to play in their city in front of their family and friends. Knowing that you have the city behind you is special."

Isaiah Daiber
 Saint Peter's University senior guard

transferred to Saint Peter's on the East Coast. I wanted to be in a good situation and a good position," Daiber said. "I wanted to be in a position where we could win and I could grow as a player. Saint Peter's was the best fit for me."

"I was really excited, especially playing for Coach Shabazz"

(Holloway). Saint Peter's has a really good team and I'm excited to be a part of it and be back in Jersey City."

"Keeping kids home is very important to me," said Holloway, himself an example of a local kid saying home as a Queens, NY native who starred at Seton Hall University following a legendary career at St. Patrick's. "Our roster is full of local kids, that's how we've been building this thing and that's how we're going to try to move it forward, by keeping area kids in house."

Holloway said Daiber has done a good job of adjusting to his new surroundings, which includes adjusting to a slower tempo than his team at Portland did. Daiber is expected to be a part of a deep

backcourt for the Peacocks, which includes returning starters Daryl Banks III (Patric School), Matthew Lee and Doug Edert (Bergen Catholic).

As one of several new players on the Peacock's roster, Daiber provided a glimpse of his ability to score at all levels during last Monday's scrimmage against NJCU when he finished with 12 points and four rebounds in 19 minutes.

With the return of ECW Madison's leading shot blocker a year ago and the Preseason MAAC Player of the Year, among others, expectations for Saint Peter's are as high as they've been in recent memory.

The Peacocks were recently picked to finish second in the MAAC in a preseason poll by the conference's coaches.

This group believes it can win the MAAC and make its first appearance in the NCAA Tournament since 2011.

While the thought of reaching each goal means a lot to everyone, it means an added meaning for Daiber, who grew up watching the Hudson County Tournament at the Yanteh Center and dreaming of playing in front of packed crowds there.

"We can bring back the MAAC title, which we want to do, and play in the tournament, it would really mean a lot," Daiber said. "It's kinda hard to explain how much it would mean, especially knowing my family will be there to witness it after all the time they put in with me. It will really mean a lot to have something to show for all of the work that we put in."

All roads lead to home

PRIZE TIME!!!

Weekly Division

Feature Writing

Feature Writing

Weekly Division

SECOND PLACE

Mark Kitchin
Observer Tribune

A season of infancies



‘A SEASON FOR INFANCIES’

Anonymous, abandoned – and departed – infants recalled in annual Christmas Eve services

By MARK KITCHIN
STAFF WRITER

MENDHAM TWP. – “Baby Mary” and “Baby Hope” never got a chance to experience the joys and challenges of life on earth but their infancy is long preserved thanks to a now-retired township police captain and officers.

The Rev. Michael Drury and officers have performed small Christmas Eve services at the graves of the babies, interred in St. Joseph’s Cemetery on Main Street in Mendham Borough, for many years now.

It all began when the remains of “Baby Mary” were discovered on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 1985. At that time, two boys fishing in a stream off Mount Pleasant Road discovered a black garbage bag full, on a rock.

On Dec. 15, 1991 “Baby Hope” was discovered by State Trooper on Route 79 in Somerset County. Police said the newborn had been thrown out of a car onto the highway. Neither case has been solved, so it is that township police lock it upon themselves to give both babies an appropriate burial and to remem-



Photo by Mark Kitchin

Mendham Township Patrolman Chris Ripoli, left, and Nick Scaroni take part in a ceremony for “Baby Mary” and “Baby Hope” at St. Joseph’s Cemetery on Main Street in Mendham on Friday, Dec. 24.

ber them every year. “My purpose has always been never to forget,” said Drury, a Roman Catholic priest who retired from St. Luke’s Parish in Long Valley last year. “This is a season for infancies. We believe that Jesus was born not therefore as an infant there is nothing better than to remember the children,

especially those that are no longer with us.” During the 15-minute nostalgic, reverent ceremony on Dec. 24 that involved the covering of church bells and lighting of wreaths under leader winter skies, Drury reminded the 40 or so present that these vice “to keep us always mindful as to how pe-

asant life is and everyone deserves to know why they are here and what their purpose in life is. For these two children, they never had that opportunity.”

On A Rock
As he relates annually at the service, Drury was these vice “to keep us always mindful as to how pe-

PLEASE SEE REASON, PAGE 11

Feature Writing

Weekly Division

FIRST PLACE

Jacob Perry

The Bernardsville News

Teacher sex change shocked community

Teacher sex change shocked community

Battle 50 years ago 'opened dialogue on transsexuality'

By **W. JACOB PERRY**
STAFF WRITER

BERNARDS TWP. No disclosure may have ever rocked the local school community more than the one that occurred 50 years ago this month, when news broke that an elementary school teacher had undergone a sex change.

The saga of Paula Miriam Grossman, previously known as Paul Monroe Grossman, would include failed talks for continued employment, termination by the school board, a series of lawsuits that sought reinstatement and equal rights

for transsexuals, and national notoriety.

Along the way, the controversy spurred debates over whether children could accept a transsexual teacher, whether some parents were being overly protective, and whether Mrs. Grossman was being treated fairly.

Mrs. Grossman ultimately failed to get her job back and never again worked as a teacher. She died in September 2003, at age 83.

Paul Grossman taught music in the fifth and sixth grades at Cedar Hill School. He worked for the district for 14 years, initially teaching at Oak Street Junior

High School, before William Annin Middle School was built.

"He was a definite presence in the room," said Scott Keeler, who had Mr. Grossman at Cedar Hill through 1971 and who now lives in Florida. "He was a physically large man. He was round. He looked somewhat eccentric — he had these large octagonal glasses — and he had a low baritone voice."

"He was a teacher you respected, and you learned a lot of interesting things about the world and music in his class," Keeler added.

PLEASE SEE GROSSMAN, PAGE 2



Paula Grossman discusses her dismissal from the Bernards Township school district during a lengthy interview with this newspaper from her Plainfield home in 1971.

Daily, Over 25,000

Local Sports Coverage

Local Sports Coverage

Daily, over 25,000

THIRD PLACE Staff

The Record (Bergen County)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2021 | THE RECORD

NORTH JERSEY SPORTS

How to report scores
See the NJPA 2021 Journalism Contest rules at www.njpa.org or call 201-992-2200.

St. Mary parts ways with coach Gentile

Marie Cooper
ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL has parted ways with head coach Mike Gentile after a season of record-breaking success. The school announced the news on Wednesday, Sept. 22. Gentile, who coached the team for 11 years, was in his 11th season as head coach. The school's record over the last three seasons was 28-10-1, including a state championship in 2019 and a state runner-up finish in 2020.

CROSS COUNTRY

See who stood out in the third week

Fred Schwartz
BY THE THIRD WEEK of the season, several athletes have stood out in the cross-country season. Here are some of the top performers.

Boys' 800 meters: Matt Kelly, St. Mary's High School, 2:10.00. Kelly set a new school record for the 800 meters in the third week of the season. He finished the race in 2:10.00, which is a significant improvement over his previous best of 2:15.00.

Boys' 1,600 meters: Matt Kelly, St. Mary's High School, 5:00.00. Kelly also excelled in the 1,600 meters, finishing the race in 5:00.00. This performance is a testament to his endurance and speed.

Boys' 3,200 meters: Matt Kelly, St. Mary's High School, 10:00.00. Kelly's performance in the 3,200 meters was equally impressive, as he finished the race in 10:00.00. This is a strong showing for a runner in this distance.

Boys' 6,400 meters: Matt Kelly, St. Mary's High School, 20:00.00. Kelly's performance in the 6,400 meters was also noteworthy, as he finished the race in 20:00.00. This is a strong showing for a runner in this distance.

Boys' 12,800 meters: Matt Kelly, St. Mary's High School, 40:00.00. Kelly's performance in the 12,800 meters was also noteworthy, as he finished the race in 40:00.00. This is a strong showing for a runner in this distance.

Boys' 25,600 meters: Matt Kelly, St. Mary's High School, 80:00.00. Kelly's performance in the 25,600 meters was also noteworthy, as he finished the race in 80:00.00. This is a strong showing for a runner in this distance.



Allyson Hines of Lakeland, shown during the Big North Meet at Washington County Park, wears a record pace of 8:56 for 800 meters.

GIRLS SOCCER: NORTH JERSEY TOP 25 RANKINGS

DePaul, Ramapo sitting at top of list

Sean Farrell
BY THE THIRD WEEK of the season, several teams have stood out in the girls' soccer season. Here are some of the top performers.

- Top 25 rankings:**
1. DePaul
 2. Ramapo
 3. Montclair
 4. Montclair
 5. Montclair
 6. Montclair
 7. Montclair
 8. Montclair
 9. Montclair
 10. Montclair

TOP GOALKEEPERS

- Top 10 goalkeepers:**
1. DePaul
 2. Ramapo
 3. Montclair
 4. Montclair
 5. Montclair
 6. Montclair
 7. Montclair
 8. Montclair
 9. Montclair
 10. Montclair

NORTH JERSEY'S BEST SOCCER PERFORMANCES

- Best performances:**
- 1. DePaul vs. Ramapo
 - 2. Ramapo vs. Montclair
 - 3. Montclair vs. Montclair
 - 4. Montclair vs. Montclair
 - 5. Montclair vs. Montclair
 - 6. Montclair vs. Montclair
 - 7. Montclair vs. Montclair
 - 8. Montclair vs. Montclair
 - 9. Montclair vs. Montclair
 - 10. Montclair vs. Montclair

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK FOR SEPT. 19-25

- Group 1:** Gianna Gatti, DePaul High School. Gatti was named the best player in the group for her outstanding performance in several matches.
- Group 2:** Rachel Schuman, DePaul High School. Schuman was named the best player in the group for her outstanding performance in several matches.
- Group 3:** Madison Hines, DePaul High School. Hines was named the best player in the group for her outstanding performance in several matches.
- Group 4:** Madison Hines, DePaul High School. Hines was named the best player in the group for her outstanding performance in several matches.
- Group 5:** Madison Hines, DePaul High School. Hines was named the best player in the group for her outstanding performance in several matches.

Group 6: Madison Hines, DePaul High School. Hines was named the best player in the group for her outstanding performance in several matches.

Group 7: Madison Hines, DePaul High School. Hines was named the best player in the group for her outstanding performance in several matches.

Group 8: Madison Hines, DePaul High School. Hines was named the best player in the group for her outstanding performance in several matches.

Group 9: Madison Hines, DePaul High School. Hines was named the best player in the group for her outstanding performance in several matches.

Group 10: Madison Hines, DePaul High School. Hines was named the best player in the group for her outstanding performance in several matches.

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The Press of Atlantic City

SPORTS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021 | PRESS OF ATLANTIC CITY | SECTION D

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MUST WIN

Simmons' holdout is basketball in 2021



WISCONSIN

WISCONSIN'S SIMMONS, who has been out of the game since 2019, is expected to return to the court in 2021.

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GAME OF THE WEEK: CREEK vs. SPIRIT



WISCONSIN'S SIMMONS, who has been out of the game since 2019, is expected to return to the court in 2021.

Creek vs. Spirit a budding rivalry

Both teams met in a game that was a preview of the rivalry between the two teams.

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SHOPPERS

Fast start needed to win

Shoppers need to start fast to win in the current market.

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Baseball's 200 Club

Baseball's 200 Club members are celebrated for their achievements.

Eagles need to win

The Eagles need to win to secure their position in the league.

Jazz at the Point

Jazz at the Point is a popular event in Atlantic City.



Local Sports Coverage

Daily, over 25,000

FIRST PLACE Staff The Star-Ledger

53 THE STAR-LEDGER, LUMBER LAZARUS, THE STAR-LEDGER, THE STAR-LEDGER WITH 'NIGRO'



BIG GAME BENCHING

HEATED TIGHT IN THE NATIONAL SHOOTING OF THREE STUDENTS, A PAIR OF BROTHERS COMPARED TO A PAIR OF PLAYERS SATURDAY AFTERNOON IN OREGON. LAST YEAR'S CHAMPION: OREGON, 83



ATLANTIC CITY
LAST YEAR'S CHAMPION

WEATHER

The seasons are shrinking — except summer

Patterns out of lock because of global warming, experts say

By David J. Phillip

IN THE 1970s, the seasons seemed to be in a predictable cycle of change, with winter in the North, the summer in the South, and the spring in the Midwest. But now, the seasons are changing so fast that they have become unpredictable. The seasons are changing so fast that they have become unpredictable. The seasons are changing so fast that they have become unpredictable.

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MENHAFAM

His vision is limited, but not his love of the game

Blinded by a childhood injury, the star still has a passion for the sport

By David J. Phillip



Menhafam from the Star-Ledger shows his love for the game in his first job. He is a basketball player.

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THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

CDC advisers target booster to those at risk

From the health care workers excluded to recommendation

By David J. Phillip

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53 THE STAR-LEDGER, LUMBER LAZARUS, THE STAR-LEDGER, THE STAR-LEDGER WITH 'NIGRO'



Weekly Division

Column Writing

Column Writing Weekly Division

THIRD PLACE Dave Polakiewicz Echoes-Sentinel

Just say it, the food's not great; A Covid Christmas Carol 2021

PHIHOH

ECHOES-SENTINEL

echoes.sentinell.com

Just say it, the food's not great



Dave Polakiewicz

COMMENTARY

The trouble with the food's not great is that it's not great.

It's about this analysis of the food's not great is that it's not great.

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It's about this analysis of the food's not great is that it's not great.

Mingle was probably reluctant to give the true reason Warren kids are becoming less likely to buy the fed lunches. Since the superintendent can't say, I will.

Warren is Warren -- aside from food there's not an alternative -- so that it's not an accident. It's difficult to scrape together money to

Some Warren parents proposed this year's move to the fed program early on. Perhaps there were reasons for asking if that are

When the opportunity arose to provide access to free meals through the National School Lunch Program, Mingle asked,

What we heard was that there were likely additional forms that we were missing in need of support.

The 2021 U.S. Census estimated 27 percent of Warren's population living below the poverty line, which equates to about 100,000

The problem with the National School Lunch

Program in Warren -- aside from food there's not an alternative -- so that it's not an accident. It's difficult to scrape together money to

Some Warren parents proposed this year's move to the fed program early on. Perhaps there were reasons for asking if that are

When the opportunity arose to provide access to free meals through the National School Lunch Program, Mingle asked,

"What you see is better, the program is discontinued and what you feel is speaking."

Lesker Mingle, school, 2016

Back in old Central School, we started to frantically into the cafeteria at lunch time, some carried brown paper bag lunches. The more adventurous tempted. One by one they'd get the money given to us by our parents to purchase hot lunch.

This was a Middlesex Borough public school cafeteria back in the 1970s. Every couple of weeks the menu printed in the lunch book was offered like

Chris Wagon Slack. Can't say it was just the way we ate a good cook and your plumped mastery looking most covered in mystery

Chuck Wagon Slack? That the cafeteria really cut this stuff in the old days?

Memories of eating my now, forcing food down my throat or making hungry come to mind last week.

The foodbook was great from the coupon of a Warren Township Board of Education discussion about the National School Lunch Program.

The lunches are offered every academic day in Warren schools, part of the federal government's COVID-19 relief. In Warren, Bergen Co. and the program being offered

the number of lunches being distributed has dropped over the first weeks of this school year.

School Superintendent Mark Mingle spoke about the issue in a recent newsletter. It's difficult for the vendor to serve hot lunches at the appropriate temperature, he said.

The problem with the superintendent also told

of about this analysis of the food's not great is that it's not great.

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Column Writing Weekly Division

SECOND PLACE

Caroline Fennessy Campion

The Bernardsville News

At long last, the perfect kitchen table; Surrendering to the crock pot

newjerseyhill.com

New Jersey Hills Media Group

Thursday, May 6, 2021 PAGE 13

At long last, the perfect kitchen table



Caroline Fennessy Campion

When my family moved from our apartment in New York City to our house in Gladstone 12 years ago, we brought with us a round kitchen table that made perfect sense in our tiny pre-war kitchen, but looked oddly out of place in our new home.

So we decided to sell it at the store with going sale and replace it with something that would better fit the space.

Temporarily I moved in an antique or two American wooden work table that was my mom's and had everything in terms of beauty and dimensions but, after it was designed for drafting or counting, or some other 19th-century task, it was too high to actually sit at comfortably. It had a crock pot on each side that was too high, but since it was meant to be temporary, we didn't think much about the fact that we looked like we were going to get down on our knees.

Well, as time and money pass, different projects and fortunes took me through the purchase of a new table out of the store and the fact I know it is a dead weight and we were still sitting at the deadweight table for dinner every night.

And then recently I decided to move that table to a store that I am familiar with a friend in the near future to see if it would be the perfect solution for my needs and other ways, which is where my family needs will go to be at all. This time, I began to consider the idea of getting the kitchen table out of our house.

Since this is already the surface we can comfortably sit at, I think and would spend the most time. I realized that it was not the best in the time and had to make it a table to sit.

EVERYTHING 2000
The only thing I could do was to look for a table that was a little bit different. I was looking for a table that was a little bit different. I was looking for a table that was a little bit different.

I went on my search, another table came to my attention and I found it. It was a table that was a little bit different. I was looking for a table that was a little bit different.

I began getting feedback like: "We look ridiculous," "You just saw going to find a table" and "Why aren't you like the normal family?"

But I had no other choice. I was looking for a table that was a little bit different. I was looking for a table that was a little bit different.

In one moment of weakness, when I saw the table that was a little bit different. I was looking for a table that was a little bit different.



Caroline Fennessy Campion purchased what she considered to be the perfect dining table for her family at a recent estate sale in Bedminster.

cases of furniture, most of which were not to be moved. I was looking for a table that was a little bit different. I was looking for a table that was a little bit different.

When I found the table that was a little bit different. I was looking for a table that was a little bit different.

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beautiful homes and this was a particularly special home. I was looking for a table that was a little bit different. I was looking for a table that was a little bit different.

When I arrived, I realized that the home was actually being sold by the architect of a nearby house. I was looking for a table that was a little bit different. I was looking for a table that was a little bit different.

Large, sturdy handmade, with a picture of use of and love, it was like it was waiting for me all along.

After throwing my body on top of it to see if it would fit, I found out that the owner had purchased the vintage French table at a market in Paris many decades ago and had it shipped to the States and repaired before installing it into her own home. When we went back to the store to pick it up, I got to speak to the owner of the table and she told me how happy she was that someone her family knew was getting the table.

When I just one more time, I probably never who does the table and shared the story. I was looking for a table that was a little bit different. I was looking for a table that was a little bit different.

Column Writing Weekly Division

FIRST PLACE Mark Zeigler The Retrospect

April Fools - Someone Stole My Shifter; The Bader-Zeigler Expedition

Memory Lane

**April Fool's:
"Someone Stole My Shifter!"**



Photo courtesy of the Coltswood Public Library.



Photo by Mark Zeigler.

the smallest tax increase in Paoli's history. In 2010, an increase of 87% on the average assessed property of \$20,000.

ation and lost dramatically. She distributed over \$10,000 for the organization, including principal Craig Ogilby, teacher Gerry Braggins, and countless M...

Part I
By Mark Zeigler

Yesterday was April 1, also known as April Fool's Day. Did you pull any pranks? Or maybe you were a victim of a good-natured prank yourself? **PLINK FACT:** On April Fool's Day 1997, Wheel of Fortune host Pat Sajak and the late Prophecy host Alex Trebek swapped stickers for the day.

I have always enjoyed a well executed practical joke. During my years of working at Haddon Hills Apartments in Haddon Township, every day was like April Fool's Day: there was always a prank or two for three, or four going on. I could have and should have written a book. It was like going to work in a TV sitcom, complete with a laugh track. This story has nothing to do with Haddon Hills, but maybe someday I'll write about some of those great pranks.

"Punked Before Punk'd"

This story involves my accomplice and former girlfriend who I will call "K" to protect her reputation, and the victim who also shall remain nameless, who I will refer to as... "Mom!"

"K" was often a victim of my pranks. She worked in Center City and commuted on the Speedline. I used to move her car around the Westmont Speedline parking lot (located in the middle of the former Crystal Lake Park development that was looted about last week) so she would have to hunt for it when she got off the train. Or fill it with balloons, or cover it with silly string, or hold a woman on top of it, or disconnect the battery, or change the seat and mirror positions, turn the wipers on, radio up loud, etc. The car was really ridiculous these and she used to approach it cautiously knowing I had a key and easy access to it all day. Once I parked two cars in close to her car that she would leave the doors first empty to get in. That led to a fun situation for me later when I had to explain myself to the DPRA police (to their credit, they arrived much quicker than I had calculated.) I have it on video along with her beating me with her purse when I had to come clean to the cops. I once had her questioned, handcuffed and "arrested" by law-enforcement bodily in Philadelphia on our way home from the Franklin Institute also. Good times. I often wonder why she broke up with me "Mom."

Anyway, back to this prank.

FROM GAS TO MONEY: Foster's Natural Home has witnessed many changes in the neighborhood over its 121-year history on Haddon Avenue in Collingswood. The location of Bank of America, in the photo at left, was once the location of a Gulf gas station, as seen in the June 1959 photo, above. Notice the neighborhood Public Service bus approaching the bus stop at left. Prior to Bank of America, the bank, owned by an other local name, let you name them all? Answers in the Classified section.

In the 1980s and '90s, "Mom" worked as a customer service representative at the bank in Collingswood next to Foster's Natural Home. Maybe you remember her opening an account for you!

By sheer coincidence, back then Mom and K's room above identical 1983 light tree-wal metallic Oldsmobile Cutless Cars seldom went dark (more about identical! And they had not yet met each other at the time. The only difference between the two cars was that K's mom's car had the shifter on the floor and a hand slot while Mom's car had the shifter in a console between bucket seats. So I ask you, what would you have done, given the circumstances? Seriously? Opportunities like that don't come around too often.

So yes, I planned to switch cars on Mom while she was at work!

MOVIE TRIVIA: What actor pictured next left, and for what 1992 comedy? Answers in the Classified section.

How it when a plan comes together!

My plan.

Step 1: I went to Mom's best friend and boss, Ruth Jarvis prior to the prank. Alumni of Van Suster School in the 1970s may remember Mrs. Jarvis as "the bawling lady" visiting from Mrs. Forbush Bunt on Reading Days to collect our gold envelopes of change, seen at left, once a month to put in savings accounts that she set up to teach our kids how to save money. Handing her two keys, the door key and ignition key to K's mom's car, I said, "I don't care how you do it, but I need you to switch these two keys with the horn or keys on Mom's keychain by the end of the day tomorrow." Mrs. J, who now lives in Denver, North Carolina, has always been a fun-loving woman with a great sense of humor. She just looked at me, shake her head laughing, and without even asking any questions, smiled and said, "Okay." I never did ask her how she got the keys out of Mom's purse that day but the plan would not have worked without her. Ha ha! Thanks Mrs. J!

Step 2: The next afternoon, when Mom was leavy at work, K borrowed her mom's car and towed it to Collingswood and parked it in the back of Foster's lot. Luckily there wasn't a funeral going on. Now this part was the trickiest part: Mom's desk was at a window that overlooked the parking lot. I had to get in her car, calmly drive it by the window and over to Foster's, quickly switch the license plates and interior items, drive it by the window again and return it to the same parking space without Mom noticing. I closed by ready to leave anyone from taking the parking space. I also placed a warning tape recorder under the driver's seat to record the impending prankster.

Step 3: Hide in the bushes with a video recorder (this was before cell phones, of course) and wait until quitting time for the laugh to begin. Later, I would sync up the audio and video tapes for what would become a classic viewing staple at Zeigler family get-togethers.

Next week: "Nothing" means...

TV TRIVIA: What actor often said this line and in what 1980s TV action flick? Answer in the Classified section.

