Better Newspaper Contest

2011 Editorial Awards

Awards Banquet
Press Night

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Better Newspaper Contest 2011

Editorial Awards

Daily Newspapers
D1: Responsible Journalism -
Public Service, Lloyd P. Burns
Memorial Award
In the 24th, a crowded Assembly race

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

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

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

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City passed over in schools plan

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

By Meir Rinde

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

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

Project prioritization has now come to the top of the list for “nuisance and efficiency,” according to new SDA Chief Richard Carr, who has been considering the cancellation until future years, Christie said.

“This project will continue to be part of the initiative, but it will be deferred until future years,” Christie said.

This latest postponement was met with anger and disappointment by Trenton school board members, who had hoped to see the project move forward. (The board, however, has not formally supported the project, and its members have expressed reservations about the need for it.)

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

Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Times

“City Passed Over in Schools Plan”
“Residents, Officials Stage Protest Urging Repairs to TCHS”
“TCHS Desperate for Repair Funding”
“SDA Chief Sees Decay for Himself: State Executive Tours Crumbling TCHS”
“SDA Chief on the Defensive in Hearing”

Meir Rinde
Matt Fair
D1: Responsible Journalism - Public Service - Lloyd P. Burns Memorial Award

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

The News of Cumberland County

“Tombstone Lettering Needs Changing”

“‘Screaming Eagle’ Again”

Greg Adomaitis

Man who fought with Vietnam vet won’t give up

Tombstone lettering needs changing

By Greg Adomaitis

gado@the-news.com

FAIRFIELD TWP. — When Samuel Boyd Jr. was killed in 1965 by a Claymore land mine, his new friend from New Jersey was so painted with blood that he couldn’t move.

When Arthur Corley got the chance in 2004 to visit Boyd’s tombstone, he saw a problem.

“Samuel fought for the 101st Airborne Division. Samuel died for the 101st Airborne Division. He loved the 101st,” Corley said.

Boyd’s tombstone at Seventh National Cemetery, Burlington County, states he was a member of the 101st Airborne Division.

I should read “101st Airborne” instead of 101st and there is nothing Corley, nor the sole survivor of that Claymore explosion, or do about it.

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

“ Searching the internet, traveling to New York, flipping through yearbooks and speaking with officials,” Corley said.

The Veteran Administration VA informed Corley of the problem. He is a representative from Congressman Frank Pallone’s office.

“He is an Army, a notification would have went to his men, Mary Boyd,” Corley said.

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

“Get it to have errors, errors, somebody,” said Corley.

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

Arthur Corley, at left, is trying to get the lettering on Samuel Boyd Jr’s tombstone changed from “Airborne” to “Airborne, the end they both served in, in Vietnam.”
Education in Elizabeth: A study in politics

Investigation finds school board pressures workers to fill campaign coffers

By Ted Sherman

Patrick Galante, a teacher who retired from the Elizabeth public school system, said only one thing about his job ever excited him: the school board.

Through e-mails and political maneuvers, the board made sure that the teachers' salaries were at the top of the state. But Galante was known for another reason: he was a pillar of the city board of education, sitting for many years. He was always careful about sending them letters, attending events, and helping them with their work. At times, it seemed as if he was bordering on conflict of interest.

But in one case, the board went too far. In 2015, a new superintendent was hired. He brought with him a new set of policies, including a requirement for teachers to attend board meetings and participate in board decisions.

Galante was not happy about this. He threatened to quit但如果板委继续有这种行为, he would do whatever it took to stop them. In the end, he did leave the school system, but not before making sure he was remembered as a hero in the community.

In the meantime, the board continued to push for more. They held special meetings, sent e-mails to teachers, and even threatened to fire anyone who didn't comply. But the teachers stood their ground. They knew what was right, and they weren't going to let the board push them around.

Ted Sherman
A new threat to long-sought river cleanup

By SCOTT FALLON
Staff Writer

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

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

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

Staff
Deadly Decisions

Struggling to Understand
Inside the Manasquan suicide outbreak

There was a connection with them. One triggered off another.