Daily, Over 25,000

Scholastic Writing Portfolio

Scholastic Writing Portfolio

Daily, over 25,000

THIRD PLACE
Josh Friedman
Courier-Post

■ FOR SUBSCRIBERS BASEBALL

A curse helped Anthony Solometo fall in love with baseball, now he's looking to end one



Josh Friedman

Cherry Hill Courier-Post

Published 11:35 a.m. ET April 16, 2021 | Updated 11:40 a.m. ET April 16, 2021

[View Comments](#)



Bishop Eustace senior Anthony Solometo hopes to lead the Crusaders to their first state title since 2006. Solometo was the

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SECOND PLACE

Tom McGurk
Courier-Post

■ FOR SUBSCRIBERS [SPORTS](#)

H.S. wrestling: Lenape's Caccese feels the sound of victory



Tom McGurk

Cherry Hill Courier-Post

Published 12:33 p.m. ET March 24, 2021 | Updated 3:38 p.m. ET March 24, 2021

[View Comments](#)



WATCH: Lenape's Caccese has not let deafness get in the way of accomplishing his goals

Anthony Caccese, a Lenape senior born deaf, has worked to become a varsity wrestler and a team captain. *Chris LaChall, Cherry Hill Courier-Post*

Scholastic Writing Portfolio

Daily, over 25,000

FIRST PLACE

John Lewis

Burlington County Times

SPORTS

A jersey number, a milestone and a tragedy link players in Shawnee victory

John A. Lewis Cherry Hill Courier-Post

Published 1:51 a.m. ET Sept. 18, 2021

[View Comments](#)



Shawnee handles Burlington Township

Matt Welsey threw for two touchdowns and ran for another, as Shawnee downed Burlington Township, 42-21, Friday. *John A. Lewis, Cherry Hill Courier-Post*

MEDFORD – They both wear number 44, and you wouldn't expect it of either.

Daily, Under 25,000

Scholastic Writing Portfolio

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Daily, Under 25,000

THIRD PLACE

Lauren Knego

Courier News

SOCCER

Central Jersey girls soccer team wins TikTok contest, donates money to rival Manville



Lauren Knego

MyCentralJersey.com

Published 10:58 a.m. ET Oct. 19, 2021 | Updated 12:49 p.m. ET Oct. 19, 2021

[View Comments](#)



Delaware Valley girls soccer donates \$2,000 to Manville

The Delaware Valley girls soccer team won \$2,000 from Wawa in a TikTok video contest and donated it to Manville *Lauren Knego, MyCentralJersey.com*

Scholastic Writing Portfolio

Daily, Under 25,000

SECOND PLACE
Desmond Boyle
The Express-Times

High School Sports

Hackettstown boys soccer tops Bernards in PK shootout to capture sectional title

Updated: Nov. 12, 2021, 9:51 a.m. | Published: Nov. 11, 2021, 9:19 p.m.



Hackettstown High School's boys soccer team celebrates winning the NJSIAA North 2 Group 2 title. Desmond Boyle | For lehighvalleylive.com



By [Desmond Boyle](#) | For [lehighvalleylive.com](#)

As Hackettstown senior Zack Prymak stepped up to the

Scholastic Writing Portfolio

Daily, Under 25,000

FIRST PLACE

Jane Allison Havsy

Daily Record



Lindsay Schartner, the new Mendham boys soccer coach, watches practice on Aug. 21. [OHIO/PHOTO/NORTHJERSEY.COM](https://www.northjersey.com)

Gender-neutral coaches open eyes

Meet the women in charge of Mendham's boys soccer team

Jane Havsy
Havsy writes Daily Record
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

"It's so weird hearing a female voice on the sideline."

That's what a soccer official said to Lindsay Schartner, then a Mendham boys soccer assistant coach, not long after she joined the program. Schartner wasn't sure what he meant.

Other coaches from outside Morris County seemed surprised Schartner was also a boys soccer coach, not the athletic trainer. During her five years on the Minutemen's sideline alongside

Russ Raffy, she's been asked, "How do the boys respond to you?"

Schartner, petite with her blonde hair pulled into a ponytail, sometimes raises an eyebrow in surprise.

"I don't think it's any different," said Schartner, who became Mendham's head boys soccer coach this summer.

"The boys, they're competitive. If you're going to come in and help them do what they need to do, they don't care. Are you going to help us win? OK."

Schartner has been part of quite a few significant wins with the Minutemen. Mendham won its first NJSIAA

Group 3 title in 2015, her inaugural season, and again two years later.

After being an assistant with the Minutemen girls team for eight years, Schartner was taking a fall off after giving birth to her daughter, Emily. Raffy didn't have an assistant coach, so leading up to Mendham's game against Morristown — Schartner's alma mater — he asked, "Want to coach against your brother?" John Weber was an assistant boys soccer coach for the Colonials.

"He got me out on the field, and I

See MENDHAM, Page 3B

Weekly Division

Sports Writing Portfolio

Sports Writing Portfolio Weekly Division

THIRD PLACE

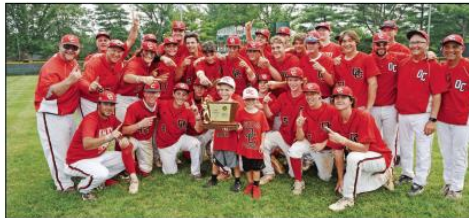
David Nahan
Ocean City Sentinel

SENTINEL SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 2021

STATE CHAMPIONS

RED RAIDER BASEBALL BEATS PASCACK VALLEY IN 14-INNING MARATHON; TEAM WAS 'BUILT FOR THIS'



The 2021 Ocean City High School Red Raider baseball players and coaches pose with the Group II state championship trophy Sunday afternoon after beating Pasack Valley 2-1 in 14 innings at the seventh three and three-quarters of an hour in 11-degree heat at Bob DeLeo Field in Veterans Park, Haddon Township. MORE PHOTOS AT OCSSENTINEL.COM

First state title for baseball program

Coach, players explain historic moment, what it took

By David Nahan

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP — When championship-winning Red Raider baseball players and coaches posed for their group photo Sunday afternoon, they were smiling broadly. The team had just won the Group II state championship, a historic moment for the program. The team was built for this, they said. The team was built for this, they said. The team was built for this, they said.

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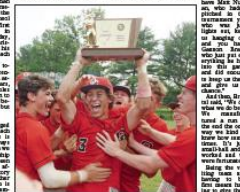
By David Nahan

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Red Raider Jack Perry holds the Group II state championship trophy after Ocean City beat Pasack Valley 2-1 Sunday afternoon. Perry had 2 RBIs and scored twice in the game.

Red Raiders built for a victory that took nearly 4 hours for 14 innings

By David Nahan

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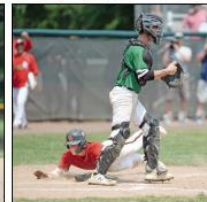
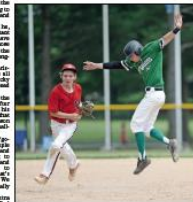
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Ocean City's Chris Curren scored his first career home run off Pasack Valley's Trevor Griffin during the game. Curren's home run was the winning run in the 14th inning. Curren's home run was the winning run in the 14th inning. Curren's home run was the winning run in the 14th inning.

Daily, Over 25,000

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Portfolio**

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THIRD PLACE

Max Pizarro

InsiderNJ.com



NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

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Daily, over 25,000

SECOND PLACE

Dustin Racioppi

The Record (Bergen County)

Lobbying guts health care worker transparency legislation

dustin racioppi

Twitter: @dustinracioppi
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

Over nine months and two waves of COVID-19, health care advocates called, lobbied and testified to get New Jersey's political leaders to pass a bill requiring public transparency when hospital staff contracted, or died of, the coronavirus.

They got the bill last week, but hardly the transparency.

Hospital lobbyists met with the bill's primary sponsor and legislative aides several times last year pushing for changes to the bill that would have required daily reporting on the Department of Health's website of COVID's impact on health care workers, according to Election Law Enforcement Commission records.

Those state records provide little detail about the discussions lobbyists for the New Jersey Hospital Association and Virtus Health had with the bill's primary sponsor, Assemblyman William Sperman, and legislative aides. But the results are clear: The daily reporting requirement was stripped from the bill. So was the requirement to report workers admitted for treatment of COVID-19.

So were the requirements for health care facilities to adopt standards and protocols to lessen exposure risks and submit internal exposure analyses to the Health Department.

The data on positive cases and deaths of health care workers doesn't have to be posted on the Health Department website, either. Instead, the Health Department must issue a

SEE LEGISLATION, PAGE 5A

Stop the spread

- avoid close contact with others
- cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others
- wash your hands often
- cover coughs and sneezes
- clean and disinfect often
- monitor your health daily

Business/Government Writing Portfolio

Daily, over 25,000

FIRST PLACE

Susan K. Livio

The Star-Ledger

Racism in N.J.'s child protection system

Leaders agree too many poor Black families have their children taken away by the state. Now what?



Daily, Under 25,000

**Business/Government Writing
Portfolio**

Business/Government Writing Portfolio

Daily, Under 25,000

THIRD PLACE
Anthony Coppola
The Daily Journal

■ FOR SUBSCRIBERS LOCAL

Will Atlantic City gaming industry feel pressure from new competitor in Live! Philadelphia?



Anthony V. Coppola
Vineland Daily Journal

Published 11:00 a.m. ET Jan. 14, 2021 | Updated 1:51 p.m. ET Jan. 14, 2021

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WATCH: Caesars Atlantic City celebrates 40 years

Karie Hall, Vice President & General Manager for Bally's Atlantic City, talks about the 40th anniversary of Caesars Atlantic City. *Adam Monacelli, Vineland Daily Journal*

Business/Government Writing Portfolio

Daily, Under 25,000

SECOND PLACE

Pamela Sroka-Holzmann

The Express-Times

SUBSCRIBER EXCLUSIVE

American malls are dying. What each one in the Lehigh Valley is doing to stay alive.

Published on Nov 23, 2021



Phillipsburg Mall seen on Nov. 17, 2021. Saed Hindash | For lehighvalleylive.com Saed Hindash | For lehighvalley

By Pamela Sroka-Holzmann | For lehighvalleylive.com



In their heyday of the 1980s and 1990s, malls stood as monuments of consumerism and shrines to credit-card-fueled splurging.

Business/Government Writing Portfolio

Daily, Under 25,000

FIRST PLACE
Teri West
 The Jersey Journal

4 | NEWS THE JERSEY JOURNAL Tuesday, February 16, 2021

JOURNAL SQUARE GROWTH

Are residents ready for even more new neighbors?

BY TERI WEST
 JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

The blueprint was drawn 11 years ago: a sweeping plan encompassing the diverse, historic Journal Square, that would metamorphose it as a business hub and prime residential.

Now, proposals for new Journal Square buildings flood planning board meetings, as developers seek to build five stories here and 26 stories there with hundreds of new units for middle-income singles or couples.

Though the grandest changes are yet to materialize — including a new courthouse, 3-acre park and two 64-story towers next to a reimagined PATH plaza — the neighborhood's transformation has already begun.

And the new Journal Square appeals to a new set of renters, young, career professionals who can afford a \$1,500 studio apartment. One developer calls it sustainable growth while some community leaders cry displacement, asking for changes or the siting of the decade-old redevelopment plan that spurred the growth.

"Journal Square is one of the most diverse, vibrant communities in the city and I think we deserve a built environment that reflects that and makes space for all the people that want to live here," said Kevin Bireg, president of the Journal Square Community Association.

Diago Hodara's Thimban Realty Group has exclusively built in McGladrey Square and Journal Square. In recent months, the city Planning Board has considered two projects he has envisioned for Summit Avenue, one 19 stories and the other 26.

"It's on the top of the hill in Jersey City together with the Heights," Hodara said. "You have incredible views ... you have the



mass transportation, you have all of the government infrastructure and office from a Hudson County level, you have universities, you have a very rich diversification in terms of ethnicity right there. You have parity."

The 26-story project he's planning is in collaboration with Elliot Spitzer's Spitzer Enterprises. It will have 265 units, 220 of which will be studios and one-bedrooms.

Building mostly studios and one-bedrooms is common for Journal Square developers.

A project at 308 Academy St. is proposing to raise a long-inact stage-family home in favor of a four-story building with four studio apartments and five one-bedroom units.

The Journal Square 2060 Redevelopment Plan, that blueprint approved in 2010, offers developers freedom to build taller than many existing buildings. It doesn't require them to offer affordable housing, so nearly all projects in the workload have any planned.

When the City Council passed it unanimously in August 2010, it got a standing ovation from union construction workers.

Rich Boggiano, then just the president of the Hilltop Neighborhood Association, spoke against

JOLLIBEE RESTAURANT at Journal Square PATH station in Jersey City seen on Friday.

the plan that day. The council was helping developers, not residents, and 60-story buildings in Journal Square were not what residents wanted, he said.

"As far as I'm concerned, they haven't listened to the input from the neighborhood," he said at the time.

Now Boggiano is Journal Square's councilman and he says he doesn't like what the plan has done to his ward.

"I'd like to see the 2060 plan thrown out," he said Thursday. "I'd like to see it gone and if you want to come in and you want to build, you get the community's approval."

The area's transformation is in its infancy despite developments like the towering Journal Square. Yet the new development is already inflicting harm on existing businesses, said Helen Bengzon, overall chair of Philippine American Friendship Community Inc.

The neighborhood lost a 500-grocery store and local Filipino restaurants, she said. What came in? Jollibee, beloved by Filipinos, Bengzon said, but a fast-food chain.

to live in Jersey City anymore. They either can't afford the rent or like they will inevitably have to sell.

"It's like our people and culture are being erased overnight," said Helen Bengzon, overall chair of Philippine American Friendship Community Inc. Her main concern is that the city is not requiring Journal Square developers to build much parking to complement the new units.

"People spending that kind of money in the rent, they are the good income," he said. "They are going to keep their cars, so that is the only reservation I have. Otherwise, development is development."

The Journal Square Community Association reviews every new building planned and meets with developers regularly. It's done so with nearly 40 since Chela Lamer entered as chair of its construction and planning committee three years ago.

Not all change is bad, Lamer said. New restaurants, transit opportunities and residents are welcome. But concerns about affordability are among the top issues raised by members, and some have already begun being displaced, he said.

Hodara, the developer, said he prefers the term "sustainable growth" to gentrification.

"As an investor, I was never able to do the typical buying income-producing buildings trying to buy out and push out all the tenants and try to reposition the building," he said. "I cannot do that. I do not feel comfortable doing that and that's very difficult to do."

But the target demographic for his new buildings are millennials, and so far, none of his buildings have set aside affordable housing, he said.

"The renters will be pushed out because of their rental prices, but if you are a homeowner, what's the worst that you can get? Hodara postured. "The worst that you can get is that the coffee that you were buying next door before was 50 cents and now it's a dollar."

PRIZE TIME!!!

Weekly Division

Investigative Reporting

Investigative Reporting Weekly Division

THIRD PLACE
Jaimie Julia Winters
Montclair Local

**National intervention into local
election; Pelham retains leadership
post**

Page 4 News Thursday, January 14, 2021

NAACP

National intervention into local election

Organization steps in due to infighting

by JAIMIE JULIA WINTERS
winters@montclairlocal.com




Renee Baskerville Al Pelham

The national NAACP is taking over the Montclair NAACP's first contested election in nearly a decade, after a series of back-and-forth disputes about when petitions should be collected and who should be eligible to run.

Most notably, former councilwoman and mayoral candidate Renee Baskerville is running against Al Pelham, president since 2017. The national group also opened the door for other candidates, who were expected to file petitions this week.

On Dec. 14, the national NAACP announced that the branch's approximately 700 members would use a one-winner race on the ballot.

However, on Nov. 18, Obdulia Miranda-Woodley, Rudolph-Dunn, Baskerville, Harris, Raeger and William Scott wrote to the national office requesting that both Pelham's petitions be rejected and that the election be postponed.

"Please read the following issue and let us know if the Montclair branch of the NAACP election should proceed as an uncontested election, as the current president and secretary did not properly present their petitions as required in the by-laws. We disagree with how the president and [secretary] the election committee chair, interpret the by-laws," they wrote, referring to the 24-hour grace period given to get the petitions in.

Baskerville however said

"All active members as of Dec. 15, 2020, can vote.

"The election will be held Jan. 18, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., using the Election Buddy system.

"Active members will be notified via email with voting instructions.

"To confirm membership status, contact Quincy Kates at qkates@naacpnet.org.

ing the election and reaching out to members directly with ballots through email, and therefore there was no need for candidates to have access to the rooms. In addition, the national organization will also allow for members who were in good standing 30 days before the election to vote, and expanded the time period for potential candidates to get

Investigative Reporting

Weekly Division

SECOND PLACE

Maria Scandale, Eric Englund,
Pat Johnson, Monique M.
Demopoulos, David Biggy,
Gina G. Scala
The SandPaper

Winter Population: All Signs Indicate Increase on
Island; Winter Population: Hike On Mainland
Difficult to Define

The New York Times WireImage, February 8, 2021



Ryan Morrill



Jack Reynolds

WHAT'S THIS 'GARBAGE'? Mandarivick Industries performs weekly waste collection in Long Beach Township.

CURRENTS

Winter Population: All Signs Indicate Increase on Island

Likely Consequence of Coronavirus

When the COVID-19 pandemic broke out 11 months ago, there was an exodus of people from hotspots across the country in what is now the Long Beach Island region. The local population ballooned as winter 2020 seemed to bring another summer, many people staying through the fall as the winter weather continued and the days grew shorter.

Then, it seemed, traffic on the island thinned out some more on weekdays but never really dipped to previous levels. As the holiday season got into full swing, the Shop Islanders and Surf City volunteer fire companies both rolled out five Christmas trees within a week of opening to the public. Is that any indication of more people on LIIE this winter than in the past? Maybe.

Perhaps the best indicator of the winter population boost that's resulted from the pandemic is not in Christmas tree sales, or traffic, or grocery hauls, but in utility usage. Real estate transaction documents filed with the Ocean County Clerk's Office.

"It's skyrocketed," said Colabella, county clerk, said last week of the number of filings, noting the system is a shared services agreement with 10 other counties around the state. "We lead all the counties (in filed documents)."

Approximately 67% of all real estate documents, which include everything from refinancing to deeds in subdivision, were filed electronically in 2020, he said. The total number of real estate documents filed with the county clerk's office in 2019 was 117,000, for a total of 161,000, according to Colabella. Mortgage filings alone saw an 11,000 increase, with 50,000 documents in 2019 to 15,000 documents last year, he said.

"People decided to purchase (homes)," he said. "It could be a slight bump from the city."

Whether that translates to an increase in year-round residents could be debated, but Colabella believes from insurance an even more representative of a spike in post-summer population than voter registration, which was up slightly. He said the uptick in registration could be attributed to the fact that it was a presidential election year, which always draws more people to the polls, and to the aforementioned real estate boom. The latter is a direct result of the pandemic, he said.

"What part of that is attributed to people moving there last time to last (6) say," Colabella said about the increase in voter turnout.

What has also proven elusive is looking for word on insurance as increases in winter population on LIIE to data from Atlantic City Electric on customer usage from November 2020 forward.

"We do not track this data specific to certain municipalities at this granular level," Frank Jackson, public information officer for the company, said via email Monday morning. "It is also especially challenging to do a detailed analysis such as this in our service area, being we do not have advanced metering in structures (great meters) in New Jersey."

A review of other utilities on the island, however, has shown an in-

Investigative Reporting

Weekly Division

FIRST PLACE

Talia Wiener

Montclair Local

Supervisor alleges years of health hazards, abuse

WINNER
2021, 2020, 2019
BEST INVESTIGATIVE REPORT
BEST LOCAL NEWS
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Vol. 5, No. 19 Thursday, May 13, 2021 75 cents

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MONTCLAIR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Supervisor alleges years of health hazards, abuse

Custodians, teacher, union back some claims

BY TALIA WIENER
wiener@montclairlocal.com

Two head custodians for Montclair public schools say they believe district officials set out to subvert them and other employees — in the process leaving some school buildings filthy and in enough disrepair to endanger students and staff members.

The custodians' claims, made in interviews with Montclair Local, support some of the many allegations made by Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Robert H. Kelley IV in a 30-page letter titled "The Price of Leadership." Kelley, describing himself as a whistleblower, cites dozens of

KEY FACTS:

WHISTLEBLOWER LETTER

- It's by Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Robert Kelley IV.
- He alleges staffers were 'sabotaged,' health investigators were lied to and kids were exposed to health hazards.
- A teacher thinks her dirty room made her sick.
- A union head says members faced retaliation for complaints.
- Kelley's predecessor acknowledges being accused of racism and bullying — but denies the behavior.
- Many allegations involve two current officials.

PHOTO BY ADRIANNE / PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LUCAS C. HOOVER

See LETTER, page 10



Vol. 5, No. 19
www.localnj.com/news

INSIDE



Major updates to middle, high school schedules
Education • Page 7



MHS Spotlight: lacrosse star Katie Giordano
Sports • Page 10



Crossing guard overcame hurdles to a longtime goal
Culture • Page 22

Daily, Over 25,000

News Column

News Column

Daily, over 25,000

THIRD PLACE

Phil Gianficaro

Burlington County Times

The logo for the New Jersey Press Association (NJPA) features the letters 'NJPA' in a large, dark red, serif font. A thin horizontal line is positioned below the letters, with the 'J' and 'P' overlapping it.

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

News Column

Daily, over 25,000

SECOND PLACE

Mary Chao

The Record (Bergen County)

Citing heritage, Cuomo crosses another line



mary chao
North Jersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK, L.P.

It's bias. Politics. She's not credible.
As a defiant and sorry-not-sorry Andrew Cuomo
delivered his resignation speech Tuesday, he gave the

usual rebuttal against the sexual harassment allegations made against him by 11 women.

But one excuse was over the top.
"There are generational and cultural shifts that I just didn't fully appreciate, and I should have," the soon-to-be ex-New York governor said.

Say what?
SEE CHAO, PAGE A4

News Column

Daily, over 25,000

FIRST PLACE

Jerry Carino

Asbury Park Press

VALUES

After 18 years in Toms River woods, homeless veteran finds a home

Kenny Epsel, 76, served in the Air Force and U.S. Army Reserve. All he had to show for it was a tent in the woods. That changed last week.



Jerry Carino
Asbury Park Press

Published 5:01 a.m. ET Nov. 22, 2021

[View Comments](#)



'Code Blue' shelter opens in Toms River

When temperatures dip below the freezing mark, a shelter is set up at the Toms River recreation building to give a safe place for homeless to sleep. *Thomas P. Costello, Asbury Park Press*

TOMS RIVER - Kenny Epsel served America for two decades, doing four years in

Daily, Under 25,000

News Column

News Column

Daily, Under 25,000

THIRD PLACE

Joan Quigley

The Jersey Journal

IN THEIR OPINION

EMTs should be able to vaccinate

Why can't EMTs vaccinate in New Jersey? We sure could use them. In places like Florida, Massachusetts and Vermont, EMTs inoculate and that may be one reason why vaccinations in those states exceed numbers here.

Moderna is injected straight out of the vial. No mixing or reconstituting involved.

It's pretty easy to insert a needle into someone's muscle in an upper arm. I'm not degrading the skill, but how many of us had to learn to inject insulin into an elderly relative or insert a needle with hormones into a spouse or partner enrolled in a fertility program?

Diabetics often inject insulin into themselves. Teachers can inject asthma or allergic students with Epi pens. Even pharmacists can vaccinate.

EMTs now can give Narcan to someone experiencing the effects of an opiate overdose and can give other injections when a physician on the radio or phone tells them to do so. Every day we extract them to quickly gauge the seriousness of someone's condition when 911 is called. They give oxygen, measure blood pressure, staunch bleeding, apply bandages, carefully remove

people from dangerous situations and transport them to hospitals.

So why can't they vaccinate? I asked that question on a phone call with staff from Gov. Murphy's office when we were talking about vaccines. An unidentified voice replied that he had concerns about the varying levels of training EMTs had throughout the state.

I didn't argue. After years of working with the legislature on emergency medical and homeland security issues, I know the levels of training varied greatly. In some areas, belonging to the Emergency Squad merely means you get together every weekend for beer and bonding with buddies. Not much emergency care involved.