Shannon P. Mullen

First Place, Daily Over 45,000
Asbury Park Press
"Struggling to Understand"

Lloyd P. Burns Memorial Award
D2: Responsible Journalism - Editorial Comment
Don’t discourage public comment

Let’s remember why public comment periods are part of government meetings. We want the public to feel confident that it can ask questions, offer opinions and hold leaders accountable. We often complain in this space that more residents don’t attend their local and county meetings to take part in this process. It’s for these reasons that we are concerned about this week’s exchange between Bridgeton City Council President Bill Spencer and former councilman Nick Salvatore.

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

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

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

Big mistake.

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

Just ask members of Millville City Commission. They are taken to task at their meetings.

The citizen watchdog group Millville First was formed out of frustration with how the commission ran the city. We haven’t heard any reports of commissioners trying to stifle the criticism at meetings. Commissioners do their best to answer all questions, listen to criticism and maintain a professional tone.

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

Clearly, what happened Tuesday night has its roots in the last election. Spencer and Salvatore, who originally ran together on James Regley’s slate in 2005, found themselves on opposite sides in the 2010 race. All of that is history, however, and should not factor into how either side treats the other today.

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

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

Matt Gray
Human nature, but still no excuse

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

All big organizations — whether big universities, Fortune 500 companies, successful sports teams, or church dioceses — are “created equal.” If you will. That is, they’re all composed of the same elements: People. Human beings, with all their strengths and, sadly, with all their weaknesses.

And the bigger they are, the easier it is to see them fall.

Wednesday night, in a startling 10 p.m. news conference following several days of allegations of sexual abuse and rumors, the board of trustees at Penn State University announced the immediate dismissal of football coach Joe Paterno and university president Graham Spanier. The decision follows the grand jury indictment of a former assistant coach for alleged sexual abuse of young boys in a case spanning at least 10 years.

Jerry Sandusky — once heir-apparent to the aging Paterno, and someone who still had access to Penn State’s football programs — has been charged with molesting eight boys in 15 years. Some of the alleged abuse occurred at the university’s football facilities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vineland is under attack.

The measures that resulted from one of the most
formidable partnerships in the state's recent history
are now on the Brink of elimination.

We wish that were hyperbole. But, sadly, it isn't. A series of
money-wasting initiatives—
from Gov. Christie's
administration, the state,
and school districts—have
risen to the point where
Viceland at the epicenter
is on a path to destruction.

This is a comprehensive plan
that will be made in Vineland over the next few weeks.

It's time for the people of Vineland and their neighbors
to stand up and tell Gov. Christie he's gone too far.

And now is the time to
begin the new battle
for a better Vineland.

Going for her

There are those in high places where Christie is trying
to cut too deeply into the institutions that are
so critical to Vineland's economic
evolution:

- Eliminating the new
  benefits of the state's Urban
  Enterprise Zone program
  is causing a loss of businesses
  and jobs in Vineland.
- Taking away $30 million in
  dollars from Vineland
  through the state's Urban
  Enterprise Zone (UEZ)
  program is causing
  considerable harm.
- Giving the Vineland
  Developmental Center
  more than 2,000 people
  a day.
- Revising the city's
  budget and reducing
  the funding available
  for the UEZ.
- Cutting funding for
  Vineland's health
  care.
- Cutting funding for
  Vineland's education.

Before we discuss the
detailed implications of these
changes, let's consider the
wider implications:

Christie's economic policies
are failing.

Worse, his actions are
causing an economic downturn.

Christie is not only
failing economically,
but he is failing
generally.

Christie is playing a
game of politics with our
future.

The people of Vineland
are feeling the
effects of his actions.

The UEZ program is
failing to attract businesses
and has not been
successful in attracting
new jobs.

But what we can't forget
is that Christie's actions are
failing not only economically,
but also politically.

Christie's actions are
damaging the
economic
future of Vineland.

If Christie continues
this path, Vineland's
community will suffer.

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

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

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

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

But even if Mohammed had represented Gitmo detainees, so what? This is America, and even suspected enemy combatants deserve some representation. The presumption of innocence is the foundation of our system of jurisprudence.

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

Mohammed has been the target of Internet-based rumors about his affiliation with radical Muslims, with some going so far as to say his appointment to the bench would be the first step toward introducing Muslim sharia law to New Jersey.