But that's not the case everywhere. Certainly not around here.

In Hudson, Essex and Bergen counties, EMTs are well trained and highly skilled in emergency care. Years ago, around the time of the Gulf War, many were allowed to train and test for an "E" certificate attached to their EMT license. The "E" stood for "Intermediate," referring to a level of certification between EMT-B "Basic" and EMT-P, "Paramedic." However, in recent years the state has not offered such training and has no plans to do so. Only a few long-time EMTs held on to that precious certificate, but new ones have no chance of getting one.

Former Assistant Health Commissioner Christopher Allen used to lead Emergency Services at Jersey City Medical Center and knows our area very well. He was

is CEO of VNAAC, a community health center in Morris County. Like the rest of Federally Qualified Health Centers, he is eager to provide more vaccinations but is having a hard time finding enough nurses.

"We are in a pandemic and really need to think differently about how we do things," he said.

"The stakes are too high for us not to be aggressive in our vaccination and public health protective strategies. Allowing EMTs to vaccinate is really about expanding their scope of practice. Such expansion could be another tool in the public health toolbox to help meet our vaccination goals. With just-in-time training and proper medical oversight, EMTs can be used to augment the vaccine workforce."

He said he also hopes the improved deficit of EMTs would be acknowledged with better compensation.

Mickey McCabe, president of McCabe Ambulance in Bayonne and EMS coordinator for Hudson County, also agrees EMTs can be properly taught to administer vaccinations, expanding their scope of practice. He said he suggested this to the Department of Health months ago but his suggestion was turned down.

C'mon, New Jersey, get with it. We have an unused asset and we need to use it.

A former assistant secretary from Jersey City, Joan Quigley is the president and CEO of North Hudson Community Action City.



Joan Quigley

Life Faith

'God made all of us, as we are, for a reason'

Christine Zaba would go to bed every night as a young boy praying to God she would wake up as a girl. And she kept that secret for most of her life until at the age of 58 she transitioned to a woman.

But before she made the decision she thought, "I can't do this. I would lose everything, my family, my friends, my job and my faith."

Then she realized, "I can't not do this." In 2015, Zaba came out to everyone who mattered to her and discovered she lost none of what she feared.

As she looks back at age 64, she recalls the struggles that most trans individuals go through. She knew she had those feelings but tried to suppress them. Growing up there were few outlets to share

thoughts and feelings and no internet. She would occasionally discuss a woman but tried mostly to deny those urges. Then she thought that marrying a woman would make "this all go away." They had two children and the marriage lasted 29 years.

Today she is close to Jason, 20, and Stephanie, 32. She even visited Stephanie down the aisle at her wedding and is now a grandmother.

Talking to her now 55-year-old son, Brian, at the age of 18 was a bit of a challenge but she came around.

Zaba has a Rutgers MBA and works for Skyline Broadcasting, a conservative group, yet they have been mostly supportive. She is especially happy about her parish priests and community at St. Peter & Paul in Turnersville in Gloucester County where she is a charitable minister and a hospitality team member.

"Faith is always in my heart and soul," she said. "I always know that my pastor knows what we're doing."

And that's the message of the resilient Sister of Peace Luiza



SISTER LUIZA GERSHEIM, right, who has dedicated herself to ministering to the trans community, is seen with Stephanie.



CHRISTINE ZABA is seen with her son, Jason, pre-COVID at a 7th grade boys' game in the fall of 2019.

Demus, who has been ministering to trans people for 22 years, mostly in Louisiana. While she desired to do gay ministry, she encountered her first trans woman, Courtney, and eventually did spiritual counseling for almost 300 trans individuals.

"They live like the rest of us," Demus said. "When we claim the truth of who we are, we are closer to God."

Azin Tavoni, herself trans, explains in her book "The Trans Generation" how trans kids and their parents are creating a revolution by speaking out and demanding change from schools to sports to churches.

And it is not easy to speak since legal push back is snowballing in over 20 states where laws, for example, forbid trans girls from competing in orga-

nized girls sports.

Dental and abuse will no longer keep people cloaked as it was for gay and lesbians until the 1970s.

Trying to force LGBTQ people to change their orientation, often called

conversion therapy, has been banned in many states. Yet there are still religious movements perpetuating the dangerous, destructive treatment. Luke Rodrig-

uez details what she endured by her own fundamental parents to "cure" her lesbianism in her book, "Outlaws."

Demus, a nun now for 59 years, knows the danger of secrecy. Up until 2014, her religious superiors forced her to use a pseudonym, "Sister Monica." In her trans ministry could not identify her religious order, which had been the Dominican Missionaries of St. Dominic before

they merged with other Dominican communities. They eventually realized and she has become a pioneer in Catholic trans ministry.

Zaba has trans friends who have been cruelly rejected by their Catholic parish-

es, including one whose pastor called the police to remove her from church.

"Once in a while we may get thrown out, but if that happens, we're not going away," she said.

"We're coming right back in."

Zaba is confident: "I just know that God made me this way, and God made all of us, as we are, for a reason."

The Rev. Alexander Santora is the pastor of Our Lady of Grace and St. Joseph, 400 Willow Ave., Hoboken, NJ 07030. Email: alex@ourladyofgrace.com; Twitter: @alexnsantora.



Rev. Alexander H. Santora
Parish Priest
Metuchen

News Column

Daily, Under 25,000

SECOND PLACE

Alexander Santora

The Jersey Journal

IF YOU GO ...

The fourth annual Pride Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church, 400 Willow Ave., Hoboken, takes place Sunday, at 10:30 a.m. Limited off-street parking. For more information, call 201-995-0365.

LEARN MORE ...

"Outlive: A Queer Christian Survival Story" by Jife Rogers, Broadleaf Books, 2021, \$24.95.

"The Trans Generation: How Trans Kids and Their Parents are Creating a Gender Revolution," by Azin Tavoni, New York University Press, 2021.

"Last Call: A True Story of Love, Lust, and Murder in Queer New York," by Ben Green, Celsius Books, 2021, \$27.



NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

News Column

Daily, Under 25,000

FIRST PLACE

Mike Deak

Courier News

OPINION *This piece expresses the views of its author(s), separate from those of this publication.*

Local newspapers play an important role in shaping our lives | Deak

Mike Deak MyCentralJersey.com

Published 5:00 a.m. ET March 23, 2021 | Updated 1:38 p.m. ET March 24, 2021

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This is the last crusade.

Four decades after I started a career in journalism, the future of community newspapers – those who focus on their special and unique slice of the universe – is imperiled.

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I am not asking for your continued support for any selfish reason. I've accepted that in a handful of years, the Great Editor in the Sky will give me a box for my personal belongings and a key card to the ultimate gated community.

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THIRD PLACE

Diego Jesus Bartesaghi

Montclair Local

Montclairian restores a groundbreaking film

Thursday, June 17, 2021

Send us your arts or community group
 >>> arts@montclairlocal.com

Culture

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Page 25

'THE CURSE OF QUON GWON'

Montclairian restores a groundbreaking film



Wahai Wong and Harvey See Hsu in "The Curse of Quon Gwon" (1916), the first film with an all-Asian American cast. It was directed by a Chinese American woman, Madeline E. Wong. The film's restorer, Cordelia Siperin, said it is also an example of how Asian American women and women in general played an early and important role as filmmakers.

Earliest movie with all-Asian American cast gets new life

By DIEGO JESUS BARTESAGHI MERA
barbaghi@montclairlocal.com

When Cordelia Siperin, film professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University and Montclair resident, saw "The Curse of Quon Gwon" in a DVD box set called "Pioneers: First Women Filmmakers" in 2009, she was intrigued.

"Quon Gwon" — produced in 1916 — is believed to have been the first film with an all-Asian American cast. It was directed by Madeline E. Wong, a Chinese American filmmaker, screenwriter, costume designer and actress.

The film never saw a wide release. Family members who'd pre-

served footage from the film invited filmmaker Arthur Dong, who was working on his documentary "Hollywood Chinese," to review it, and help make arrangements for the Academy Film Archive to restore it, Siperin said.

The surviving footage Siperin saw in the DVD set did not include intertitles, generally used to convey characters' dialogue or descriptive narrative for the plot in a silent film. When the film was over, she was left with more questions than answers.

"It was like watching something avant-garde. It was completely incomprehensible," Siperin said. She went to bed that night hoping and turning, trying to figure out

the plot of the movie.

"I was like, 'Well, why does the villain do that?' 'What's going on with this baby?' And, like, 'Why does this happen?' 'Why does that happen?'" Siperin said. "I was just drifting off to a light sleep when, out of nowhere, I just woke up having understood the plot."

As a film professor — as well as daughter of the late Michael Siperin, founder of Montclair State University's film department — Siperin has professional training in storytelling. Her background in cinema studies, including in the historical and cultural impacts films have, helped her with the mission ahead: bringing the film back to life.

She reached out to several professionals in the field, such as professor of historiography (the study of historical writing) Dan Struble, who advised her to make a version of the film with her own intertitles. That meant paying close attention to those elements of the film that did survive.

Try to match their spirit and emotion and tone, and look for the plot that is locked and hidden within the gestures," Siperin said.

In the silent film era, actors used gestural pantomime language, which derived from pantomime language used for Victorian theater.

Sincerity, it was made so that

See FILM, page 28

Arts & Entertainment Writing

Weekly Division

SECOND PLACE

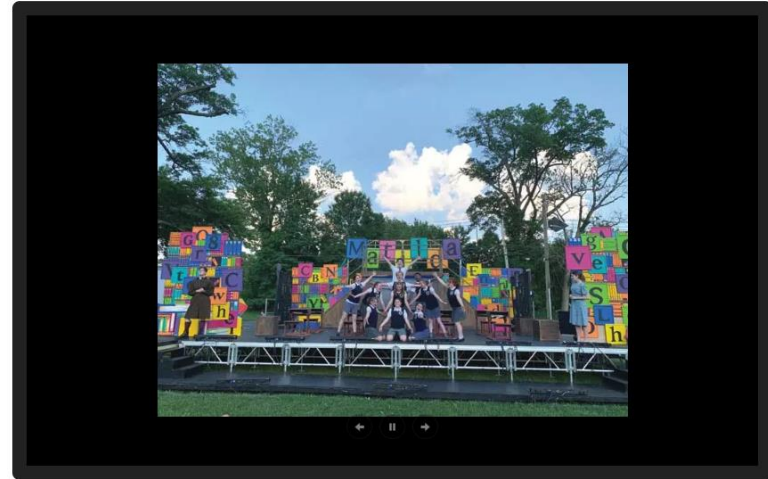
Amanda Valentovic

News-Record of Maplewood &
South Orange

The magic returns as CHS stages
"Matilda" outside

The magic returns as CHS stages 'Matilda' outdoors in South Orange

By Amanda Valentovic on June 11, 2021 · Comments Off



SOUTH ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD, NJ — Columbia High School was raring to go when its theater department sold out all of the tickets to the 2020 production of "Matilda," even going so far as to add another show to what was supposed to be a two-weekend run. Then the COVID-19 pandemic happened, and the show couldn't.

Arts & Entertainment Writing

Weekly Division

FIRST PLACE

Elizabeth Wulfhorst

The Two River Times

Netflix Coming to Monmouth
County? Hollywood is Already Here

NETFLIX COMING TO MONMOUTH COUNTY? HOLLYWOOD IS ALREADY HERE

By Elizabeth Wulfhorst

Netflix may be eyeing Fort Monmouth for a production hub in the next few years, but Hollywood is already a big part of Monmouth County, and has been for some time.

Many know about movie director Kevin Smith's "Clerks" franchise. Smith, who also plays the character Silent Bob in the movies, was born in Red Bank and grew up in Highlands, attending Henry Hudson Regional

School. He recently filmed "Clerks" in 1994 on a shoestring budget at the Quick Stop in Leonardo where he worked at the time. He returned to the area to film a number of other movies, most recently this summer for "Clerks III." In addition to the Quick Stop, Smith also turned Glavin's in Red Bank into the fictional Mobby's for the movie.

Because of the Two River's close proximity to New

York, businesses, residences and towns in the county are often used as stand-ins for other areas of the country. Last year director Adam Taylor used Ebers Landing, the more-than-a-century-old seafood restaurant in Highlands, to film a scene for his "Seamus" prequel, "The Macy Statue of Newark." Ford Network and Discovery have also been known to use Two River towns as locations for shows.

This summer Red Bank hosted a star-studded red carpet event as Blake Coker's "Cassava" premiered "Eashed," a film written by and starring Shannon resident and longtime actor of film and television Stephen Fallon Hagan. Many of the scenes in the movie were shot in the Two River area and also showcase local residents.

Continued on Page 10

Daily, Over 25,000

Sports Column

Sports Column

Daily, over 25,000

THIRD PLACE

Darren Cooper

The Record (Bergen County)

Gibbs set a standard of excellence

Ramapo's leader was a great coach, teacher and person because he kept learning



Local Sports

By Darren Cooper
NorthJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - N.J.

Ramapo coach Drew Gibbs was a great coach, teacher and person because he never stopped learning.

Tuesday morning the New Jersey athletic community woke up to shocking news that Gibbs, 58, died following emergency heart surgery. Gibbs collapsed at practice Monday evening as his Green Raiders team was preparing

for the North Jersey Game of the Year: the North 1, Group 4 final against Northern Highlands.

Gibbs and Ramapo are no strangers to big games. He won seven sectional titles with the Green Raiders, finishing No. 1 in North Jersey multiple times. He sent hundreds of players to play college football, and more than a few to the NFL, including star wide receiver Chris Hogan and special teams ace Blake Costanzo.

What amazed me about Gibbs was his passion for evolving. He taught me a word, "clinical," meaning to see a presentation from another football coach on

some minute part of football.

I went to a few clinics with Gibbs and would wonder, doesn't this guy already know more than he needs to know? But watching a workout on a 2-gap defensive front, or a new special teams alignment was something Gibbs revealed to

"If my kids couldn't have played for me, I would have blood them to play for Drew Gibbs," former Wayne Hills coach Chris Owen said from North Carolina on Tuesday morning. "He always did the right thing by the kids. We had battle after battle after battle, win some, lose

See COOPER, Page 25



Ramapo coach Drew Gibbs, who died Tuesday, was preparing his team for a playoff game when he collapsed.

DANIELLE PUGH-GUZAMAN/NORTHJERSEY.COM/FILE

Sports Column

Daily, over 25,000

SECOND PLACE

Jerry Izenberg

The Star-Ledger

Why no one believes Bob Baffert: It seems cheating is in the blood | Izenberg



Sports Column

Daily, over 25,000

FIRST PLACE

Steve Politi

The Star-Ledger

How a love for Rutgers united a grieving lacrosse family | Politi



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Daily, under 25,000

FIRST PLACE

Brad Wilson

The Express-Times

SUBSCRIBER EXCLUSIVE

NJSIAA girls wrestling sets path PIAA must follow | Commentary

Updated: Apr. 12, 2021, 3:19 p.m. | Published: Apr. 12, 2021, 3:19 p.m.



NJSIAA Girls Wrestling state championships, 2021



191
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By [Brad Wilson](#) | [For lehighvalleylive.com](#)

It looks as if the closest Pennsylvania is going to get to a girls state wrestling tournament anytime soon is New Jersey having its tourney at Phillipsburg.

PRIZE TIME!!!

Weekly Division

Special Subject Writing

Special Subject Writing

Weekly Division

THIRD PLACE

Diego Jesus Bartesaghi
Montclair Local

Fleeing persecution, Nicaragua
family found a home in Montclair;
Bridging the divides

Wednesday November 24, 2021

Send us your arts or community go out!
»» arts @montclairlocal.njpa

Culture

Page 15
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IMMIGRATION

Fleeing persecution, Nicaraguan family found a home in Montclair

'I knew this town was special,' father says

BY DIEGO JESUS BARTESAGHI MENA
dbartesaghi@montclairlocal.njpa

When Roger Chavarria left behind his life in Nicaragua as a mechanical engineer and a manager at major sugar cane companies — eventually settling in Montclair in January of 2019 — he had to start from scratch.

Chavarria, now 49, had been fleeing what he described as political persecution in his home country. A husband and father of three daughters, he came alone to America; family members would join him months later. A native Spanish speaker, he didn't know English well. He needed to learn to navigate the resources and infrastructure of a community that wasn't yet familiar. He needed a job. He needed to find a place to stay.

The only person he knew in Montclair was the Rev. Amilcar Benito Prado, the Nicaraguan-born pastor of St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, known affectionately to parishioners as "Father Benny." They'd meet in La Jota, Chavarria's native city



COURTESY CHAVARRIA FAMILY
Members of the Chavarria family take part in the "Montclair: The Clash of the Quarantennas" 5K fundraiser for the Montclair Fund for Educational Excellence earlier this year. Family members, from left, are Isabella Rikash Chavarria, Maria Delgado, Camila Andrea Chavarria and Roger Chavarria.

average until he made enough money to rent an apartment. He worked 12-hour shifts as a busboy, a dishwasher and a cleaner for food services

at a public school. Chavarria's dream was to become an engineer. He earned a scholarship to a private school where he was able to network with

abided through an arrangement to purchase Venezuelan oil and energy plants at favorable rates — part of the "oil diplomacy" Hugo Chavez also used to support allies in countries such as Cuba, Argentina, Ecuador and Brazil.

Chavarria said the work became unbearable.

"They told us that it will benefit the country," Chavarria said. "But we didn't see that this agreement, that the government was doing, was going to benefit Ortega."

Chavarria described an escalating pattern of political persecution and violence. Montclair Local was not in a position to further corroborate the particular details of his experience, but the Ortega regime has been widely condemned by other powers for practices that include killing protesters in violent clashes and jailing, harassing and intimidating dissenters. In a statement this month, President Joe Biden denounced the "sham election" that

ing pressure from government officials — asking managers to talk with their employees about politics, and to hold political meetings in favor of the ruling Sandinista party. Those who didn't cooperate were

Send for Comments

Special Subject Writing

Weekly Division

SECOND PLACE

Elizabeth Little

Ocean City Sentinel

Chief tells audience how
marijuana laws will limit police and law
enforcement

Chief tells audience how marijuana laws will limit police and enforcement

By ELIZABETH LITTLE
and S.J. HANVELY
Special to the Sentinel

OCEAN CITY - In a Town Hall meeting Saturday, Ocean City Police Chief Jay Freytrman made his opinions on the new marijuana laws quite clear.

"What I will tell you is that the way that we were just legislatively directed to handle people under the age of 21 was a complete shock to every policeman in New Jersey," Freytrman said before a crowd of more than 100 citizens spread throughout the auditorium at the Ocean City Tabernacle.

In February, Gov. Phil Murphy signed three bills to decriminalize possession of marijuana and hashish and make recreational cannabis consumption legal in the state. He signed these articles after an overwhelming 87 percent of New Jersey voters said "yes" to a ballot question in November legalizing recreational marijuana. New Jerseyans can now carry as much as 6 ounces of cannabis and 17 grams of hashish, a marijuana concentrate, without penalty. These new legislation laws also extend to possession of cannabis paraphernalia, being under the



David Nelson/SENTINEL
Ocean City Police Chief Jay Freytrman talks to an audience of more than 100 citizens at the Ocean City Tabernacle Saturday morning during a Town Hall meeting on the new marijuana laws and limits on police enforcement.

influence of cannabis and possession of cannabis in a vehicle. Driving under the influence of marijuana remains illegal.

New Jersey police are no longer allowed to use the odor of marijuana as

See Marijuana, page A2

Special Subject Writing

Weekly Division

FIRST PLACE

Gina G. Scala

The SandPaper

Coast Guard Helo Ops Training a Team Effort

20
The SandPaper/Photo.com/Getty Images




PHOTO: LOW: Air Station Atlantic City and a boat crew from Coast Guard Station Barnegat Light work together during helicopter training July 22.

Semper Paratus: Always Prepared

Coast Guard Helo Ops Training a Team Effort

By GINA G. SCALA

A boat five miles offshore of Barnegat Light in flat conditions, a Coast Guard crew of five and two visitors waited on a 43-foot motor lifboat for the hour of rescue to begin. The whirling chaff started low, the bright orange helicopter descended from heading through who coming completely into sight as it edged closer to the meeting area. As it did, 10 seven individuals reached out protection from their position, plucking the rusty yellow rope into their own to block the mouth of the meeting blades.

And just like that, the weekly Thursday Coast Guard helicopter training exercise pairing Air Station Atlantic City and the Barnegat Light crew boat started underway.

The training, up in reality, began hours earlier as both the air crew and the boat crew ran through their daily checklist to ensure their respective vehicles were ready for action.

In Barnegat Light, the crew, with an extra member who was training, and for a morning briefing about the mission. It included a check-in on weather conditions, the boat and how the crew members were feeling about the training the week, as well as a short discussion about what else was going on at the station that day.

"That's a lot of training time," said Boatwren's Mate Second Class Philip Arguetales, who piloted the boat during maneuvers July 22, prior to heading out into the calm waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

He was assisted by Iain Donohoe, a boatwren's mate third class, who was responsible for communicating with the air crew on board the MH-65D Chinook helicopter out of Atlantic City. Donohoe is awaiting certification as a coxswain, which would allow him to pilot a boat on his own.

Also aboard was Charles Weaver, a relative newcomer third class.

"I help work the deck and make sure everyone is safe and there are no surprises," he said once back at the station, looking for the all clear to make sure the boat was ready for whatever might come next. It needed refueling after the trip out.

Continued on Page 74




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Critical Writing

Critical Writing

Daily, over 25,000

THIRD PLACE

Esther Davidowitz

The Record (Bergen County)

Move over Katz's; The
Circle, Thrillist

#FOR SUBSCRIBERS: DINING

Move over Katz's; Montclair's Mikki & Al's Noshery makes killer pastrami | Review



Esther Davidowitz
NorthJersey.com

Published 4:03 a.m. ET Oct. 20, 2021

[View Comments](#)



Video: 10 most-anticipated fall restaurant openings

Check out the new restaurants opening in North Jersey this autumn. Professor King, Pasaña

Mikki & Al's Noshery had me at first bite.

On a sweltering day, the kind that calls for eating something light like, say, a refreshing salad, I and some other most likely meshugana food fans were slurping hot soup, tucking into two-fisted meat sandwiches and downing warm and buttery potato pies at Mikki & Al's, an old-fashioned kroshe-style Jewish delicatessen that pastry chef Natalie Lee opened a year ago. Lee previously ran Plum on Park, a casual American restaurant, in the same space for 10 years.

No one at the cozy 15-seat dell seemed to be complaining about the oppressive weather. We were all too busy delighting our palates.

Critical Writing

Daily, over 25,000

SECOND PLACE

Chris Jordan

Asbury Park Press

Portfolio



NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

Critical Writing

Daily, over 25,000

FIRST PLACE

Jim Beckerman

The Record (Bergen County)

West Side Story, Minari, Citizen Kane

ANALYSIS

Why wasn't 'West Side Story' a hit opening weekend?

Weight of story's groundbreaking but familiar past comes into play

Jim Beckerman NorthJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

I was at the original production of "West Side Story." I can't say that I saw it. It opened on Broadway Sept. 26, 1957, and I was born eight months later on June 14, 1958. I therefore experienced it in situ — absorbing Leonard Bern-

stein's savvy music and Jerome Robbins' explosive choreography through the abdominal wall. It certainly made an impression on my mother. In later years, she talked about how she had never seen anything like it. Nobody had. And the moment she really remembered — the moment that made her cry — was not the tragic finale, where she sees Tony lie dead in the city streets, victim of gang violence. It was not the song "Somewhere," or the shock of the knife fight.

It was a moment late in the first act, when the two

SEE MOVIE, PAGE 6A



"West Side Story" (2021): Lieutenant Schmeck (Tony Danza, left) breaks up a fight between the Jets and Sharks. (USA TODAY NETWORK)

Daily, Under 25,000

Critical Writing

Critical Writing

Daily, Under 25,000

FIRST PLACE

Jim Testa

The Jersey Journal

Portfolio

Friday, Aug 13, 2021 The JERSEY JOURNAL WEEKEND URGE | 13
music & art

It's time to get our groove back

By **JIM TESTA**
THE JERSEY JOURNAL

With the first signs of both summery weather and a return to pre-COVID activities on the horizon, it's time to stop thinking about music that resonates with our loneliness, our boredom and our fears.

But what will we want to hear when our spirits rise, when the pandemic recedes, when we're herding down the Parkway toward the Shore with the windows wide open and big beaming smiles on all our faces? Two words, ladies and gentlemen: **Ruby Jones**.

The indie-rock quartet's sophomore album, "Laser Tooth Tiger" arrives today on North Jersey's Mint 630 Records, and its jangly, upbeat and vibey provide the perfect tonic for our collective coronavirus hangover.

Ruby Jones formed a few years ago when singer-songwriter Chris Fox, fresh from the breakup of punk-party combo Beard & Wire, needed musicians to fill out the new songs he'd been writing. Fox wanted a band that could make his tunes sound like anthems. Russian PC Spies and drummer James Janocha answered the call, leading to the release of a self-titled, debut full-length in 2017.

Looking for an even bigger sound, the band added helicopter-like Matt Cohen on lead guitar, and Ruby Jones became a staple at local clubs and Hudson's indie-rock festivals. They were good, but as a wise man once said, good can be the enemy of great.

"Laser Tooth Tiger" — OK, let's say the greatness comes from its willingness to stop worrying about "originality" in useless concept in rock 'n' roll anyway and embracing the fact that pop music succeeds when it's both familiar and fresh.

Does this bit of melodic sound like every rock critic's favorite band, Big Star? Fine, let's use it! Will people say this riff sounds like the '60s (or '80s)? Can we stick a very Springsteen-in-a-sock here? Why not? In this whole thing sounding like we're having too much fun? No problem!

If that makes the album sound too giddy, note that "Laser Tooth Tiger" does have an edge. Listened to closely, the lyrics often return to the theme of searching for love again after a nasty breakup. As a metaphor for society trying to get its groove back after months of lockdown and self-imposed isolation, it couldn't come at a better time. And, in the process, Ruby Jones delivers one pop-rock gem after another, with excellent melodies that lift the spirit despite downer

titles like "Tired Spies," "Not Enough," "Terrible" and "Past Lives."

"Laser Tooth Tiger" will be available digitally at mint630records.com and [Mint630records.com](http://mint630records.com).

■ ■ ■

For something a bit darker, heavier and more raucous, try "Born on Fire," the new EP from Jersey City's Black Wall Siren, the expansive, mind-boggling improvisations of prog-rock collide with the bludgeoning riffs and screamed vocals of stoner rock. Imagine Deep Purple throwing a party with Slayer (and whatever you do, don't drink the punch).

"Born on Fire" was actually

ready to be released before the pandemic, but who wants to put out music during an international nightmare?

The quietest formed in 2014 from the ashes of Jersey City's Do-It-Yourself champions Thomas Francis, Mike Fila, Charcoal and Pullen & The Pyramids.

"Born on Fire" represents the band's first release since 2017's self-titled "Chromium Heroes," which included a Doom Metal cover of the Beatles' "Norwegian Wood."

The "Born on Fire" EP, officially released last Friday, is available on all major streaming platforms, Amazon Music and iTunes.



RUBY JONES, from left: James Janocha, Chris Fox, Matt Cohen and PC Spies Matt Cismare



"BORN ON FIRE" BY RUBY JONES

Weekly Division

Environmental, Health & Science Writing

Environmental, Health & Science

Writing

Weekly Division

THIRD PLACE

Judy O'Gorman Alvarez

The Two River Times

Junior League Says: Let's Talk About
Periods



BRUNSON — People of all ages have heard the idiom and explanation for the menstrual cycle having a period, a monthly visitor. And this, being on the way, that despite a natural process that affects nearly half the world's population from puberty to menopause, many often do not have access to menstrual products.

And if you think those problems only affect those in developing countries, statistics right here in the Garden State are alarming: 3 in 4 can't school because they do not have access to period products, 1 in 5 miss work due to the same reason.

The Junior League of Monmouth County is trying to do something about that by launching the Period Project to raise awareness of "period poverty" — the inability to access or afford menstrual products — and expand period supply programs within the community.

During kickbacks in 2020 we called around providing meals for families in Red Bank," said Alexandra McInerney, president of the Junior League of Monmouth County. "Providing a full grocery cart for



The Junior League of Monmouth County a virtual Period Product Party at a free 20 second at its Thurston headquarters. McInerney's hope is raise awareness of "period poverty" — the inability to access or afford menstrual products — and help make products available to those in need.

to distributing menstrual products.

"That's what we decided to do," said McInerney. "We're hoping to include more distribution partners."

Last month, the league unveiled its Free Period Product Pantry on the club's front lawn.

"We hold an all-women vendor market that resulted in a collection of 1,500 products," she said.

An average person

— may have when discussing menstruation. "Part of this is talking about it," said McInerney. "Bringing awareness to the topic."

Another component of the Poverty Period Project is period sales.

Menstrual toxic shock syndrome, a rare but life-threatening condition

basic illness caused by a release of toxins and bacteria released into the blood stream, is associated with tampon use. Don't Shock Me Foundation, a New Jersey nonprofit, works to spread awareness and create legislative change around menstrual toxic shock syndrome and

menstrual toxic shock syndrome.

"We want to make sure women are aware of the dangers," said Geyser. "And it's not only important for women and girls, but also it's important for men in their lives know these signs and symptoms because it can happen so quickly and it can be lethal."

The period pantry is just a start, according to Geyser, who is an ovarian cancer survivor, and focused on women's health issues.

"We want to work together with other organizations like the Girl Scouts and schools to talk about period poverty. And work with legislators to come up with solutions."

They're also looking for community partners who will host Period Pantries, like the case of the chapter's headquarters. The league will keep the pantry filled with menstrual products available in the community 24 hours a day.

"Every woman experiences menstruation at some point in their lives and that's half the world's population," said Geyser. "We should be comfortable having these conversations."

menstrual toxic shock syndrome.

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Environmental,
Health & Science
Writing
Weekly Division

SECOND PLACE
Pat Johnson
The SandPaper

ReClam the Bay Members Learn How Rutgers Does Innovative Aquaculture

CURRENTS

ReClam the Bay Members Learn How Rutgers Does Innovative Aquaculture

ReClam the Bay, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the filter feeder shellfish in Cape May and to increase awareness of the industry through public education, hosts its summer field trips. On Wednesday, June 23, they traveled to the Rutgers Aquaculture Innovation Center in Cape May.

The AIC is dedicated to supplying commercial aquaculture with oyster and scallop research. Susan Towers, the AIC research coordinator, led the tour starting with the salt water that is needed to keep the millions of "amids" alive in their artificial nursery.

The commercial and research hatchery is the largest of the four Haskin research facilities maintained by Rutgers University. The location on the Cape May canal, a man-made canal dug during World War II to connect the Atlantic Ocean to the Delaware Bay for more rapid transport of munitions, is not ideal, said Towers. The canal draws water from local farmlands on one end, and the Cape May ferry terminal is at the other, so there is a lot of turbidity and sediment in the water.

A pump delivers 2,500 gallons of water per minute to the facility. To clean and keep the water at a steady

salinity needed by the animals, computers four large outdoor water tanks. Two are settling tanks that hold the water for 45 minutes to allow larger sediments to go to the bottom. Then the water goes through a series of fine mesh screens down to 2 millimeters, then into a small filter tank and a UV filter to kill bacteria and back into the reserve tanks.

The clean water is agitated with air pumps and in the winter must be heated to 70 degrees Celsius to mimic summer bay water temps.

Towers took the tank inside to the algae culture rooms. Oysters, clams, scallops and mussels are filter feeders - they get their food directly from the water where they live.

"Water is not good for aquaculture," he noted, "if there would be nothing in the water for them to eat. Since 2009, when the facility was constructed, Rutgers has developed eight to 10 strains of algae for shellfish food that are "brilliant and true, all selected for the length and breadth of their diet."

The algae culture room has large tanks with vertical racks to hold oysters, scallops, ribbed mussels and surf clams.

"Surf clams, for instance, require chlorella, a higher level of protein," Towers said. "The AIC researchers are currently working on a project to



TOWERS & LOPE: Research Coordinator Susan Towers leads the ReClam the Bay volunteers through the Rutgers University Aquaculture Innovation Center, starting with the tanks that hold water pumped from the Cape May Canal.

determine if surf clams, large clams that are harvested in the ocean, can be grown in tank trays with lower temperatures. Small surf clams are called butter clams, their potential for filling a restaurant's bill of fare is being explored, he said. They also grow during the winter months, unlike leading clams, which grow in the summer months. They could potentially expand a farmer's production season.

The algae growing in the tanks are single-cell organisms that begin life in a test tube and, with a uniform set of temperatures, water salinity

and nutrients, begin to divide at a rapid pace, requiring bigger jars and 50-lb tanks. The algae culture rooms to fit with natural light and fluorescent lights that are purchased at a DIY store. Instead of buying from a scientific equipment wholesaler, most equipment is selected as aquaculture farmers can easily access them, Towers explained. Before the algae are sent out to feed the animals, samples are tested under the microscope to make sure there are no pathogens or contaminants that might harm them. The researchers have had to adjust

some batches for this reason.

Other experiments ongoing at the research end of the facility are focused on growing bivalve crabs and raising them to increase their desalting capabilities. Greenhouse crab eggs are important food for all kinds of molluscan shellfish, including the 100-pound red crab, an unassuming bird that almost spans the globe, migrating north in the spring from the Bay of South America to its breeding ground at the Arctic Circle. The spring bird migration is tied to

Continued on Page 56

Environmental, Health & Science

Writing

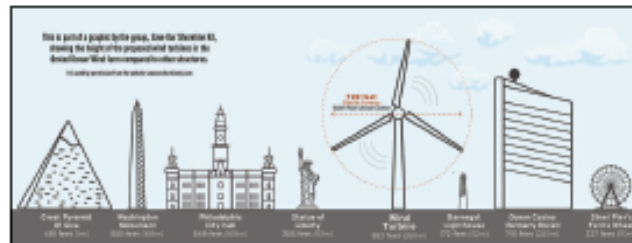
Weekly Division

FIRST PLACE

David Nahan

Ocean City Sentinel

Portfolio



Save Our Shoreline NJ

Group organizes to fight offshore wind farms, arguing they're not clean, green or economical

By DAVID NAHAN
Sentinel staff

OCEAN CITY — Organizers and supporters of a group fighting planned wind farms off the coast of southern New Jersey want residents their communities could be hurt.

"We realize it's not just our little area," said Tricia Costi of Ocean City, one of the founders behind the group with the website saveourshoreline.nj.com. "We need to protect our entire shoreline."

Costi, interviewed last week, said when the state's a Facebook group in September her message was, "A wind farm is coming to a beach near you." That was when she started researching Dened's Ocean Wind project proposing up to 66 wind turbines on a plot 15 miles off shore that will be visible on the horizon from south of Atlantic City to Stone Harbor. Since then she has learned of another proposed wind farm, Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind, in a state-owned plot of some

186,000 acres just north of the Ocean Wind project. Costi said these projects, still in the design and approval phases, could set the stage for wind farms up and

down the coast. Once parameters for a project get established and approved, those parameters set the stage for everyone, she said, likening it to zoning,

that once a rule becomes acceptable, it becomes the norm. Her group believes if these wind farms get built, it will be a disaster. See Save, page A7

Fisherman says studies do not show wind farms are safe for fisheries, sea life and fishing

By DAVID NAHAN
Sentinel staff

OCEAN CITY — Tony Beach is a recreational fisherman. He said the data and studies don't confirm that wind farms proposed off the coast are safe for the fisheries.

Beach, of Evesham in Burlington County, loves to ply the waters off the southern New Jersey coast. He keeps his boat in Great Bay and takes it out in the ocean through Little Egg

Islet, which is between southern Long Beach Island and northern Brigantine.

That also is the heart of where two wind farms are proposed — Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind, in a plot south of Atlantic City to Little Egg, and Ocean Wind, from Atlantic City south to Stone Harbor.

Beach, as a member of Save Our Shoreline NJ (saveourshoreline.nj.com), is concerned about many facets of what he and other

group members believe are the detrimental impacts of electricity-generating wind farms in the ocean. The group is dedicated to stopping the wind farms.

As a fisherman, he said in an interview last week, his prime concern is the ocean and sustainability of the fisheries.

Beach points out the plans proposed for the wind farms take in an area the size of Los Angeles and nearby twice

See Fisheries, page A7

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THIRD PLACE

Daniel Grote

The Press of Atlantic City



Tolls on the Atlantic City Expressway will increase Jan. 1.

OWEN LEE, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

If I tolled you once

Drivers looking at higher rates on parkway, expressway

SECTION

New Jersey motorists are bracing for an increase in tolls on the Garden State Parkway and Atlantic City Expressway starting Jan. 1, and Gov. Phil Murphy by a long way is expected to raise them.

“I’m not sure what the toll increase will be, but it’s expected to be in the \$4 to \$6 range,” said a spokesman for the New Jersey Turnpike Authority.

The toll increase is part of a larger effort to raise revenue for the state’s infrastructure program. The toll increase is expected to be in the \$4 to \$6 range.

By the numbers

\$2.10 New average passenger vehicle toll on the Garden State Parkway

\$4.45 New average passenger vehicle toll on the Atlantic City Expressway

1/1/21 Date the new tolls are expected to take effect

\$4.50 Date the toll increase took effect on the parkway and turnpike

ways to generate revenue from motorists by drawing more attention to the state, increasing traffic volume.

“I’m not sure what the toll increase will be, but it’s expected to be in the \$4 to \$6 range,” said a spokesman for the New Jersey Turnpike Authority.

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Push on to expand needle exchanges

WORLDWIDE

Staff Writer

On the basis of Alan the City Council’s long-term plan for the clean syringe exchange program last month, Gov. Phil Murphy’s administration announced the support of legislation that would pass and expand harm reduction centers statewide.

The legislation, sponsored by state Sen. Joe Vitale, D-Morris, and Assemblyman Mark Vitale, D-Bergen, would amend current law to allow the Department of Health to independently establish harm reduction centers and needle exchange programs.

Additionally, the law would eliminate municipalities’ ability to limit the number of such programs.

“The principles of harm reduction are simple. We must accept that there is drug use in



Experts are not sure how far an individual spotted lanternfly can move in a single season, but they expect it can be miles. That complicates not only tracking them, but how to define a typical geographic vector for the pest.

THE HAVANA, PHILADELPHIA, INQUIRY

If you see something, KILL SOMETHING

State seeks to stomp out spotted lanternfly

WORLDWIDE

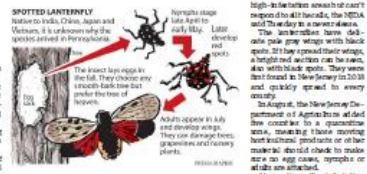
Staff Writer

OC DAN CITY — No doubt about it: In spotted lanternflies, we have reached the end of the road. The spotted lanternfly is a pest that has been found in the state and is expected to spread to other parts of the state.

“I’m not sure what the toll increase will be, but it’s expected to be in the \$4 to \$6 range,” said a spokesman for the New Jersey Turnpike Authority.

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High in the latter months of last year, the NJPA and the NJPA staff have been working to raise awareness about the spotted lanternfly. The spotted lanternfly is a pest that has been found in the state and is expected to spread to other parts of the state.

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SECOND PLACE

Scott Muller

The Record (Bergen County)

'Playing with House Money,' 'Nixed Sense,' 'Teens Gambit'



William Paterson graduate picks materials of necessity above art in chess set he designed and built with pieces inspired by the pandemic. PHOTO BY CHRIS PATRICK/WPUNIVERSITY.COM

TEEN'S GAMBIT

WPU student creates COVID-19 chess set with toilet paper bishops and mask pawns

NICHOLAS MONTANO | **WILIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY** | **NEW JERSEY**

Nicholas Montano's first college semester wasn't what he expected. Toilet paper shortages and limited human interactions amid a pandemic did not make for an ideal freshman year at William Paterson University. • The Ramsey Township native remembers the empty shelves during grocery store runs to stock his dorm room with Clorox bottles, hand sanitizer and any roll of toilet paper he could find. That experience and battle to find items inspired him to design and build a chess set that represents 2020 and the pandemic. **SEE COVER, PAGE 61.**

A close-up of one of the chess pieces Montano designed, the experience of trying to find items during the pandemic inspired him to create this chess set.



PLAYING WITH HOUSE MONEY



Realtors Lisa Ann and Jeff Peters had 31 offers on this home at 141 Popponesset road in Parsippany. PHOTO BY MICHAEL LUCIANO/RECORD

Why the North Jersey real estate market is on fire

WARY CHAS BERTHOUD | **THE RECORD** | **NEW JERSEY**

DISAPPOINTING — The unremarkable, mid-level home along a busy stretch of Parsippany Road had been empty for years like all around. The interior walls and flooring are worn and the kitchen covered with black mold. Highlighted by dated red oak cabinetry, the five-bedroom Cooper-Cole in Parsippany Township was being offered by its seller with less than two weeks left. The listing agent, Lou Ann Peters of Coldwell Banker's International Realty of Mendham, priced it at \$200,000. In so little time, it was the hottest west on the

"The market is crazy. A lot of real estate in North Jersey is worth a lot of money right now."

THE PETS, who returned to the market in January, the bids rolled in. Within a few days, it offers were presented, with the most for close and month.

In a normal market, a disappointed seller home would perhaps attract

eight or nine offers, but in North Jersey it had 31 and more. Peters — with interest rates and inventory low and quantitative easing beyond. Selling for any sum offered by bidding on the same. According to the New Jersey Association of Realtors, Bergen, District 10, the home was sold for \$200,000 with 31 offers.

"There is no ceiling," said The Pets, who received bid \$200,000 over the asking price of \$200,000 for a 1,300-

SEE COVER, PAGE 7A.

NIXED SENSE



After COVID-19, losing the ability to taste or smell upended their lives

CHRISTINE STERN | **THE RECORD** | **NEW JERSEY**

Christine Stern knew something was terribly wrong. • There she stood, on a sidewalk with her dog on a leash, frantically sniffing a grocery bag. • "I tried so hard to smell it, but got nothing," said Stern of Fair Lawn. Stern was aware what this likely meant: she had COVID-19. • She ran home and grabbed the coffee beans she keeps in her freezer — and inhaled deeply again and again. No earthy aroma, no herbaceous scent, so small whatsoever. • She dashed to her bathroom and stuck her nose into a container of Vick's VapoRub, a topical cough suppressant (ingredients known well for its strong menthol odor. She may as well have been sniffing water. "I got zero," Stern said. • She got zero too when she tried to eat a bowl of Campbell's chicken noodle soup. Actually it was worse than getting ill

SEE COVER, PAGE 1A.

Best Headlines

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FIRST PLACE

Phil Cornell

The Star-Ledger

Seuss uproar could have long shelf life in libraries;
Shore town resolves long-standing case of a rusted development;
From pier to eternity

WHOVILLE

Seuss uproar could have long shelf life in libraries

Josh Axelrod For The Star-Ledger

Clinging offensive imagery, the company that owns Dr. Seuss' catalog will cease publication of six of his books — a decision that's ignited a firestorm of criticism that has put New Jersey's libraries in a tough spot.

"We would consider removing them in the form of censorship," Peter Coy, director of the Montclair Public Library, told NJ Advance Media. "Removing something because you don't agree with its viewpoint is their catalog last year.

However, just because the books go out of print doesn't mean they'll go out of circulation.

"We will be keeping the titles on the shelf, much as we have 'Little House on the Prairie' series, 'Peter Pan,' 'Crocket in Times Square' and other long ago-published books that are now called loaner copies," said Katie Noffs, head of the Children's Department at the Maurice M. Pine



THE JERSEY SHORE

From pier to eternity



With support from family members, Nihil Shultz, of India, catches the unborn of his father, Ramesh Shultz, into the Atlantic Ocean on July 28 off the Jersey Shore. Photo by Michael Mancuso, for The Star-Ledger

Burial off the Jersey coast is becoming an increasingly popular option, say boat captains and federal officials, providing "the peaceful feeling scattering their loved one's remains in the sea."

Michael Mancuso For The Star-Ledger



Captain Steve Elbach, left, shows the Queen Mary, seized by deckhand Nick Vlade, on a trip for the Shultz family.

the Maranapan River, taking Nihil and 16 other family members to their destination, ever-existing and permanent. It is not clear when the body is ash. — Elizabeth Glas

SEASIDE HEIGHTS

Shore town resolves long-standing case of a rusted development

Backhoes bring down unfinished steel structure that loomed over borough for a decade, and tourists and locals say good riddance to an eyesore.



Steve Hrensky For The Star-Ledger

It was 11 a.m. on Tuesday, and sign-lan as Riggen bar to Seaside Heights were talking about the demolition going on just across the boardwalk, where a pair of backhoes fit with massive excavators were casting

"We're happy to see it go," Riggen's bartender Sheila Scoggin said of the four-story steel framework that has loomed over Seaside Heights' main thoroughfare since 2009, whose demise was being

"The steel structure," as locals have called it, was erected as the skeleton of an athletic pool and entertainment complex that was never completed by the former property owner, Vincent Caprietta, and became an increasingly unappealing eyesore as the metal oxidized and the prominent location was never developed.

"Everybody wants it down — the steel structure," said Riggen patron Mike Pellegrini, who was taking a beer with his friend Keith King.

The two joked that the structure had become a kind of shrine to the people driving to Seaside Heights.



A gambler takes a photo Tuesday as crews continue the demolition of rusted steel frames in Seaside Heights. Photo by Sam DeCicco, for The Star-Ledger

Daily, Under 25,000

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Best Headlines

Daily, under 25,000

THIRD PLACE

Joe Martino

Courier News

HUNTERDON COUNTY

'He is the reason I am alive': Hunterdon men reunited after harrowing rescue during Ida



[Cheryl Makin](#)

MyCentralJersey.com

Published 5:03 a.m. ET Oct. 27, 2021 | Updated 12:19 p.m. ET Oct. 27, 2021

CRIME

'I think she killed the baby': 911 call sheds light on Montgomery children's deaths

[Suzanne Russell](#) MyCentralJersey.com

Published 5:00 a.m. ET Nov. 23, 2021

LOCAL

Somerville child killed in house fire 'is talking off Jesus' ear as we speak'



[Cheryl Makin](#)

MyCentralJersey.com

Published 5:00 a.m. ET Dec. 16, 2021

Best Headlines

Daily, under 25,000

SECOND PLACE

James Moening

The Express-Times

NEW JERSEY

Residents can now make dough off baked goods

Sean K. Livio For The Express-Times

Baking from home for profit is finally legal in New Jersey.

The state Department of Health on Oct. 11 published a set of rules that will allow bakers and confectioners to apply for a permit to run a "cottage food" business from their very own kitchens.

New Jersey was the only state in the country that prohibited culinary entrepreneurs from making and selling cakes, brownies and other delicacies from home. The state required they operate from a commercial kitchen, out of concern for sanitation and safety.

But the New Jersey Home Bakers Association and the Institute for Justice challenged the rule in court on constitutional grounds, arguing it protected commercial bakers and other food manufacturers at the expense of private individuals who wanted

"New Jersey home bakers have been fighting for years for the right to bake. Today is the culmination of their hard work and time spent fighting for their rights."

Rob Piccola, Institute for Justice attorney

More than 80% of home bakers in the U.S. who responded to an Institute for Jus-

ta survey, and allows bakers across every walk of life to work in the place they find most comfortable—their homes.

Home-based bakers must follow some rules and attest they will operate in a clean and safe environment. They cannot earn more than \$50,000 a year. The home baker must be willing to submit to an on-site inspection if a complaint is filed, according to the regulations.

They are limited to what may be produced and sold. Those items include breads, cakes, cupcakes, cookies, pastries, candy, dried fruit, dried pasta, jams and jellies, fruit pies, puddings, granola, popcorn and caramel corn, roasted coffee, dried tea, herbs, pestos and more. State permission is needed to make additional items, according to the rules.