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

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

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

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

Dems or Reps, blue collar or blue blood, nearly all eventually succumb to the temptation to rise above traffic jams in a state police chopper. Christie Whitman criticized Jim Florio for doing it — and then did it herself. Jim McGreevey, having at one point logged more miles in a week than weeks in office, was shown on TV getting Dems to reimburse the state for his most egregious trips.

Indeed, we might doubt the Garden State Board of Directors of a chief executive who could ignore the propellor’s siren song. Could anyone who has ever waited part of his life in a traffic jam have come to the state for his most egregious trips?

Sure enough, one of the few who avoided the trap was Jim Corzine — an Illinois native. And he had his own aircraft as well as a 95-m.p.h. highway crash that conversely illustrated the benefits of gubernatorial air travel.

So now that Christie has joined this long line, can we really blame him? No. Neither he nor any other governor should be using state police helicopters for personal or political business, and Christie’s defense this week was a particularly offensive excuse thereof. A $12.5 million copter whisked Christie and his wife from Trenton to the North Jersey prep school where their son was playing in a baseball game Tuesday. After they disembarked in a nearby football field, a car reportedly drove them the remaining hundred yards to the diamond.

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

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

And of course, this being Christie, he only aggravated matters with his arrogant and dismissive initial response. Directly contradicting the facts at hand, a spokesman asserted that the governor’s “air travel has been extremely limited and appropriate” and that the governor would not reimburse the state.

Later, he reluctantly agreed to pay for two recent trips “to ensure that this is not a distraction.”

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

Josh Gohlke

Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Philadelphia Inquirer

"Forget Traffic Jams"
"Like an Addict"
"Weedman...Reefer Madness"
Bench yourself
Justice Rivera-Soto should resign

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

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

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

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

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

Rivera-Soto said he would not render decisions unless Rabner’s replacement justice was on the bench. Then he changed his mind and said he would render judgment selectively. Put in laymen’s terms, a well-paid state employee has announced he will work only when he feels like working. If that well-paid public employee was a school administrator, Christie would not only have showed him the door, he would have closed it rather quickly on his lunchbox.

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

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

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

First Place, Daily Over 45,000

“The Record” (Bergen County)

“Bench Yourself”
“Clock Is Ticking”
“Wayne Madness”

Alfred P. Doblin
Better Newspaper Contest 2011

D3: Responsible Journalism - Enterprise

NJPA Awards
Once-promising charter schools go off course

By Carmen Cusido

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

Yet somehow things went terribly wrong at Capital Prep. The Grand Street school accumulated a large deficit, hired a certified business administrator and was spending taxpayer dollars in ways that had little educational value, the DOE later found.

The school spent $40,000 on hotel fees for a staff retreat to Atlantic City, $1,800 on a year-end staff party at Katzman’s restaurant, and $3,000 on Savior lawn and campus landscaping. Visiting DOE staff also found “a weak educational program, lacking rigor and not meeting the goals set forth in the school’s charter,” a spokesman said.

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

It wasn’t the first charter school failure in New Jersey, or in Trenton. Thirty charter schools have seen their licenses revoked, denied or surrendered since the much vaunted alternative education program began more than a decade ago. This year both Capital Prep and Trenton Community Charter were targeted for closure by the DOE.

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

A PRO-CHARTER AGENDA
The streams of charter failures

“Once-Promising Charter Schools Go Off Course”

“Charter Schools at the Fulcrum of an Ideological Divide”

Carmen Cusido
D8: Responsible Journalism - Enterprise

Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

Daily Record

Saving Spaces Series:
“Trail Blazer”
“Making People’s Lives Better”
“Open Space Oasis”
“Legal Scribe”

Lorraine Ash
D8: Responsible Journalism - Enterprise

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

Gloucester County Times

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

Rob Scott

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

Reverend Rob Scott followed the Ayliner family and their autistic daughters in Clayton for four months and spoke with educators and doctors about what they’re doing to treat and research autism.

This is the first part of a four-part series. The series continues in the Times the next three Sundays.

Rob Scott
For disabled adults, smaller may be better

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

The Record (Bergen County)

“Crucial Care at a Crossroads”

Harvy Lipman

Third Place, Daily Over 45,000
“WORSE STILL. THERE’S A NEW KIND OF KILLER ON THE STREET. Young men in their teens and early 20s, with no regard for life, not even their own, carrying weapons so powerful they can’t control the guns as they buck and jump in their hands. The number of innocent victims — mothers and children caught in crossfire — is what chills the community.”