They must label their products with a list of ingredients and a notice that the

COOPERSBURG

High schooler goes international after signing eSports contract

Aidan Mong, 16, will play Fortnite professionally.

Connor Laganer For The Express-Times

Not a lot of similarities come to mind when thinking about the Lehigh Valley and Manchester, England. But recently, a 16-year-old from Coopersburg bridged the 2,000-mile gap while seated at his computer. Aidan Mong, a Phillipsburg High School student, signed a two-year contract with Man-

chester City in the competitive space.

Until now, Manchester City had kept its eSports involvement to the annual EA Sports soccer video game release. Soccer clubs around the globe have, in addition to their on-field teams, FIFA players that participate in online tournaments. Similarly, in the United States, most teams in the NBA have their own eSports teams that participate in the NBA 2K League, playing the popular annually released basketball video game. But now Manchester City, referred to more commonly as Man City, is



Aidan Mong, 16, signed a two-year contract with Man-

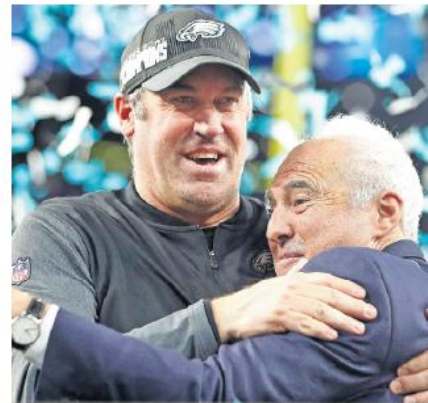
chester City in the competitive space. He started to take part in tournaments like the Fortnite World Cup, and began to play the most popular game in the world, Fortnite. He is now a professional player for the Manchester City eSports team.

That led to his signing with Manchester City. He almost immediately representing the club in competitive gaming in an event called the One Open This past weekend. In three hours, he placed 1st, 5th and 13th. The new team is the Manchester City eSports team.

NFL

Bye, Eagle, bye

Super Bowl-winning coach fired after dud season



Eagles coach Doug Pederson, who led the team to a title in 2017, was fired Monday by owner Jeffrey Lurie. Associated Press for photo

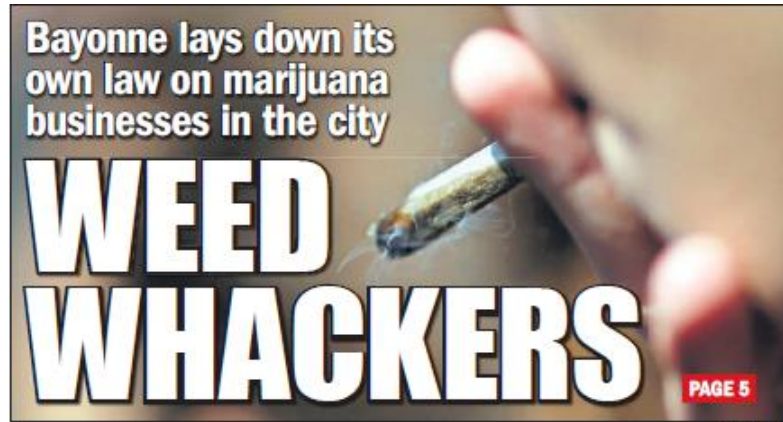
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FIRST PLACE

Tanya Manthey

The Jersey Journal



PRIZE TIME!!!

Weekly Division

Business & Economic Writing

Business & Economic Writing

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THIRD PLACE

Elizabeth Wulforth

The Two River Times

Wind Farm Projects Blowing In Too Fast for Some



PATRICK O'LEARY

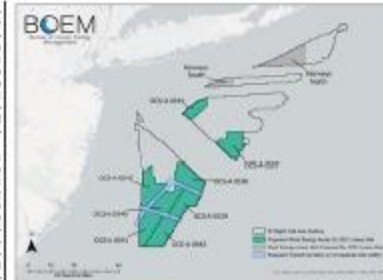
Ben van Zant's enjoyed the day Saturday, July 3, during the annual Paul Hansen Mayr's Cup Regatta. For more photos, see page 8.

Wind Farm Projects Blowing In Too Fast for Some

By Elizabeth Wulforth

NEW JERSEY – In January 2020, Gov. Phil Murphy released New Jersey's Energy Master Plan which lays out guidelines for 100 percent of the state's energy to come from carbon-free renewable sources by 2050, which includes developing 1,500 megawatts of offshore wind energy generation by 2035.

And when U.S. President Joseph R. Biden took office in January, one of his first actions addressed the rising climate crisis. The White House's commitment to the environment and a clean-energy economy included expanded opportunities for offshore wind farms, which will not only benefit the environment, but also "strengthen the domestic supply chain, and create good-paying, union jobs," according to a March 29 federal fact sheet.



COURTESY BOEM

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, a federal organization, designated leasing areas for wind farms. The New York Eight sites, shown above, will supply energy to New York State. Areas even on the shelves off the Jersey Coast.

Business & Economic

Writing

Weekly Division

SECOND PLACE

Matt Enuco

The Retrospect

Local Girls Win World Tech Competition

Local Girls Win World Tech Competition



IT'S A GIRL'S WORLD: A "bater pilek" by a team of South Jersey high school students brought home first place in the worldwide Global Challenge. The same weekend of, left to right, Maddie Heltzer sophomore, Gabriela Alvarez, Micaela Condore, Kiraen Nigam and Maddie Heltzer sophomore Ella Heltzer.

by Matt Enuco

Besides an awkward worldwide dance party over Zoom, a quartet of entrepreneurial spirited teenagers with STEM ambitions enjoyed competing in the Global Challenge. Not only did these four teenage girls compete against 700 other teams from 39 countries, but they placed first in the power prize, an intimidating Shark Tank-style presentation where the group had to sell their idea to investors.

Their invention - The Valkyrie - is a three-foot tall, 30-inch-wide autonomous robot that moves down the center aisle of a hallway after flight and detects the cabin. There are already machines that do this, but none of them are autonomous and none of them compete on the plane from flight to flight. Now that they've had some success, they are busy building a prototype



to potentially grow as a viable product.

The Global Challenge is not a gender inclusive competition, but the four local teenagers entered the competition from It's a Girl's World Inc., a program out of Salem Community College that promotes STEM education and career for women. The girls had an

(Continued on page 7)

Business & Economic Writing

Weekly Division

FIRST PLACE
Maria Scandale
The SandPaper

His Connections to Collections Bring
Rarities to Antique Peddler

BUSINESS

His Connections to Collections Bring Rarities to Antique Peddler

Mitch Haker, owner of the Antique Peddler store in Great Beach, carries such a passion for large-as-life Long Beach Island memorabilia that he has enough stacking stuff at his beach house to open a museum. In fact, he hopes to someday.

And at the store are rare American and interesting authenticated signatures from presidents and sports and music celebrities that would be considered a big deal by collectors.

Other shoppers were just browsing for fun finds one Friday, pulled in by a fascinating chain of contacts and decades at 4000 Long Beach Blvd. One man spotted a brass building statue. A college graduate found a pre-Superstorm Sandy aerial photo of Beach Haven that clearly showed her family beach house; not buying it was not possible.

Haker has been known as the History Chaser. His informal personality and connections to collectors led to a pilot show for The History Channel, but that process didn't go the distance to a weekly series.

"It's rather behind the scenes," Haker said last week. "I don't want to change; I don't want to perform; when you're on there, you need to be a certain way." And the timing schedule was a strict demand on him.

The Bergen County native is well known enough in collection circles that virtually every day, someone contacts him with a lead to an artifact. But he'll also spend three days securing old houses by picking realtors.

The shop displays engineering plans for the original Yankee Stadium,

Old LBI Signs Museum-Worthy

helping the structural design team for the new stadium.

"When they built the new Yankee Stadium, they called me," he said. They had questions on the original plan, on how heavy the upper concourse was and how much support it had to have. "They took my plans and they were able to — I say that, but it's a good one," he interrupted the story to thank the customer buying the building. "So The New York Times did an article on 'Mitch Haker had all these plans.'"

Haker grew up absorbed in history; his mother owned an antique store in Westwood, N.J. His horseback on River Vale ocean history, so the site of the tragic Hayler Muncaster of 1776, a Revolutionary War already that is remembered only half a century ago. The family summered in Great Beach, so LBI was Mitch's second home and is now first choice for the homecoming years.

Yes. No wants more people to find out about the one-of-a-kind items for sale in the shop now in LBI this year, but it's also about giving back. Thirty percent of proceeds from a rainy Memorial Day weekend sale went to the Hanger Foundation of Southern Ocean; then he added more to round the donation to \$1,000. The nonprofit foundation supports food pantries across the region.

"I try to look up every weekend with some kind of charity and then

Every Decade's Issues Still Captivate

Haker loves conversing with people, he added, so the store is perfect for that. Sports memorabilia is striking. An original letter from baseball Hall of Famer Phil Rizzuto, talking about his career from 1941 to 1956 as a Yankees shortstop, is on Yankee historical and would sell for about \$175. About his rookie season. "We went on to beat the Brooklyn Dodgers in the World Series, four games to one, holy cow ..."

Antique Peddler has a Yankee Stadium chair and Joe DiMaggio's autographed bats, with many more tenth and collectible topics.

"I have presidential stuff, letters from Harry Truman, Civil War documents, Italian and French letters. This is a hat signed by Ray Kroc, Gene Auker, Tom Mix, Dale Gribble; this is a Mark Twain first-edition book. There are a lot of Springfield autographs, like Ruth autographs, Jackie Robinson's protest dip; I have the scrolls of the island from 1695, maps on linen. They're 3 feet by 40 feet and they roll out. They're gorgeous. In my personal collection, but in here, are letters from Roosevelt and Einstein."

The "rock 'n' roll room" is a side alcove that captures interest like a vortex. Haker carries a lot of Woodstock items, including the '60-4th age range himself.

Mentioning Lynyrd Skynyrd, Haker pointed towards a giant chair. "These are pieces of the plane from the crash; nobody has them," he said solemnly of the ill-fated airplane.

Daily, Over 25,000

Special Issue-In Paper

Special Issue-In Paper

Daily, over 25,000

THIRD PLACE

Staff

The Record (Bergen County)

Broadway is Back



Special Issue-In Paper

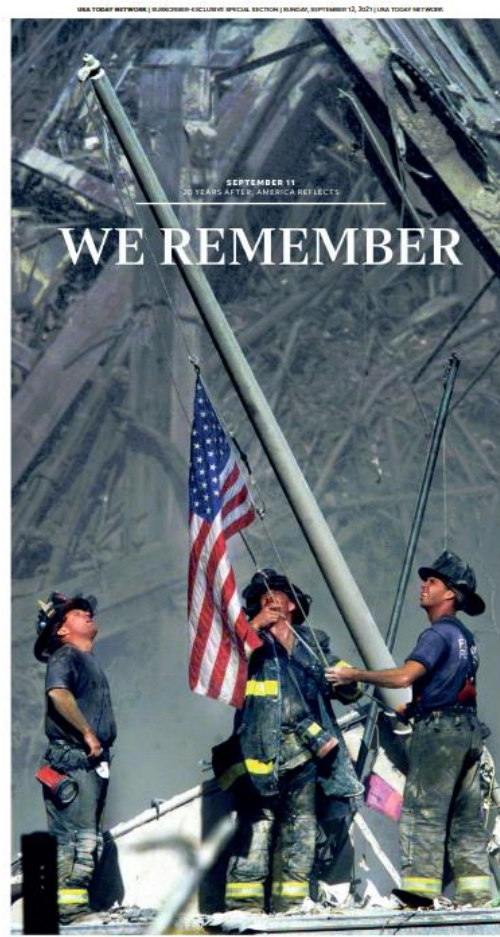
Daily, over 25,000

SECOND PLACE

Staff

The Record (Bergen County)

Sept. 11



Special Issue-In Paper

Daily, over 25,000

FIRST PLACE

Rebecca Everett,

Andre Malok, Dusty Altena,

Andrea Levy

The Star-Ledger

The long shadow of John List

1 THE STAR-LEDGER, AFFILIATED WITH N.J.COM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021

SPECIAL REPORT



John List killed his entire family in Woodbridge 27 years ago, including his wife, Helen, and their children, Perry, John and Fred, as well as his mother, Alma. Their bodies were found in the family's 19-room mansion a month after List disappeared. Above center is the house that "Madison Man" made his prison. List shot 17 years on the run. Also shown: the man whose killings occurred, Lee's wife and children, and the car he abandoned at John F. Kennedy International Airport. Illustration by Andre Levy, Andrew Laski

The long shadow of John List

Rebecca Everett for The Star-Ledger

CHAPTER ONE, SINCE THE KILLER

Woodbridge was tranquil, the mid-afternoon sun filtering through the trees onto the lawn when John List arrived two days before Christmas from the prison. He took a deep breath and walked into the kitchen of his spacious Woodbridge home, a quiet after 17 in the morning on Nov. 5, 1974.

A single green note in the front pocket of his wife of nearly 20 years near her hair.

A single green note in the front pocket of his wife of nearly 20 years near her hair.

John List, one of the most notorious mass murderers in New Jersey history, was just getting started.

He had made his way to the square of the house — a 19-room mansion as hearty as ever, but to one name, Stone Road, sitting high on a rolling hill in the north-west corner of town — and sacrificed to the third floor, where his 84-year-old mother, Alma, lived in the apartment he'd converted for her.

Alma had just put a plate of bread in the toaster when the prosecutor saw with a shiver. She said she had seen what she had seen. He said he had seen what she had seen.

And then List shot her in the back, one bullet near her left eye. In his hands, he had a .38-caliber Smith & Wesson, the same one he used to kill the other victims. That all the other victims saw it coming. Not on this one, it was the same one he used to kill the other victims.

Alma's body was too heavy to move, so List left her on the floor. But he knew how awkwardly her body would fall, blood oozing in a way that would make it impossible to drag. List's body was too heavy to move, so List left her on the floor. But he knew how awkwardly her body would fall, blood oozing in a way that would make it impossible to drag.

made himself a sandwich and sat at the kitchen table to eat. When asked decades later by newspaper chronicler Chang how he could do such a thing — "you've just murdered your wife and mother and ... you make a sandwich" — List offered a perfectly ordinary and logical response.

It was hungry. When you're hungry, you make a sandwich.

But List still had more to killing to do. On this perfectly ordinary Tuesday in a lovely New town in which nothing ever seemed to happen, he had to get to the jail and the other seven men were a few letters, laying the groundwork for his great escape.

And here, too, unrecognizably, he still had to murder his mother-in-law, Pearl, 46, John, 15, and Frederick, 15, one by one by one, shortly after each served home that day. Perry and Fred were away for time, a single bullet each, each in the left side of their heads. But police believe young John got up some level of fight. The killer left him 11 bullets into the 16, 2, each. The present level of the narrative before the boy finally lay still. He later would tell his children to save their necks.

For here List had after these acts of savagery, this maddening of madness, he would only this 27 years later, in a self-published memoir.

"I had my own mind. Something like the other people who ..."

What drives a seemingly ordinary man — a by-the-numbers accountant and God-fearing father, the kind of person whose only notable, tiny imperfection is making you responsible for it — so calmly slaughter his own family?

What sort of twisted foreboding and

the discovery of the strange and profoundly disorienting crime that rocked Woodbridge and became the obsession of people not just in New Jersey but across the nation. The man who would go on to inspire countless investigative pieces, author books, television documentaries and even Hollywood movie adaptations, he had just become List's old, dwelling within such a bland, unremarkable figure, source of historical lore was a man who felt an unshakable connection to the crime of the killing, he felt a connection to the man who had killed.

"I don't think even the most sensitive writer could have conceived of someone so cold and doing such a horrific thing, but not be out of control," said Donald Trump, a vocal Woodbridge native and who wrote the List case for more than a decade. "There's just a perfect control."

The chilling legacy of John List's crime in the New Jersey town that that year sent down neighbor — or the that matter, the person you said heard or saw or felt — could be captured in an equally town filled with good schools and beautiful historic homes.

Over the course of the past year, NJPA's members have had the opportunity to meet with the people who were involved in the case. The meeting was held on Dec. 5, 2021, at the NJPA's headquarters in the town of Woodbridge. The meeting was held on Dec. 5, 2021, at the NJPA's headquarters in the town of Woodbridge.



Daily, Under 25,000

Special Issue-In Paper

Special Issue-In Paper

Daily, Under 25,000

FIRST PLACE

Peter D'Auria,
Tanya Manthey,
Margaret Schmidt,
Reena Rose Sibayan
The Jersey Journal

Never Forget



Weekly Division

Education Writing

Education Writing

Weekly Division

THIRD PLACE

David Biggy

The SandPaper

Ozobots and Floats Come Together for Students' Thanksgiving Parade

CURRENTS

Ozobots and Floats Come Together For Students' Thanksgiving Parade



A 100 Ozobot dropped the Mike Wazowski float across the floodplain in the middle of the Stafford Intermediate School media center, with a makeshift New York City as its backdrop, nobody would have ever known Mike almost didn't make it to the final show.

"We used pipe cleaners as part of the float," explained Lashara Sherry, one of three students involved in bringing Mike from Monsters Inc. to the forefront for the Ozobot Thanksgiving Day Parade on Nov. 24. "But one of the pipe cleaners popped the balloon yesterday so we had to make it."

"Oh, but another latex glove. Only one green balloon remained in the stockpile of supplies available. Another pop of a balloon and it would have been curtains for the one-eyed guy — he's green, after all."

"We basically had to reconstruct Mike after the balloon popped," said William Dering, also part of team Mike, whose float was instead held in place by classroom "If it popped again, he would have been completely out of the picture."

As all the STREAM classes within the Stafford Township School District have learned over the years, part of the process in the development of elaborate projects is the need to make adjustments on the fly even if it means tearing down everything and starting from scratch or significantly altering a sketch as it works better.

"And it is a process, all sure, those brainstorming concepts to final creation, a lot of materials are considered, used, taken away or reused for another purpose. There's a lot of speculation on how everything will turn out, but it's all part of the process."



Photos by David Biggy

LATENT: Mike Wazowski from "Monsters Inc." (above) made an appearance in this year's Ozobot Thanksgiving Day Parade held at Stafford Intermediate School on Nov. 24. *Two items (top) was among 22 floats featured.*

start and continues in this day.

"One of the Ocean Acres School STREAM teachers had her class do this on a smaller scale, and at this convention we decided to try to make it bigger and better to involve the entire district," Newcomb said. "I came up with the idea that

Education Writing

Weekly Division

FIRST PLACE

Gina G. Scala

The SandPaper

Students Apply School Lessons to Create LBI Trip

Local Kid's Guide to Island Living

Students Apply School Lessons to Create LBI Trip

Getting a sixth-grader to describe something is a little less trying to convince a toddler that vegetables taste good. Still, a cross-curricular project for the LBI Coast School students did just that.

The project, A Local Kid's Guide to LBI, culminated last week with each group presenting its materials and using its marketing materials to highlight their work.

"It taught us how to communicate, brainstorm, leadership skills and negotiating skills," said Maya Major, the sixth-grade student who called the project fun and educational. "My favorite part was the creative aspect where we had to come up with ideas of how to look and persuade the viewer."

Three-dimensional versions of various local businesses, attractions and other LBI landmarks were on display during the May 15 presentation in the school's media center. Students created the displays during their geometry units in math class.

"Visually was the best part because you get to build things and actually use and feel them," Ursula Cruz said of using geometry skills to design a city, in this case an area of LBI.

The project called for each team to design a vacation itinerary for a family of four who are planning a week to the island for a week. The family budget for the six-day, seven-night stay was \$3,000. To develop a full vacation package, students evaluated and compared the costs of renting a home, activities such as fishing charters and boating, as well as restaurants and transportation options, such as the LBI Shuttle.

"My favorite part of the project was making the commercial and putting all of our data and research into one big presentation," Levi Stone said. "It was my favorite part because that was creativity, but it was based on a subject that I like."

Chloe Lantry was most impressed by what she learned during the budgeting process, saying money goes farther than she thought it would, but she learned how to spend it wisely.

"This unit demonstrated to students how the curriculum they are learning each day is applied in the real world, particularly here on LBI," said Superintendent Peter Kopack, also principal of the LBI School. "They gained valuable knowledge about working as a team, decision making, and budgeting."

In addition to using skills learned in math class, students also looked at weather data and climate conditions to help determine the best week to target for their vacation package. Researching weather conditions included looking at prevailing winds in various areas as well as the pattern of different locations on LBI, including the back bay.

"Students used their persuasive writing and descriptive language skills to write a 'K.I.S.S.' review of a local business recommended on their itinerary," Kopack said. "These reviews will be compiled and distributed to the community courtesy of the LBI Education Association."

He said the next step for the project involved using Storyline 360, a digital program, to create an interactive map of itinerary locations. That was the final component of the final presentation, Kopack added.

"It was great to take part in the sixth-grade presentation, and watching fifth students working as a team was fantastic," said Caiden Scarborough, president of the LBI Board of Education. "This was a very successful, enjoyable unit, more importantly, it will help them develop as students and young adults. I would love to see them plan and budget my next vacation."

Scotwick said, as always, she was impressed by the efforts of the entire student body and staff members.

Kopack agreed. "Overall, the Kid's Guide to LBI was the epitome of a cross-curricular project. The sixth-grade teachers are very proud of the hard work and dedication their students have put into all of the assignments."



BY DESIGN: Sixth-grade students at the LBI School used their math and art skills to create a replica of Bay Village and Thundering Surf in Beach Haven to highlight their vacation package for potential visitors.



GUIDANCE: A team of sixth-graders presents its family-of-four vacation plans, designed using math, science and language skills learned in class, here in planning, to the portion of the school year because very challenging and exciting with the addition of the end of the year reports, awards, graduations and activities.

— Gina G. Scala
@gscalasandpaper

At this time, I'd like to invite Paul D'Ambrosio, back to the stage to announce the remainder of the journalism awards.

Daily, Over 25,000

**General Coronavirus/COVID-19
Coverage**

**General
Coronavirus/COVID-
19 Coverage**

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**THIRD PLACE
Staff**

The Star-Ledger

The unraveling of N.J.

N.J.'s pandemic response started strong. Why has so much gone wrong since?



General Coronavirus/COVID- 19 Coverage

Daily, over 25,000

SECOND PLACE

Staff

The Record (Bergen County)

CORONAVIRUS IN N.J.: EDUCATION



DISCONNECTED

How COVID ruined the Class of 2021's big year

By Craig Maters | Staff Writer | NJPA TODAY NETWORK | NEW BRUNSWICK

Amanda Pirke drove 12 hours and 880 miles to visit a college she had already committed to and, in the back of her mind, feared she had chosen the wrong school. "I was very worried," the senior from West Milford High School said, "and we kept saying, 'What if you don't like it? What if we don't like it?'"

COVID-19 has delivered a devastating blow to education worldwide, and it's been especially cruel to the high school Class of 2021, particularly in North Jersey, which has been and continues to be a pandemic hotbed.

Real moments of high school senior year have been retired and replaced by virtual learning, canceled activities, delays in gaining a driver's license, and a heightened anxiety over finding the right college — with few or no

in-person visits — and paying for it.

"Everyone always says, 'Senior year is the best,' and 'There's so much to look forward to,'" said Samantha De La Cruz, a senior at Paterson High School. "But being a senior in a pandemic kind of killed that notion of senior year."

See EDUCATION, page 5A

Online learning has been just one of the COVID-related challenges for seniors this year.

SAMANTHA DE LA CRUZ FOR NJPA TODAY NETWORK

General Coronavirus/COVID- 19 Coverage

Daily, over 25,000

FIRST PLACE

Michael L. Diamond
Asbury Park Press

■ FOR SUBSCRIBERS HOW WE LIVE

'We're here making history': How COVID (and vaccines) changed daily life at Red Bank YMCA



Michael L. Diamond

Asbury Park Press

Published 5:00 a.m. ET Feb. 22, 2021 | Updated 9:25 a.m. ET Feb. 22, 2021

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[Inaudible]

'I'm happy. I'm moving. I'm dancing': Seniors get fit at Red Bank YMCA

Seniors get their dance on at Red Bank YMCA. *Brian Johnston, Asbury Park Press*

RED BANK - A little after 9 a.m., Robert Fischbein took his seat in what used to be the group exercise room at the YMCA and waited for his second dose of the

Daily, Under 25,000

**General Coronavirus/COVID-19
Coverage**

General Coronavirus/COVID- 19 Coverage

Daily, Under 25,000

THIRD PLACE
Alexander Lewis
Courier News

HEALTH

'My body, my choice': Hundreds gather to oppose Rutgers' COVID vaccine mandate

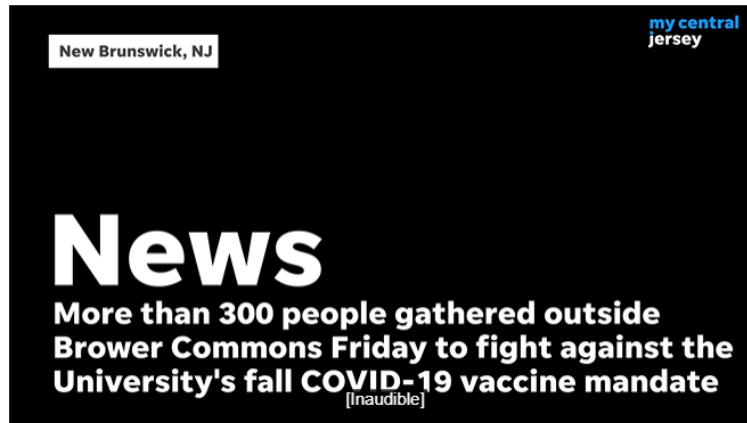


[Alexander Lewis](#)

[MyCentralJersey.com](#)

Published 4:36 p.m. ET May 21, 2021 | Updated 10:36 a.m. ET May 25, 2021

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'My body, my choice': Hundreds gather at Rutgers to oppose COVID vaccine mandate

The activists met to "educate" others about the university's requirement for students to be vaccinated for the fall semester.

Alexander Lewis, [MyCentralJersey.com](#)

NEW BRUNSWICK – More than 300 "medical freedom activists" gathered outside

General Coronavirus/COVID-19 Coverage

Daily, Under 25,000

SECOND PLACE

Teri West
The Jersey Journal

One year into pandemic

How Hudson County kids have coped

BY TERI WEST
JOURNALISM AWARD

Kids grow up quickly when they aren't allowed to be kids for a year.

That's the case when children celebrate single-digit birthdays with only a single friend, when kindergarten logs into school on laptops, and when teens worry their parents may contract a deadly virus by simply showing up to work.

The first year of New Jersey's coronavirus public health emergency was the year that childhoods, in many regards, were put on pause.

Today Hudson County's death toll is approaching 2,000 lives lost to a ruthless virus. The first 1,000 died within two months of COVID-19 gripping the county, and many of the rest vanished as it made its comeback in the winter.

For some children, the virus hovered close by. Sixteen-year-old Vicky Li found she might catch it after someone she knew died. Six-year-old Stella Goldman missed hugging her mother when her mom got sick.

While just three of the 1,500 Hudson County residents killed by the virus have been kids, today's children make up a generation that has spent a formative year — one that should have been marked by making new friends at recess and passing notes to each other in class — in lockdown.

"Ever since I was a little kid, I've always thought that I was going to live until I was very old, but this pandemic has made me realize that life isn't infinite," said Emma Sevoldin, a 16-year-old from Bayonne. "My perspective on life has definitely changed."

Ethan Baccari, 11, said one of the primary shifts in his life during the pandemic is "my legs don't hurt."

Getting to class used to mean a walk to John M. Daley School in



"I really miss seeing other people's faces,"

Renzo Pasini, 8

BEST FRIENDS Renzo Pasini, left, and Ethan Baccari, of Bayonne, both 8 years old, take a case during one of their lessons on Feb. 5.

Bayonne, so when it comes to his legs, "online learning, it actually kind of helped me a lot," Baccari said.

Computer screens replacing classrooms, at least temporarily, was a new universal experience during the first year of COVID for Hudson County's children. It was a far slower way to learn, many said, and replaced many of the joys of school.

For some, it made learning more difficult, especially when having to juggle schoolwork with family, illness or digital deficiencies.

"Before they are bubbly, they

are so energized, but when this pandemic comes, I observed that students, some of them, do not talk a lot anymore," said Christina Mariani, a science teacher at St. Dominic Academy in Jersey City. "I don't see the energy there anymore."

Ethan's mother, Cirilo Baccari, saw her son mature rapidly as he completed third grade from home. Not only did he not need her assistance with lessons, but he didn't need her for homework, meals or baths, she said.

"I'm a little bit surprised that he's more independent now," she said.

But many had a less favorable experience with isolated learning.

Lalroy Nguguto, 15, said she finds it harder to concentrate when she's doing lessons and homework in her Jersey City bedroom. School has been consistently draining, added Gianna Sevoldin, 16, of Bayonne.

"I don't enjoy school that I used to," Sevoldin said. "When I look back on it in the beginning of this year, I realized how much fun I had with my friends and teachers — Now, every day is the exact same."

"I'm a little bit surprised that he's more independent now,"

GiBelle Baccari

On her son, Ethan, 8, of Bayonne

Sixteen-year-old Stella Goldman of Hoboken has been learning in a pod this year, an arrangement her parents set up with three other families in which they rotate instruction between homes every day with a private tutor.

Saving her friends during the week for school is a treat, Stella said, even though she still has to lug around books. "Whatever I bring, my backpack's still heavy as a block of cement," she said.

**General
Coronavirus/COVID-
19 Coverage**

Daily, Under 25,000

**FIRST PLACE
Staff**

The Express-Times

Fear, isolation give way to
hope on anniversary of
region's 1st reported
COVID case

Published on Mar 12, 2021



Chris McMillan hugs his fiancée Jen Sanita at their Bethlehem home Tuesday, March 9, 2021. Over the last year, everyone in their home contracted COVID-19, and Chris ended up on a ventilator. (Donna Fisher | lehighvalleylive.com contributor)

PRIZE TIME!!!

Weekly Division

Fresh Approach to Routine Reporting

Fresh Approach to Routine Reporting

Weekly Division

THIRD PLACE

Rick Mellerup

The SandPaper

**Kiki the Bear's Adventure: Story of
Collective Kindness**

CURRENTS

Kiki the Bear's Adventure: Story of Collective Kindness

Facebook LBI Lost, Found and Stolen Saves the Day

The story of Kiki the Bear would make a wonderful children's book, sort of a gothic of "Where's the Pook," "Where's Waldo," "Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego" and the Healer's "Magical Mystery Tour." For those readers who aren't familiar with the Kiki saga via the internet, here is the basic outline:

On the morning of July 24, a 3-year-old boy named Broden got stuck in Ship Bottom as his family was leaving the island. So the family pulled over.

They didn't realize Broden's favorite stuffed animal, Kiki, had fallen out of the car during the stop until that evening. Mom Sarah Mendick immediately posted on Facebook's Holgate Update site, "This is a long shot but we left the island today, and as we were leaving we had to

pull over. We think that we dropped my son's most precious stuffed animal just before we got on the causeway. Of course we didn't realize that until tonight at bedtime.

"It was dropped probably somewhere between 15th and 16th streets off Hammock Ave. in Ship Bottom. If anyone knows anyone up that way willing to look it would be so appreciated. If anyone can find it this community can. We've only got a hope at this time."

Mendick also posted on Twitter. "Anyone on LBI want to help us find this bear? We think we dropped it between 16th and 15th streets in Ship Bottom. Either on Central Ave. or Hammock Ave. It's so important to our three year old, he's slept with it every night for years."

As it turned out, Kiki had already been found by a group of four women, Janice O'Brien, Lynn

**Fresh Approach
to Routine Reporting**

Weekly Division

SECOND PLACE

David Biggy

The SandPaper

**So Much Happens Before the Show,
And It's Mayhem**



NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

Fresh Approach to Routine Reporting

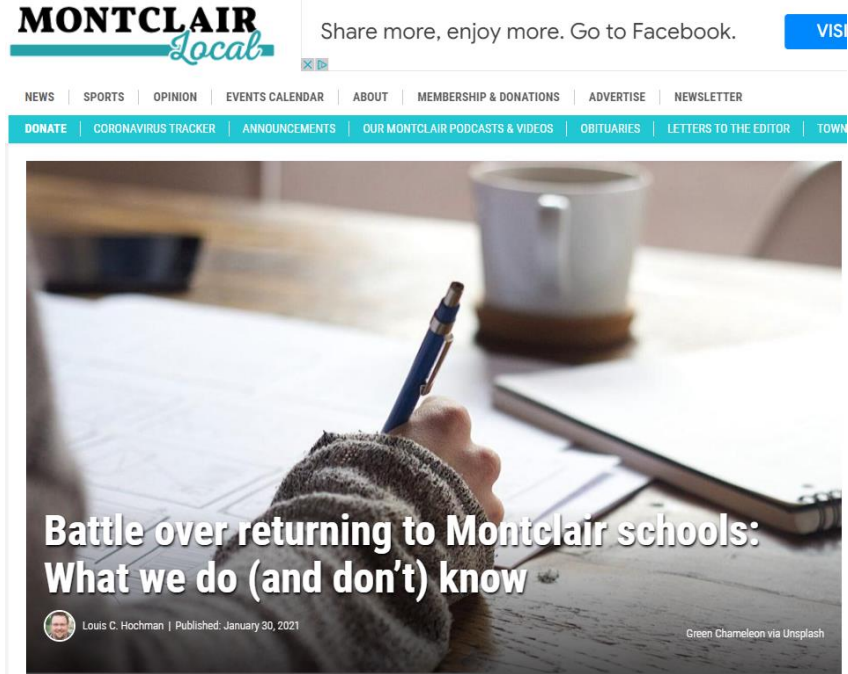
Weekly Division

FIRST PLACE

Erin Roll, Louis C. Hochman

Montclair Local

Battle over returning to Montclair
schools: What we do (and don't) know



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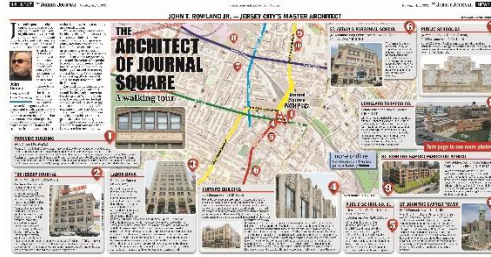
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The Jersey Journal

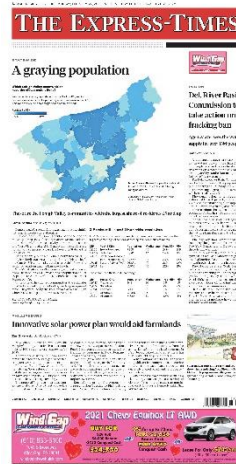


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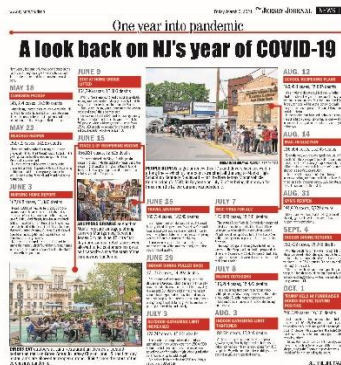
James Moening
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The Jersey Journal



Weekly Division

Headlines

Headlines

Weekly Division

THIRD PLACE

Jay Mann

The SandPaper



Rise of a Zombie Whale Leads to Removal Woes

Bigfoot Gets a Bull's Eye on Its Back

ZOMBIE WHALE: As the herald straight about the commoner article full for



Atmospheric Assistance: Counting on Red Algae To Tame Cow Belching

Big Plastic Is Making Us Schmucks

The has his common has/this, reactions



It's Time to Go All '007' On Newly Arrived Bugs

CHANJ Seeks Creature Continuums

.....

Headlines

Weekly Division

SECOND PLACE

Joe Dziublenski

Montclair Local

If ever, oh ever a wiz there was: Oz the cat teaches life lessons



Welcome to Montclair

Kirsten Levingston



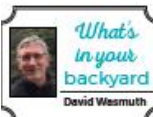
KIRSTEN LEVINGSTON FOR MONTCLAIR LOCAL

At the end of 2008 we adopted a kitten from the Pound Animal Welfare Society of Montclair. We went to PAWS with a specific goal in mind. After seeing a critter scamper from under the dishwasher to under the refrigerator, we needed to find a mouser to handle the situation.

The PAWS cat room, with a couple dozen felines milling about and meowing aloud

Oz the cat has helped teach his family the art of finding joy within the enclosure of a home during the holidays.

Bumblebees are anything but bumbling when it comes to pollination



What's in your backyard

David Wesmuth

The 1930s could have been an anxious time for bumblebees. It was then, the story goes, that an entomologist discovered that bumblebee flight defied the laws of aerodynamics — they could not, so to speak, legally fly.

Fortunately, bumblebees

each queen finds a tiny protected hole in the ground where she hibernates, alone. She awakens hungry in the spring, with lots of work ahead of her; it's up to her to establish a new colony, and she's on her own.

The newly emerged queen seeks the pollen of early spring flowers for the strength to lay her first eggs and build herself an underground wax chamber, often in an abandoned mouse or chipmunk burrow. Her first batch of around eight eggs will



SANDY MILLAR VIA UNESPLASH

Bumblebees like to get an early start on the day in the spring, out pollinating before most insects.

can be safely observed from very close up. Some people even pet foraging bees, a bridge I've yet to cross.

Diverse bumblebee species inhabit most of the temperate world, with 49 different species in the United States alone. Many are not doing well, and several are considered threatened. They face the same challenges as honeybees, but, unlike honeybees, native wild bees don't have human caretakers to restore their numbers each year. Problems include habitat loss, pesticides and patho-

MONTCLAIR ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Geese flying in V-formation after win over Columbia

Team has state title aspirations this spring

BY ANDREW GARDA

garda@montclairlocal.com

When people think of throwing Frisbee, they tend to think of the ping and open fields or the summer and beach days.

When the Montclair Geese — an Ultimate Frisbee team populated eth and totally run by Montclair High School students — think of throwing a Frisbee, they also think of the fall.

And as of this past October, they



Headlines

Weekly Division

FIRST PLACE

Allison Perrine

The Two River Times

*Leaking Pipes May Drain Wallets
of Broad Street Tenants*

By Allison Perrine

*Red Bank
Exterminates
Animal Control
Department*

By Allison Perrine

**Local Councils
Hashing Out
Cannabis
Legislation**

By Allison Perrine

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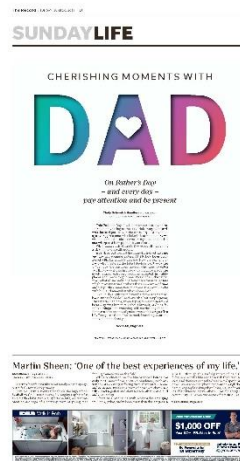
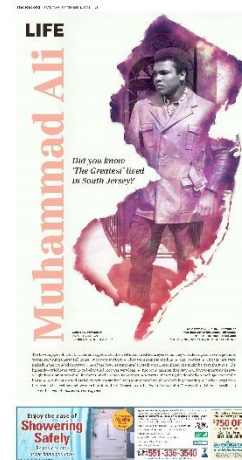
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Micaela Encinas
Asbury Park Press

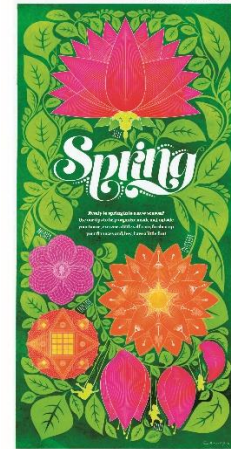
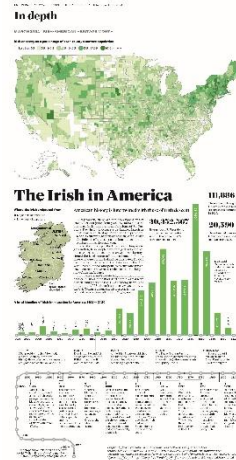


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Sean McKeown-Young
The Star-Ledger



Weekly Division

General Coronavirus/COVID-19 Coverage

General Coronavirus/COVID-

19 Coverage

Weekly Division

THIRD PLACE

Gina G. Scala,
David Biggy,
Juliet Kaszas-Hoch,
Victoria Ford,
Maria Scandale
The SandPaper

CURRENTS
**Some Seek Clarity
 On Second Dose
 Of COVID Vaccine**
LEI Health Dept. Begins Administering Shots

By GINA G. SCALA and JULIET KASZAS-HOCH

From Jane Nussmeyer called the LEI Health Department about receiving the first dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine last week, she was asked if she could be in Surf City at the beach for a 11:15 a.m. appointment Jan. 14. She happily accepted.

Nussmeyer, a healthcare worker, said when she arrived for her appointment there was already a line from the front door of the building down the street. That was at about 10:45 a.m.

"Everyone was happy," the Little Egg Harbor resident said Sunday afternoon. "I've never seen a line where people were happy" like that.

They were happy, she said, because they were asked to receive the first shot of the vaccine to protect them against the coronavirus. Last Jan. 14, the vaccine was available to healthcare workers and first responders. Just 24 hours earlier, Gov. Phil Murphy bypassed individuals in the 18 group, which includes teachers, to open the vaccine eligibility to the 65 and over group as well as people ages 16-64 with certain medical conditions.

"They were happy because they were going to get to see their grandchildren, 50 feet away," she said.

That was before the first dose was administered, before they were handed a card with a reminder to make an appointment for a second shot after Feb. 11 or Feb. 12, depending on what day they were vaccinated, and learned there was an firm date for when the second dose of the Moderna shot



AP/WIDE WORLD

'EVERYONE WAS HAPPY': The mood was upbeat as people received the COVID-19 vaccine in Surf City last week.

would be administered locally and before they were told they could go anywhere to receive the second shot.

"Nussmeyer said she did her own research, spoke with her boss, and learned that an individual cannot go just anywhere to receive the second dose of the vaccine. Individuals should return to the clinic where they received the first dose, she said.

"Just because they could doesn't mean they should," she said of those

administering the first shot of the vaccine without knowing when the second dose would be available. "I wouldn't have taken it."

It's unclear why Nussmeyer and others were given that information, but on Sunday, Daniel Kravetski, public health officer, said, "Although not completely clear to date, it recently understood that an alignment of second doses will automatically happen approximately three weeks after and

according to the number a site had administered for the first dose. So, my hope, with some more certainty on that, is you can schedule a second dose appointment at the time you are receiving your first dose."

Kravetski said 330 first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to date on LEI. "We are one of only a few local health departments that have vaccines," he added. "Our department coordinated all the

General Coronavirus/COVID- 19 Coverage

Weekly Division

SECOND PLACE

Talia Wiener,
Louis C. Hochman
Montclair Local

MONTCLAIR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

District: We can't mandate vaccination for staff

But school boards association says employers can

BY LOUIS C. HOCHMAN
 and TALIA WIENER
 hochman@montclairlocal.com
 wiener@montclairlocal.com

In three weeks, Montclair students will return to school buildings on a full-time schedule for the first time since March of 2020. Many won't be vaccinated, because many can't be — no vaccine is available to those under 12 years of age.

It's an open question how many of their teachers will be vaccinated. The district says it can't mandate staff to be vaccinated, under guidance from the state and its own attorneys. But the New Jersey School Boards Association, in a message to Montclair Local, suggested otherwise. And some parents and school board members say a mandate for

Employment Opportunity Commission guidance, saying federal equal opportunity laws don't prevent an employer from requiring COVID-19 vaccination for employees who enter the workplace, if required reasonable accommodations are made.

The New Jersey Education Association, in a "Vaccine FAQ" on its website, says employers "are likely legally permitted to mandate that employees receive the vaccine," though employees with qualifying disabilities, health concerns or religious objections might be entitled to accommodations.

Steven Baker, the NJEA's communications director, said in an email Tuesday the union would support a requirement for vaccines



FROM MONTCLAIR SCHOOLS' TOWN HALL

Montclair schools Superintendent Jonathan Ponds holds up "The Road Forward," New Jersey's guideline for a return to full-time instruction in schools this fall.

He told the school board Monday night. "I'm a mom expecting a baby with two special education kids in the Montclair schools, and immunocompromised."

She said the current status of the school district's reopening plan, discussed days earlier at a town hall meeting with administrators held online. "The me-

controversial one. Last week, California Gov. Gavin Newsom ordered all teachers in that state to be vaccinated or tested weekly. Chicago followed suit. Chalkbeat reports Newark Teachers Union President John Abelson told his members to participate in a mandate in the city's schools, though as of Tuesday no such roll-

outagee peers who aren't or can't be vaccinated.

"I think that we should be harping on the fact that our faculty, while we may not have a mandate — there should be some responsibility, outside of the classroom, that they are being mindful," she said.

Board member Allison Silverstein noted the National Education Association supports mandatory vaccinations for educators. The NEA says 90% of its members report they're vaccinated already.

The particular legal issues can be difficult to sort out, she said, "but if our governor says to do it, it's done." And getting more people vaccinated, she said, "is the quickest and easiest way to make sure our students are as safe as possible."

The district is planning a voluntary survey for personnel, asking if they've been vaccinated. Cooper said the district is still working with its attorney on what information might

General Coronavirus/COVID-19 Coverage

Weekly Division

FIRST PLACE

Diego Jesus Bartesaghi,
Erin Roll,
Jaimie Julia Winters
Montclair Local

CORONAVIRUS SNAPSHOT

See MontclairLocal.com for daily updates

Vaccinated population

Persons with records complete (as of 8/17/2021)

100% 0% 0%



Coronavirus cases & deaths: Overview

Established PCR testing as of 8/17/2021

Montclair Essex NJ

Details last 7 days

Total cases 239 905 36,138

Total deaths 1,276 829 128,811

Deaths per 100k 10 6 33

Total deaths 12 218 12,914

New Jersey hospital census

Montclair Essex NJ

Details last 7 days

Total cases 41 41 41

Total deaths 0 0 0

Exam municipalities: Cases & deaths

Comparative table as of 8/17/2021

Municipality	Fatal cases	Total deaths
Aspen	0	0
Berkeley	0	0
Bloomfield	0	0
Clarendon	0	0
Clinton	0	0
East Orange	0	0
Essex Falls	0	0
Fairfield	0	0
Green Ridge	0	0
Irvington	0	0
Livingston	0	0
Maplewood	0	0
Millers	0	0
North Caldwell	0	0
North Plainfield	0	0
Orange	0	0
Overland	0	0
South Orange	0	0
Vernon	0	0
West Caldwell	0	0
West Orange	0	0

COMMUNITY

\$100 incentive for vaccination



Community members are seen at an earlier event at the Wally Choice Center in Glenfield Park, where on Aug. 29 Essex County's mobile vaccination unit will join Montclair groups to make vaccinations available.

Offered to first 50 registrants for Aug. 29 event

by DIEGO JESUS BARTESAGHI MENA bartesaghi@montclairlocal.com

The first 50 people who register to be vaccinated at an Aug. 29 community event at the Wally Choice Center will each be eligible to receive \$100.

The incentive, provided via an anonymous donor, is being given as part of the Montclair Fund for Educational Enrichment's ongoing vaccine outreach program. Organizers say they're particularly focused on getting more teens vaccinated. Overall, they've emphasized reaching across members of Montclair's Black and brown communities, who remain vaccinated at lower rates than their white neighbors.

The event, from noon to 4 p.m., will include several community groups and is being hosted at the school's gymnasium located by the Montclair Sportsfields 16-19, an association of Montclair police officers of color.