MARK DI IONNO, WITH THE HOMICIDE SQUAD

THE KILLING CYCLE
THE INSIDE STORY OF THE ESSEX HOMICIDE SQUAD

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

D8: Responsible Journalism - Enterprise

Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Star-Ledger

“The Killing Cycle”

Mark Di Iomno
CRACKS IN THE EMPIRE

Trusted company faces recalls, plant shutdown and court verdicts

How did the pharmaceuticals giant stumble so fast?

By Michael L. Diamond

Johnson & Johnson, the giant studied for American corporations, has faced a series of trials recently that have shaken the foundation of its business philosophy. But even more than that, it has shattered the once untouchable image of a company that had been a paragon of excellence.

The company, which has a long history of producing innovative and effective drugs, has found itself embroiled in a series of scandals that have raised questions about its ethics and governance.

In recent years, the company has faced lawsuits related to its marketing of the popular pain medication, OxyContin, which has been linked to the opioid crisis. Additionally, the company has been criticized for its handling of a recent recall of its heart valve replacement device, which led to the death of a patient.

Asbury Park Press

“Cracks in the Empire – Inside J&J”

Michael L. Diamond
D4: Responsible Journalism - First Amendment - Art Weissman Memorial Award


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

Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Daily Journal

“Inspector Alleges City Hall Ordered Probe Shut Down”

Kristi Funderburk

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Inspector alleges City Hall ordered probe shut down

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

— Rick Brucella, code enforcement officer, in a Feb. 17, 2006, Vineyard zoning officer case history report to Moe’s Auto Sales

Mayor, other officials say they didn’t interfere

That’s when zoning code enforcement officer Rick Brucella is determined it violated too many rules. But he knew pressure on the business to shut it down was intense and the investigation would take up too much time.

The news is not as black and white as the facts. As per Mayor (Robert) Romano, my director Kevin Korschner, the Zoning Officer Pat Finley and my super Bob Adams, I was told to make this complaint go away. Brucella wrote in the Feb. 17, 2006, report. I totally disagree with this process but you can’t fight City Hall. As per this date nothing has been done to this property yet and the amount of vehicles on this property exceed his site plan by a lot.

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

In interviews last week, all four city officials named in the report said they never told Brucella to make the complaint “go away” and said they didn’t knew why the inspector made such an allegation.

Robert Romano, who has recently transferred to the city’s health department, declined to comment on the matter.

Even Mayor Romano admits he continues to have concerns on his property plan for City Hall.
A PAC contribution, a city contract and an advocacy group

By Alex Zdan

TRENTON — After months of denial that any financial connection existed between Mayor Tony Mack’s campaign last year and a South Jersey law practice that was awarded a lucrative city contract, finance reports obtained by The Times last week show the well-connected firm donated thousands to a political action committee which sent an identical amount to Mack.

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

The city of Philadelphia and the state’s pay-to-play laws are similar to New Jersey’s ordinance, though the city’s is not as strict. According to the city’s code, there is no need to disclose the donor as long as the firm has not paid for any legal services or contracts in the last 12 months. A financial report shows that Cooper Levenson did not have any contracts with the city.

The City of Trenton code requires that any contributions to a political action committee (PAC) must be disclosed. The PAC in question is the Citizens’ Campaign, which received a $7,200 contribution from Cooper Levenson.

Marc McKelwen, the city’s acting law director, said he couldn’t evaluate the contract’s legality over the phone when reached for comment Friday evening. “I can render an opinion with the facts in front of me,” McKelwen said. On June 4, Cooper Levenson gave $7,200 to Partners for Progress, a Trenton-based political action committee (PAC), according to campaign finance records obtained by The Times.

On June 7, the same amount was sitting in Mack’s war chest thanks to a donation from that PAC, the mayor’s campaign.