Walk-ins are welcome, but the MFEE is encouraging advance registration that can be done in English at bit.ly/Aug29MFEECovidVaccination or Spanish at bit.ly/registracion.

to VaccinesContraCovid. The \$100 awards will be given to the first 50 people who both register and get fully vaccinated. The MFEE will follow up with participants.

Essex County will provide three vaccine Pfizer for those ages 12 and older, and Moderna Johnson & Johnson for those ages 18 and up. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines each require two shots, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine requires only one.

"The donor learned about the vaccine outreach MFEE had been doing and reached out to inquire how to help," MFEE executive director Madal Rodriguez-Vera said. "We discussed ways to boost vaccine numbers, particularly among younger residents and explored various incentives. The donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, suggested this very generous incentive and we were eager to get it underway."

She said in an announcement of the effort that incentives have proven useful in increasing vaccination numbers, and the MFEE is "overwhelmed" by the donor's personal commitment to ensuring the health of our community. The event was made possible by a partnership between

MFEE and leaders of nonprofit and community organizations including Montclair Cobras Football and Cheerleading, the Montclair Neighborhood Development Corporation and Brothers Mentoring, Fourth Ward Councilman David Cummings had worked with MFEE on outreach to those and other community groups.

The MFEE said in its announcement it hopes to get more residents ages 12 and older vaccinated ahead of the upcoming school year.

"We want to do all we can to ensure that our students are safe and healthy when they return to school," Rodriguez-Vera said in the announcement.

Montclair-Cobras Director and deputy Chief of Police Wilfredo Young said in the announcement this type of partnership is more than rare.

"Working with our team of community leaders to make it possible to provide vaccines will help get us one step closer to beating the virus," Young said. "The health and safety of our residents, especially the children, are of the utmost importance. If we can



See INCENTIVE page 10

PRIZE TIME!!!

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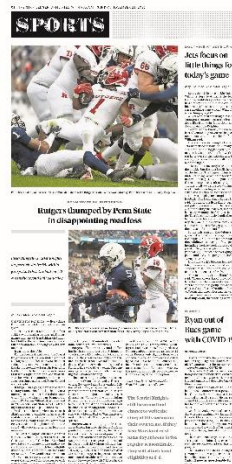
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THIRD PLACE

James Green

The Star-Ledger



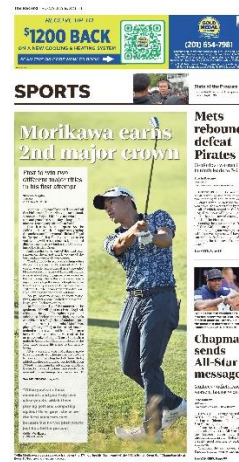
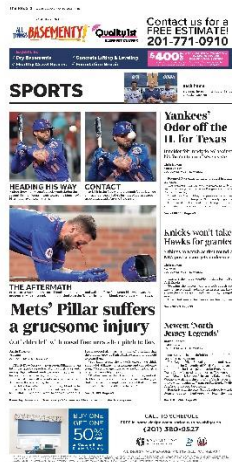
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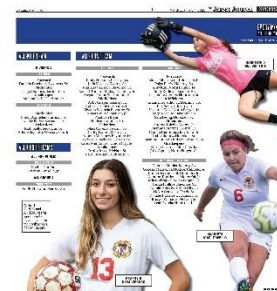
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The Jersey Journal



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Tanya Manthey
 The Jersey Journal

The Jersey Journal Sports
 Friday, April 30, 2021
 We'll be there when you score!

M*A*S*H UNIT
 Injured Yanks mending: Boone

GET THE SCORE EVERY MORNING!
 For home delivery call 201-683-7415

The Jersey Journal Sports
 Saturday, January 23, 2021
 We'll be there when you score!

HANK AARON
 1934-2021
 Legendary Hall of Famer who broke Babe Ruth's home run record dies

GET THE SCORE EVERY MORNING!
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The Jersey Journal Sports
 Saturday, January 23, 2021
 We'll be there when you score!

Ranking the NJ boys basketball alums

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The Jersey Journal Sports
 Tuesday, March 2, 2021
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HEARTBREAKER
 Rutgers may never get over crushing NCAA Tournament loss

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The Jersey Journal Sports
 Thursday, December 14, 2021
 We'll be there when you score!

NEW KINGS OF NJ
 Seton Hall buries Rutgers, but the Pirates want more than Garden State supremacy

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Weekly Division

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Editorial Section Layout & Content Weekly Division

FIRST PLACE Gail Travers, Pattie McIntyre The SandPaper

SandBox Commentary State Is Reinstating Civics – And Not a Moment Too Soon

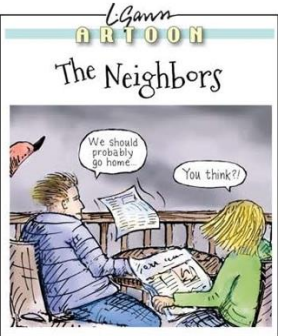
By MARLA MADDEN In a bid of the past, Gov. Murphy reinstated civics to eighth graders in the state...

Speakeasy Goodbye, Changing LBI, See You Next Summer

By STEVE LEE'S I'm sure you'll all be excitedly bragging about the "Goodbye, Changing LBI..."

Letters Coyote-Proof Pets

To the Editor: I live in Beach Haven and have two kids who love dogs. Beach Haven is known for its dog-friendly...



Speakeasy Farewell, Carolyn Ann ... Thanks for the Memories

By SYLVANO I was truly sad day when I found out my dear party host Carolyn Ann...

It was truly sad day when I found out my dear party host Carolyn Ann... (Continued from page 6)

SandBox Been There, Done That If Wind Farm Is Constructed You May Forget It Is There

By RICK MELIARD In going to have to buy Governor Marzano, complete with a large nose, small ears and large eyebrows...

Speakeasy Letters

Dear Editor: I was truly sad day when I found out my dear party host Carolyn Ann...

It was truly sad day when I found out my dear party host Carolyn Ann... (Continued from page 6)



Letters

Dear Editor: I was truly sad day when I found out my dear party host Carolyn Ann...

It was truly sad day when I found out my dear party host Carolyn Ann... (Continued from page 6)



Weekly Division

Sports Section Layout & Content

Sports Section Layout & Content Weekly Division

SECOND PLACE
Richard Mardekian,
Carrie Przeslak,
Amanda Bernal
Suburban Trends

Suburban Trends | WOODBRIDGE, OCTOBER 22, 2021 | 18

SPORTS

LAKELAND



Angelina Perez of Lakeland finishing second at Eastbay national cross-country championships on Oct. 19. COURTESY: JAMES HANCOCK/STRIKEDMEDIAS

Angelina Perez's historic cross-country season



Angelina Perez (center) with her parents and coach after she finished second in the Eastbay national cross-country championships on Oct. 19. COURTESY: JAMES HANCOCK/STRIKEDMEDIAS

Lakeland High School senior Angelina Perez finished second at the Eastbay National Championships at Indian Park in Sun Diego on Oct. 19, and came within less than five seconds of being just the second girl from New Jersey to win a national title in the 40 years of the event. Perez's second-place finish capped the greatest cross-country season in North Jersey history.

She won every race she ran this year before the national final, setting course records at Darlington Park and Garnet Mountains that could stand for decades.

She also ran the two fastest times ever by a New Jersey girl at Holmsted Park, whom she won the State Meet of Champions on Nov. 20. And she ran the second fastest New Jersey time at the 5,000-meter course at Van Cortlandt Park when she won the Eastbay Northeast Regionals on Nov. 27.

Here are some photos capturing action from this historic season.



Angelina Perez is shown during a run near Lakeland high school on Oct. 19. COURTESY: JAMES HANCOCK/STRIKEDMEDIAS

**Sports Section
Layout &
Content
Weekly Division**

FIRST PLACE
David Nahan,
Craig D. Schenck,
Kyle McCrane,
Clyde Hughes
Ocean City Sentinel

SENTINEL SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2021

RED RAIDER LAX: SJ CHAMPIONS

Down 5-2, O.C. boys storm back to beat Shawnee 9-6 for first sectional title

By CHRIS KOCHANE
Sentinel Staff

OCEAN CITY — The Ocean City boys lacrosse team stormed back from a 5-2 deficit to defeat Shawnee 9-6 on Wednesday night to win the first sectional title in the team's history.

The comeback began in the second half when Ocean City scored three goals in a 10-minute span to take a 5-2 lead. The team's momentum carried them to a 9-6 victory in the final minutes of the game.

"We were down 5-2 at the end of the first half, but we didn't let that get to us," said head coach Mike Givens. "We knew we had to come out strong in the second half, and we did just that."

The team's defense was also a key factor in their comeback. They held Shawnee to just two goals in the second half, while their offense scored six goals to secure the win.

"The boys were really resilient," Givens said. "They knew they had to win this game to move forward, and they did it with a lot of heart and determination."

The victory marks a significant achievement for the team, as they had never won a sectional title before. The team will now advance to the state tournament.

Top 13 Championships, page 25



David Nahan/SJCHS, NewsPhoto.com. Members of the Ocean City boys lacrosse team celebrate after winning the sectional title on Wednesday night at the Paul Robeson High School arena in South Jersey. Ocean City won 9-6 against Shawnee in the final.



David Nahan/SJCHS, NewsPhoto.com. Mustang boys tennis player Steve Hunsbaker leads in a match against Princeton during the sectional tournament on Wednesday night at the Paul Robeson High School arena in South Jersey. Mustang won 3-2.

Mustang boys tennis team falls in SJ final

It was their first loss of the season

By CHRIS KOCHANE
Sentinel Staff

FRANKLINVILLE — Ocean City's boys tennis team fell in the sectional final on Wednesday night, losing to Princeton 3-2 in a hard-fought match.

The Mustangs had a strong season, winning all their sectional matches, but they were unable to overcome Princeton's strong defense in the final.

"We were really excited to be in the final," said head coach Steve Hunsbaker. "But we just didn't have enough firepower to beat Princeton tonight."

Princeton's top player, Steve Hunsbaker, was a key factor in their victory. He won his match against Ocean City's top player, Steve Hunsbaker, in a close contest.

"Steve was really good tonight," Hunsbaker said. "He was the difference between us and Princeton."

Despite the loss, the Mustangs had a successful season and will be remembered for their strong performance throughout the year.

Top 13 Championships, page 25

Mainland girls 4x800 wins at SJ Group III sectionals

More OCHS, MRHS girls medal, finish in top six and set personal records at meet

By CHRIS KOCHANE
Sentinel Staff

FRANKLINVILLE — The Ocean City girls 4x800 relay team won the sectional title on Wednesday night, defeating Princeton 10:05.15 in a thrilling race.

The team's performance was a testament to their hard work and teamwork throughout the season. They set a new personal record for the team and finished in the top six of the sectional.

"We were really excited to win this race," said head coach Steve Hunsbaker. "The girls were really strong and they worked really hard to get to the top of the sectional."

Other teams that performed well at the sectional include Ocean City's girls 4x400 relay team, which finished in the top six, and the girls 800m runner, who set a new personal record.

"The girls were really happy with their performance," Hunsbaker said. "They know they have a lot of work to do to prepare for the state tournament, but they were really proud of what they accomplished tonight."

Top 13 Championships, page 25

Ocean City boys 4x800 1st at SJ Group III sectionals

Jamison wins javelin, other Red Raiders, Mustangs earn medals, set PR, in top six

By CHRIS KOCHANE
Sentinel Staff

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Top 13 Championships, page 25



David Nahan/SJCHS, NewsPhoto.com. Ocean City boys 4x800 relay team celebrates after winning the sectional title on Wednesday night at the Paul Robeson High School arena in South Jersey. Ocean City won 10:05.15 against Princeton in the final.

Weekly Division

Packaging The News – Special Issue

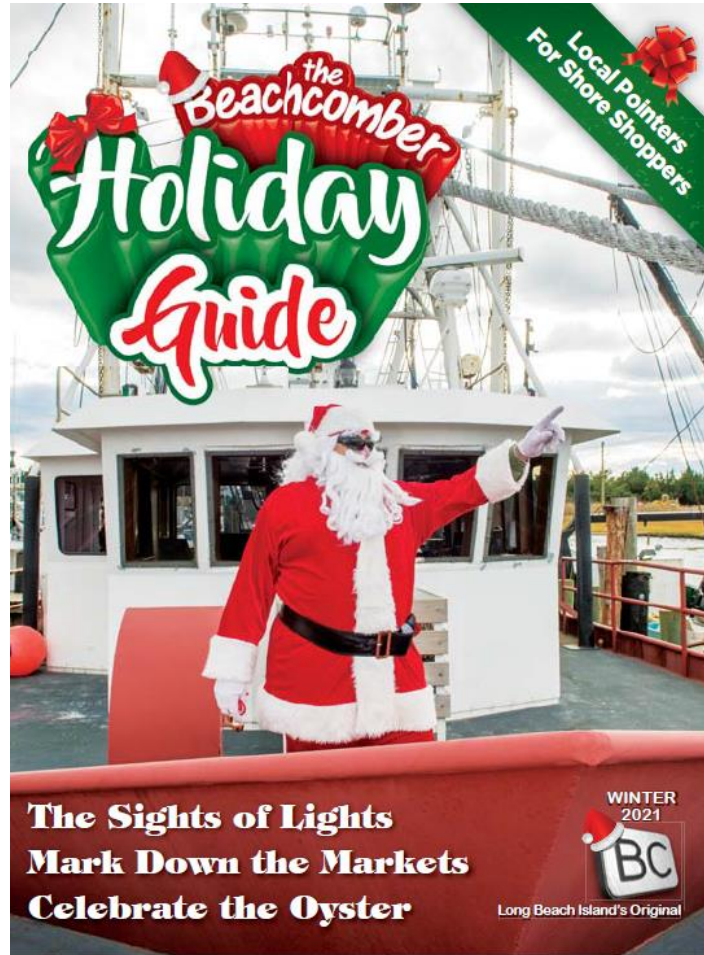
Packaging the News – Special Issue

Weekly Division

THIRD PLACE
Staff

The SandPaper

Beachcomber - Holiday Guide



Packaging the News – Special Issue

Weekly Division

SECOND PLACE

David Nahan,

Rachel Shubin

Ocean City Sentinel

Alert Me



Packaging the News – Special Issue

Weekly Division

FIRST PLACE

Phil Nardone

The Bernardsville News

Football 2021



ONLINE AWARDS

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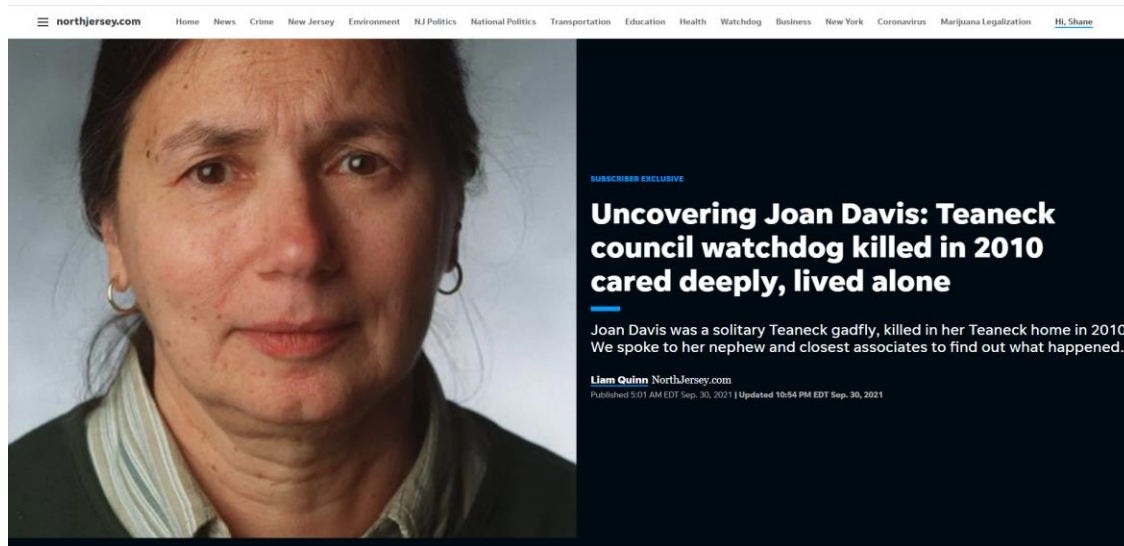
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THIRD PLACE

Staff

The Record (Bergen County)

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SECOND PLACE

Staff

The Star-Ledger

A pickle(ball) in paradise



Best Web Project

Over 25,000

FIRST PLACE

Ted Sherman

The Star-Ledger

When the rains came



Weekly Division Best Web Project

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Weekly

FIRST PLACE

Louis C. Hochman

Montclair Local

Montclair Local Coronavirus Tracker

MONTCLAIR LOCAL KEEP LOCAL NEWS ALIVE

CORONAVIRUS STATISTICS — MONTCLAIR, ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

June 7, 2021

Vaccinated population
 Includes all individuals completely vaccinated as of 11/15/2020

March 2021 July 2021

VACCINATION OPPORTUNITIES

- The Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are available at local COVID pharmacies.
- Essex County continues to provide vaccinations at the former Insignia building in West Orange, located at 235 Prospect Ave., every day but Sundays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. It provides vaccinations at Essex County College, at 177 West Market Street in Newark and at the former Sears at Livingston Mall. All locations are available to the public.
- Montclair Health Department's vaccination clinics are open to anyone 16 and over who wishes to work in Montclair and attend schools, at the appropriate facility in the municipal building. The Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines will be available. Those who wish to receive the Moderna vaccine will be given an appointment on the day of their clinic session for their second vaccination about 30 days after their first clinic. Information about clinics is posted to <https://www.montclairnj.org>.
- Information on vaccine and booster eligibility, including for various age groups, is here.

Coronavirus cases & deaths: Overview
 Established on 12/8 weekdays at 11:15 (UTC)

	Montclair	New Jersey	NY
Confirmed Cases	327	64,608	58,215
DEATHS	6,575	175,192	149,472
Deaths per 100,000	1	42	871
TOTAL DEATHS	78	2,888	27,282

New Jersey hospital census
 June 19, 2021

Hospitalization	Montclair	New Jersey
Montclair	100	100
New Jersey	100	100

Essex municipalities: Cases & deaths
 Cumulative totals as of 1/15/2022

	Total cases	Total deaths
Belleville	1,271	162
Belmont	1,547	96
Clarkstown	1,102	17
Clarks Summit	2,298	134
Clark Township	1,556	147
Clarksville	103	2
Clarksville	1,039	84
Clarksville	1,286	117
Clarksville	1,013	254
Clarksville	1,027	83
Clarksville	6,041	41

ESSEX COUNTY
 Organic Without Overspraying
 Frederic's
 FEEL SAFE IN OUR ER
 ESCAPE FROM REALITY?
 FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
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Over 25,000

THIRD PLACE

Joe Martucci, Gail Wilson


The Press of Atlantic City

2021 Shore Summer Weekend
Report Card

JOE MARTUCCI'S SUMMER WEEKEND REPORT CARD

Press meteorologist Joe Martucci calculates the summer's weather, giving each weekend, Friday to Sunday (with the addition of Monday if there's a holiday), a shore report card grade. Joe's grade is based on weather conditions that make it the most pleasant to spend a day at the beach and a night strolling around town. Rain-free weather, with warm, dry air, plenty of clear sky and a gentle breeze earn the top grades. Joe will update the report card each week, with a recap video after Labor Day.

Summer 2021 GPA: 3.0 **B** Summer 2020 GPA: 3.1 **B** Summer 2019 GPA: 3.4 **B+** Summer 2018 GPA: 3.1 **B**

	MAY			JUNE										
Weekend:	Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday	Friday, Saturday, Sunday	Friday, Saturday, Sunday	Friday, Saturday, Sunday	Friday, Saturday, Sunday	Friday, Saturday, Sunday	Friday, Saturday, Sunday	Friday, Saturday, Sunday						
	28th 29th 30th 31st	4th 5th 6th	11th 12th 13th	18th 19th 20th	25th 26th 27th									
Joe's grade and commentary:	D+ "Saturday and Sunday might be the worst two-day weekend summer stretch ever!"	B+ "Almost perfect. Saturday was a touch windy and cool on the sand."	C+ "It was mostly dry, but it was also mostly cloudy and mostly cool!"	B "It was warm, the days were dry, but Friday was windy and it got muggy."	B "Friday was perfect. Saturday had a few showers as it got muggy."									
														
	JULY					AUGUST					SEPTEMBER			
Weekend:	Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday	Friday, Saturday, Sunday	Friday, Saturday, Sunday	Friday, Saturday, Sunday	Friday, Saturday, Sunday	Friday, Saturday, Sunday	Friday, Saturday, Sunday	Friday, Saturday, Sunday	Friday, Saturday, Sunday	Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday	Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday	Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday	Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday	
	2nd 3rd 4th 5th	9th 10th 11th	16th 17th 18th	23rd 24th 25th	30th 31th 1st	6th 7th 8th	13th 14th 18th	20th 21st 22nd	27th 28th 29th	3rd 4th 5th 6th				
Joe's grade and commentary:	B "This was the viewers' choice! Thanks to those who voted."	B "Elsa got out early for an OK beach day Friday. Saturday was excellent, though."	B+ "All three days were beautiful. Those storms late Saturday, though ..."	B+ "On our way to an A, but showers on Sunday bumped this weekend down."	B+ "We were on our way to an A, until a mostly cloudy, showery Sunday came, again."									
Joe's grade and commentary:	B "Mostly dry, but rain Saturday night but a damper on the weekend."	B+ "A hot and humid Saturday with rain at night. Sunday was beautiful."	C+ "Despite T.S. Henri's rain and wind, it could have been worse."	C "Friday was a very good day, but clouds and cooler air tanked the rest of the weekend."	B+ "Besides a few showers on Sunday, it was a great end to the season."									

PRESS GRAPHIC

Best Multimedia Element

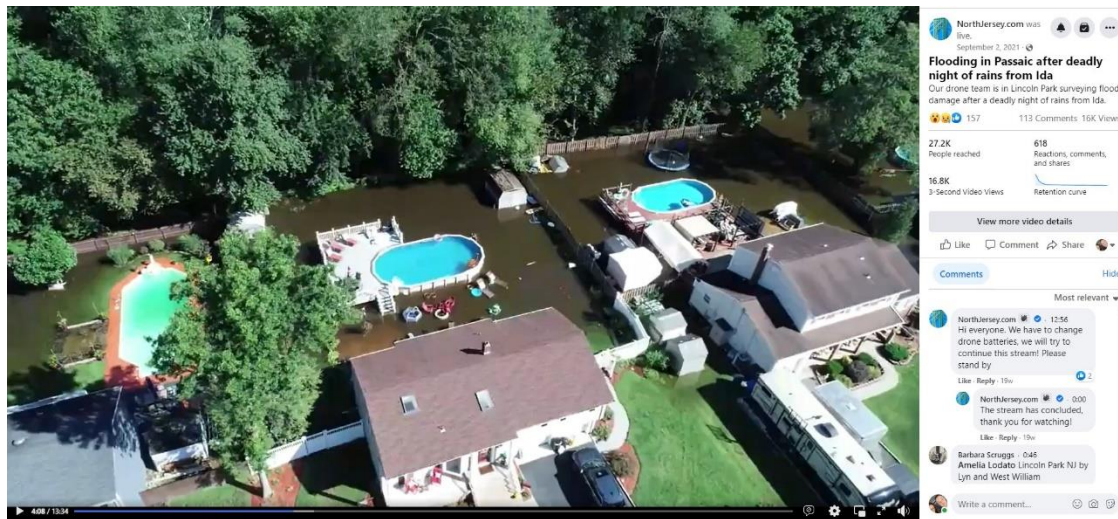
Over 25,000

SECOND PLACE

Thomas P. Costello,
Tariq Zehawi

The Record (Bergen County)

Hurricane Ida flooding live
drone video



**Best Multimedia
Element**

Over 25,000

FIRST PLACE

Tariq Zehawi, Scott Fallon
The Record (Bergen County)

**The Lower Hackensack: A River on
the Rebound**



**Daily, Over 25,000
Best Video**

Best Video

Over 25,000

THIRD PLACE

Chris LaChall

Courier-Post

Skateboarders say culture invites,
welcomes diversity



Best Video

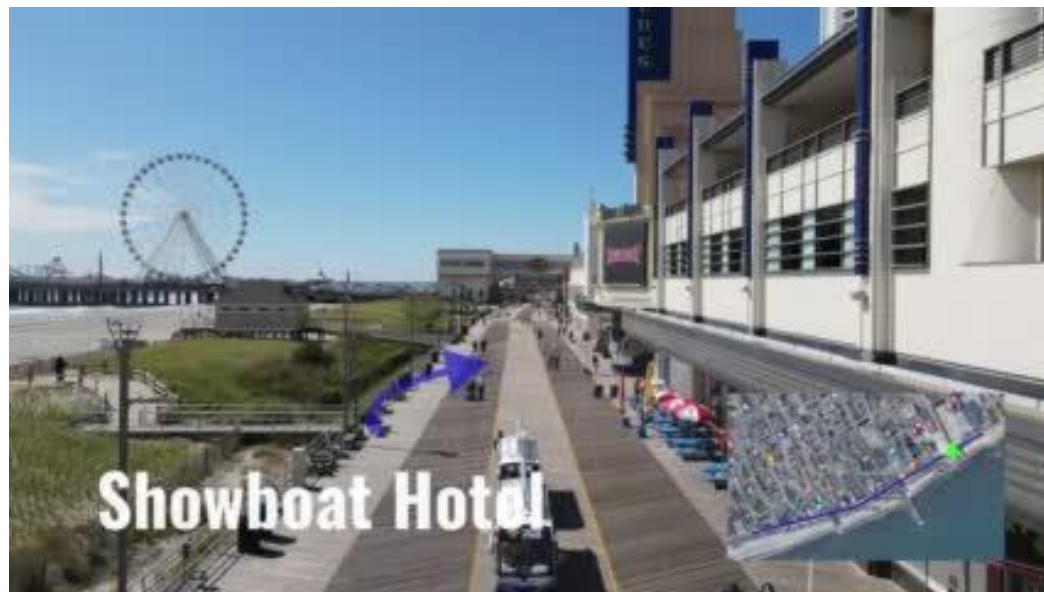
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SECOND PLACE

Joe Martucci, Gail Wilson

The Press of Atlantic City

**Four-mile tour of the Atlantic City
Boardwalk**



Best Video

Over 25,000

FIRST PLACE

Andre Malok

The Star-Ledger



Raw honey is all the buzz at Zach & Zoë Sweet Bee Farm in Hunterdon County

Daily, Under 25,000
Best Video

Best Video

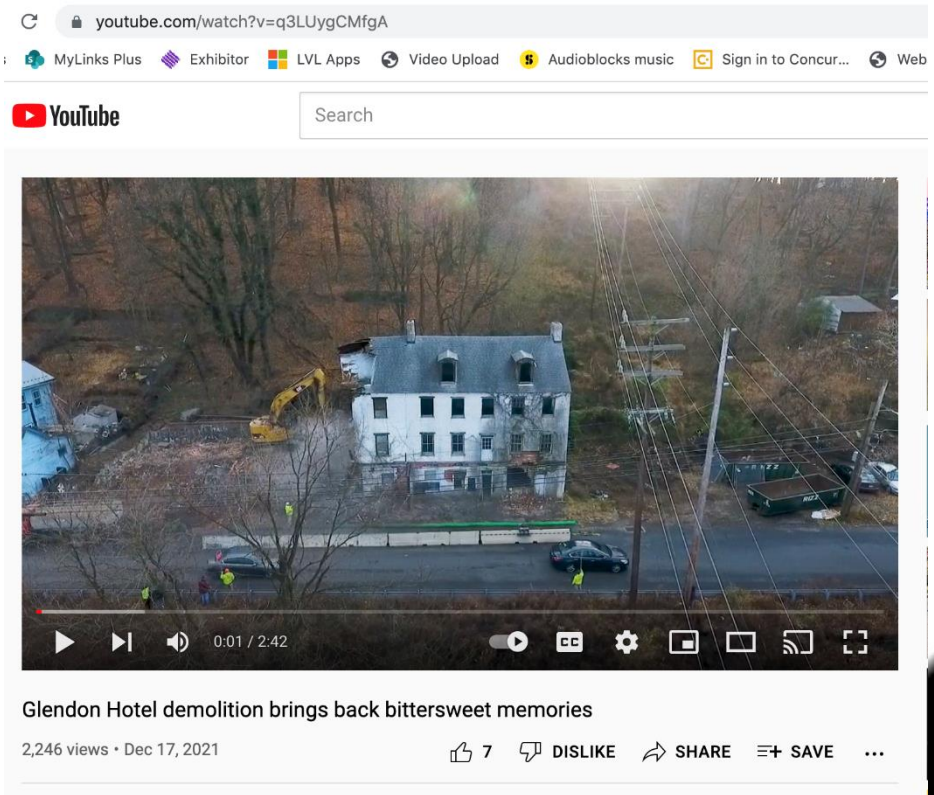
Under 25,000

THIRD PLACE

Saed Hindash, Rudy Miller

The Express-Times

Glendon Hotel demolition brings
back bittersweet memories



The screenshot shows a YouTube video player interface. At the top, the browser address bar displays the URL youtube.com/watch?v=q3LUygCMfgA. Below the address bar are several extension icons: MyLinks Plus, Exhibitor, LVL Apps, Video Upload, Audioblocks music, and Sign in to Concur... A search bar is visible on the right side of the YouTube header. The video player itself shows an aerial view of a large, multi-story white building with a grey roof, which is being demolished. A yellow excavator is visible in the foreground, and a road with a few cars and utility poles runs in front of the building. The video player controls at the bottom include a play button, a progress bar showing 0:01 / 2:42, and icons for volume, closed captions, settings, and full screen. Below the video player, the video title is "Glendon Hotel demolition brings back bittersweet memories", and it shows 2,246 views and a date of Dec 17, 2021. Interaction buttons for likes (7), dislikes, share, save, and a menu icon are also present.

Best Video

Under 25,000

SECOND PLACE

Saed Hindash

The Express-Times

Easton cyclist Bill Elliston is ready to race in the Easton Twilight Criterium bike Race



Search



Easton cyclist Bill Elliston is ready to race in the Easton Twilight Criterium

370 views • Aug 29, 2021

👍 14 🗨️ DISLIKE ➦ SHARE ⌵ SAVE ...

Best Video

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FIRST PLACE
Adam Monacelli
The Daily Journal



Weekly Division Best Video

Best Video

Weekly

THIRD PLACE

Shane Paul Neil

Montclair Local

Coming of age in extraordinary
times



Best Video

Weekly

SECOND PLACE

**Shane Paul Neil,
Diego Jesus Bartesaghi,
Louis C. Hochman**
Montclair Local



**How a refugee family is bridging
digital, language divides**

Best Video

Weekly

FIRST PLACE

**Neil Grabowsky,
Louis C. Hochman**
Montclair Local

**Photographer trapped inside his
studio during Ida in Montclair, NJ**



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Innovation Award**

Innovation Award

Over 25,000

THIRD PLACE

Mary Chao

The Record (Bergen County)

Mary Chao Outreach to Asian Community

Verizon 5:21 PM 94%

Asian American hi...
www.northjersey.c...

northjersey.com

Subscribe Sign In

Mary Chao NorthJersey.com
Published 4:05 a.m. ET Dec. 22, 2021 | Updated 6:15 p.m. ET Dec. 22, 2021

YOU'RE WATCHING A SPECIAL USA TODAY NETWORK DISCUSSION ABOUT THE ASI
ASIAN AMERICAN MOVEMENT

Watch: Discussing the Asian American movement in New Jersey
Host Mary Chao welcomes AAPI leaders Cecilia Chan and Manu Singh for a discussion on what the Asian American community is working to accomplish in the Garden State.
[NorthJersey.com](#)

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Innovation Award

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Ashley Balcerzak,

Mike Pettigano,

Paul Wood,

Miguel Fernandez

The Record (Bergen County)

Housing Crisis Q&A Video Series

NEW JERSEY

Housing Q&A: What does the end of NJ's eviction moratorium mean for me?



Ashley Balcerzak

NorthJersey.com

Published 4:00 a.m. ET Dec. 9, 2021 | Updated 3:10 p.m. ET Dec. 13, 2021

[View Comments](#)



Housing Q&A: A panel discussion on rental assistance

NorthJersey.com is hosting a monthly housing video series to provide advice from a panel of experts on pandemic-related housing issues. *Miguel Fernandez, Paul Wood Jr and Ashley Balcerzak, NorthJersey.com*

Once Jan. 1, 2022, hits, New Jersey's eviction moratorium expires.

Innovation Award

Over 25,000

FIRST PLACE

Anne-Marie Caruso,

Chris Pedota,

Mitsu Yasukawa

The Record (Bergen County)

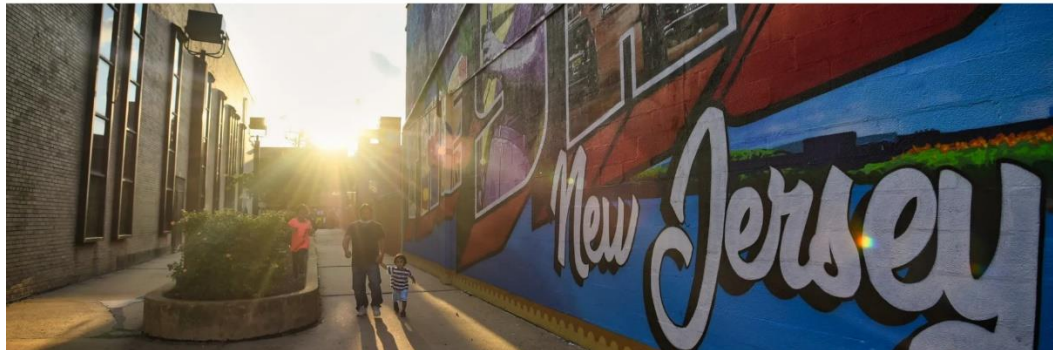
A Photo A Day

☰ northjersey.com Home News Crime New Jersey Environment NJ Politics National Politics Transportation Education Health Watchdog Business New York Coronavirus Marijuana Legalization Hi_Sean

20 days of Hackensack in the summer

Photos by Mitsu Yasukawa, NorthJersey.com

Published 4:00 AM EDT Sep. 6, 2021 | Updated 3:18 PM EDT Sep. 6, 2021



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Online Breaking News

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THIRD PLACE


Charlie Kratovil

New Brunswick Today

Homeless Left Out in Bitter Cold as City Abruptly Closes; "Code Blue"; Warming Center

NEW BRUNSWICK TODAY INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM THE HUB CITY

FRONT PAGE ABOUT NBT TOPICS PODCAST DONATE CONTACT STORE



Email Share 625 Tweet

Homeless Left Out in Bitter Cold as City Abruptly Closes "Code Blue" Warming Center

CHARLIE KRATOVIL
FEBRUARY 12, 2021
GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

0:00 / 0:00

NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ—As city officials kicked off a long holiday weekend, the growing homeless population here was left without a warm place to go while temperatures dropped and another winter storm is approaching.

February 11 was the third straight night that the city failed to open a building for people without shelter to keep warm, including one

Online Breaking News

Over 25,000

SECOND PLACE

Staff

The Star-Ledger

Election 2021: N.J. governor's race
too close to call

N.J. election 2021: N.J. governor race still too close to call. Murphy, Ciattarelli waiting for all votes to be counted.

Updated: Nov. 06, 2021, 8:45 p.m. | Published: Nov. 03, 2021, 1:14 a.m.



Online Breaking News

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FIRST PLACE

Staff

The Record (Bergen County)

Hurricane Ida

WEATHER

Ida live updates: 25 people dead in New Jersey, many trapped in cars as floodwaters rose

[Liam Quinn](#), [Nicholas Katzban](#), [John Connolly](#) and [Kaitlyn Kanzler](#) NorthJersey.com

Updated 8:18 a.m. ET Sept. 3, 2021

[View Comments](#)



Javish Rosa, of Englewood, describes flooding in his apartment

Javish Rosa, of Englewood, recalls what it was like as the water rushed into his basement apartment. [Tariq Zehawi](#), NorthJersey.com

The remnants of Hurricane Ida has taken 25 lives across New Jersey, left [thousands without power](#) and dozens of streets underwater. And just as towns

**Daily, Under 25,000
Online Breaking News**

Online Breaking News

Under 25,000

SECOND PLACE

Staff

Home News Tribune

Hurricane Ida

FLOODING

Ida flooding leaves at least 8 dead in Central Jersey, 23 in NJ, Murphy says: Live updates

[Mike Deak](#), [Susan Loyer](#) and [Nicolas Fernandes](#) MyCentralJersey.com

Updated 7:40 p.m. ET Sept. 2, 2021

[View Comments](#)



Home of Yankees' affiliate Somerset Patriots completely flooded by Ida muddy waters

In the wake of Ida passing through Somerset County, muddy flood waters surround TD Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater.

Thomas P. Costello and Tariq Zehawi, MyCentralJersey.com

Central Jersey woke up Thursday morning after a nightmare.

Online Breaking News

Under 25,000

FIRST PLACE Staff

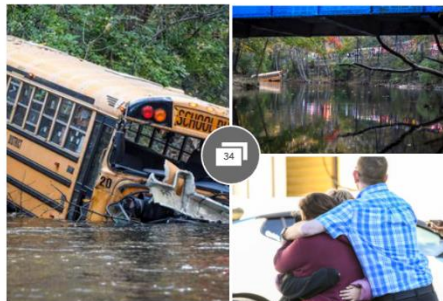
The Express-Times

Easton school bus crash

News

Easton Area school bus with about 30 middle school students lands in Bushkill Creek

Updated: Nov. 08, 2021, 3:27 p.m. | Published: Nov. 08, 2021, 8:44 a.m.



An Easton Area school bus crashed into the Bushkill Creek in Easton on Nov. 8, 2021.

  19,072 shares

By [Tony Rhodin](#) | For [lehighvalleylive.com](#) and [Rudy Miller](#) | For [lehighvalleylive.com](#)

UPDATE: [Easton Area School District bus is pulled out of Bushkill Creek after crash \(WATCH\)](#)

An Easton Area School District bus carrying about 30 children went through a guard rail and landed in the Bushkill Creek on Monday morning.

The bus rolled 25 feet down from the road into the creek shortly before 8 a.m. Nov. 8. The crash was just north of the blue bridge leading to the Karl Stirner Arts Trail on Bushkill Drive in Easton.

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[lehighvalleylive.com](#)

Weekly Division Online Breaking News

Online Breaking News

Weekly

THIRD PLACE

David Biggy

The SandPaper

Southern Regional's Buccì Removed From Girls Basketball Head Coaching Position



The Newsmagazine of Long Beach Island and Southern Ocean County

Home News Sports Columns Opinion Calendar A&E Real Estate Classifieds Business Directory Publications Tides



Southern Regional's Buccì Removed From Girls Basketball Head Coaching Position

December 05, 2021

By David Biggy



HARD TIME: Two weeks into his eighth season as head

Amid drastically falling numbers of players within the entire program during the past week, Southern Regional girls basketball head coach Tom Buccì was removed from his position on Friday, said Athletic Director Chuck Donohue Jr. on Saturday, Dec. 4.

"Our numbers were faltering, fast, and the program was drowning," Donohue said. "I'm responsible for the athletic programs here, and it's my job to make sure we have teams and positive numbers of athletes participating, and I couldn't keep allowing this to go on. I felt we needed to make a change and move the program in a different direction."

Online Breaking News

Weekly

SECOND PLACE

Victoria Ford

The SandPaper

Bodies of Missing Warren Grove Couple Found

The screenshot shows a Facebook post from 'The SandPaper' (@thesandpaper16) dated November 30 at 3:07 PM. The post features a circular profile picture with the text 'THE SANDPAPER' and a green 'Create a Page' button. The main text of the post reads: 'After a weeklong search, the bodies of Gary and Lorraine Parker of Stafford Township's Warren Grove section have been found. Around 1 p.m. Tuesday, with the help of a Stafford Township police drone, they were located in a densely wooded area near their home on Cedar Bridge Road.' Below the text are two side-by-side portrait photos of a man and a woman. The post has 10 likes and 2 shares. The right sidebar shows a search bar, a 'Send Message' button, and a 'Visitor Posts' section with three entries: 'Welcome To LBI', 'Chryssie Marie', and 'UAA ISU Doctor of Pharmacy Program'. At the bottom, there are navigation links for 'Places', 'Places & Entertainment', and a language selector.

Online Breaking News

Weekly

FIRST PLACE

Staff

Montclair Local

Ida hits Montclair

NEWS

'WORST I'VE SEEN IN 30 YEARS' — SERIOUS FLOODING AT MONTCLAIR SCHOOLS

Montclair Mayor Sean Spiller said four school buildings were damaged.

September 2, 2021



The hallway adjacent to the parking lot entrance of Montclair High School is seen after serious flooding from Ida on Sept. 2, 2021. (KATE ALBRIGHT / FOR MONTCLAIR LOCAL)

By TALIA WIENER and KATE ALBRIGHT



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Best Web Event

Over 25,000

THIRD PLACE

Peter Genovese

The Star-Ledger

**The greatest thing about every single
town in N.J.**

**The greatest thing about every single town
in N.J.**



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Jonathan D. Salant,

Mel Ibarra

The Star-Ledger

Star Trek vs. Star Wars: N.J. politicians
debate



Best Web Event

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FIRST PLACE

Brittney Davies,

Joe Atmonavage,

Matthew Stanmyre

The Star-Ledger

The great boat lift of 9/11

The great boat lift of 9/11

The unsung story of how hundreds of thousands were
rescued that tragic day

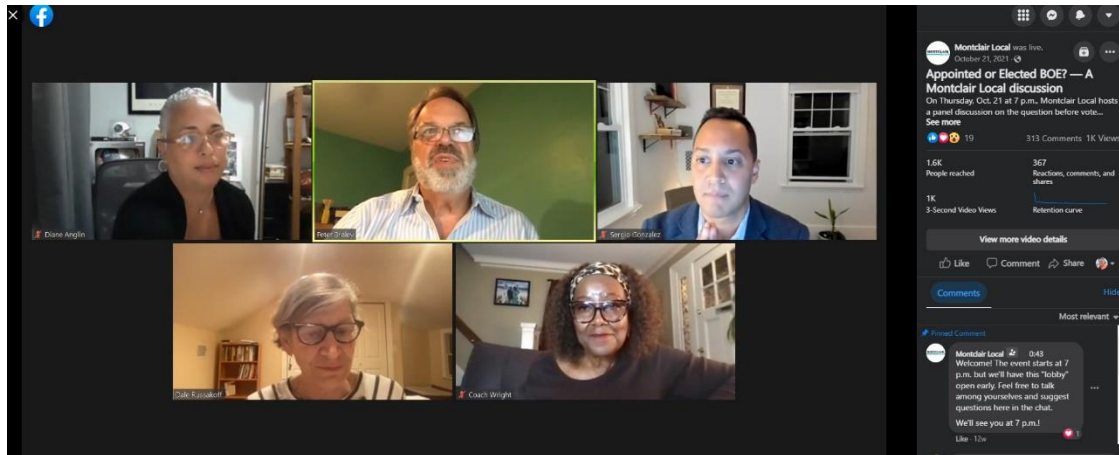


Weekly Division Best Web Event

Best Web Event Weekly

FIRST PLACE
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Montclair Local

**Appointed or elected BOE? A
Montclair Local discussion**



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Best Use of Social Media

Over 25,000

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Libby Cardone,
Alyssa Passeggio,
Amy Z. Quinn, John Shabe

The Star-Ledger

Ida storm coverage



Best Use of Social Media

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SECOND PLACE Staff

Asbury Park Press

The Born to Run project



**Best Use of
Social Media**

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FIRST PLACE

**Peter Genovese,
John Shabe**
The Star-Ledger

Jersey Shore Madness



Weekly Division

Best Use of Social Media

Best Use of Social Media Weekly

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Sarah Hodgson
The SandPaper

The SandPaper Rocks Facebook

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The SandPaper is a Jersey Shore newsmagazine. It covers Long Beach Island and the neighboring mainland communities. The publication is distributed fre... See more

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<http://www.thesandpaper.net/>

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The SandPaper 2h ·

Entering through the new archway at Southern Regional Middle School on April 15, it was clear a celebration was taking place. Once inside, the atmosphere was simply groovy, funky and out of sight.

THESANDPAPER.NET
Southern Regional Middle School Celebrates 50 Years in a Groovy Way - The SandPaper

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Best Video Portfolio

Over 25,000

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Thomas P. Costello III

Asbury Park Press



TR North defeats East Brunswick in South Group 5 football (11/5/21)

Best Video Portfolio

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SECOND PLACE

Andre Malok

The Star-Ledger



Best Video Portfolio

Over 25,000

FIRST PLACE

Joe Lamberti

Courier-Post



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Best Video Portfolio

Best Video Portfolio

Under 25,000

FIRST PLACE

Adam Monacelli

The Daily Journal



Weekly Division Best Video Portfolio

Best Video Portfolio

Weekly

FIRST PLACE

Shane Paul Neil

Montclair Local



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Best Video Series

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Andre Malok,
Natalie Paterson,
Mel Ibarra
The Star-Ledger

N.J. Takeout Stakeout



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SECOND PLACE

Dwayne Uzoaru,
Jeremy Schneider,
Mel Ibarra
The Star-Ledger

NJ All Day



Best Video Series

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Andre Malok

The Star-Ledger

**You've Never Seen
New Jersey Like This**



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Best Audio**

Best Audio

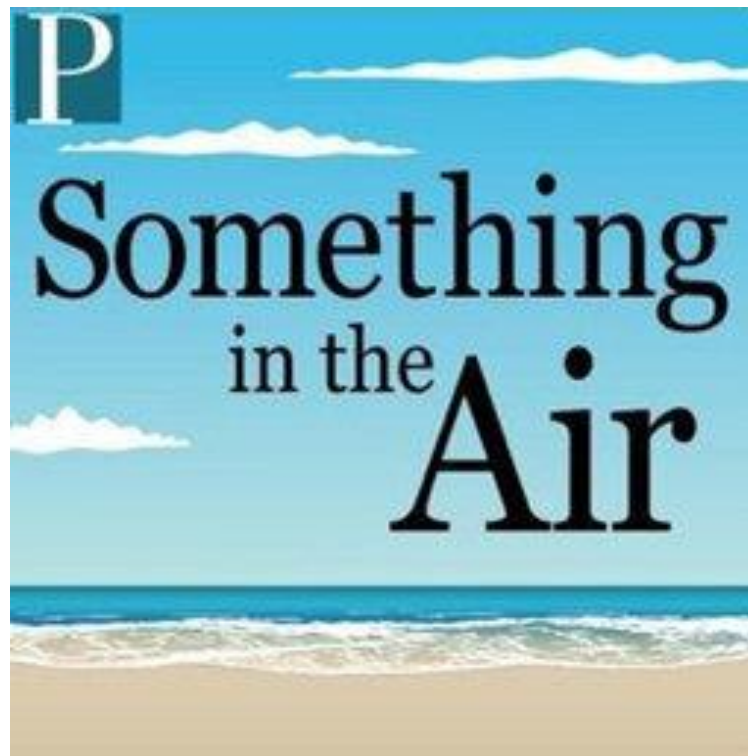
Over 25,000

THIRD PLACE

Joe Martucci

The Press of Atlantic City

Something in the Air Podcast



Best Audio

Over 25,000

SECOND PLACE

Art Stapleton,
Paul Wood, Jr.

The Record (Bergen County)

All-In with Art Stapleton: A NY
Giants Podcast



Best Audio

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FIRST PLACE

Steve Politi, Keith Sargeant,

James Kratch

The Star-Ledger

Rutgers Rant



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