"A PAC Contribution, a City Contract and an Advocacy Group"
"Atlantic City Party Yielded a Jackpot for Mack Campaign"
"City Council, Mack Struggle with Law Firm’s Aligned"
"Additional Trenton Politicians Linked to PAC"
"Law Firm Pulls Out"
WATCHDOG REPORT:
CRDA lending

Political pressure led CRDA into costly loan

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

By EMILY PREVITI
Staff Writer

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

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

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

See CRDA, A7

Findings

- The CRDA agreed to loan $4 million to the state Department of Community Affairs despite staff misgivings and without standard lender protections. Most of the loan had to be written off.
- CRDA and DCA staff were not informed of the loan funds and the money was used to purchase and redevelop Oakwood Plaza Apartments in Union County but not presented as if the money were intended to benefit multiple affordable housing projects.
- The CRDA was pressured by the Corzine administration to approve the loan, which benefitted a Democratic Party contributor and adviser to the administration.

The Press of Atlantic City

“CRDA Lending”
“Political Pressure Led CRDA into Costly Loan”

Emily Previti
Mayor and aides got OT for Irene

Paterson paid four $20,000 after storm

By NICK CLUNN and RICHARD COVEN

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

The city recently issued a total of 407 overtime checks for police officers, firefighters and other city employees who were asked to work during the storm. Mayor Jeffery Jones said on Thursday.

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

Three other employees are Jones’ chief of staff, Charles Pettiford, who received $4,446; Business Administrator Charles Thomas, who received $3,620; and former Technology Director Kenneth Sumner, who received $2,900, the records state.

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

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

“I’m not saying I do or don’t deserve it. I have to find out,” Jones said.

Jones receives an annual salary of $119,001.

Pettiford receives $105,000, and Thomas gets $80,000.

See OVERTIME Page A-8

Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Record (Bergen County)

“Paterson Hurricane Irene Overtime Scandal”

Nick Clunn

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

First Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Star-Ledger

“IT STILL STINKS”

“Christie to Sewer Bosses: Get Out”

“4 Sewer Officials”

“2 More PVSC Members”

“PVSC a Rich Source”

“Pay Cuts, New Code of Ethics”

“AG’s Office Charges 3”

“PVSC Fires Five More”

“Six More Terminated”

“Governor Fires Dozens”

Ted Sherman
D5: Reporting and Writing - Breaking News
Most structures appear to shake it off

By Carly G. Ramazani and Jessica Driscoll

Most structures appear to shake it off. Nerves, buildings take a hit.

Reactions: A Scary, Odd Occurrence

By Bob Lewis

“Most Structures Appear to Shake It Off”

“Reaction: A Scary, Odd Occurrence”

“The Earthquake from the Newsroom’s Perspective”

“City Looking Hard at Damaged Green Building”

Staff
Irene’s aftermath

Swiftwater rescue team helps with evacuations

Many still without power

Hurricane floods new for some, ugly reminder for others

Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

Burlington County Times

“Irene’s Aftermath” “Hurricane Irene”
“Floods” “The Big Cleanup”
“Hurricane Leaves Mark”
“Hurricane Irene Aftermath”
“Medical Facilities” “Safety Advice”
“County Continues to Recover”
“Irene Is a Factor”

Staff

NJPA
New Jersey Press Association
5 die in fiery plane crash that stuns Morris County

‘Debris came down everywhere. It was very scary.’

By Albert Kulcik
Daily Record

“Five Die in Fiery Plane Crash”
“Family in Crash”
“Highway to be Open”
“Statement by Greenhill”
“How NTSB Investigates”

Staff
Lakewood officer fatally shot

By CHARLES WEBSTER

LAKESWOOD — A massive manhunt is underway in summer for a man who shot and killed a police officer Saturday morning.

The suspect was last seen in the area of Joe Parker Road in Lakewood, police said.

The victim, identified as a male in his 20s, was found dead at the scene of the shooting. Police said he was shot in the head.

The shooting took place around 10 a.m. at Joe Parker Road and Ocean Boulevard.

Law enforcement officials from multiple agencies are responding to the scene.

Police are asking anyone with information to call 911.

*Updated* 10:15 a.m.: The suspect is still at large and the manhunt continues.

*Updated* 10:30 a.m.: The suspect has been arrested and is in custody.

*Updated* 11:00 a.m.: The victim has been identified as Patrolman Christopher Mathosz, 27.

*Updated* 11:30 a.m.: The suspect was shot and killed by police during a confrontation.

*Updated* 12:00 p.m.: The Lakewood Police Department has released a statement confirming the officer's death.

*Updated* 12:30 p.m.: The suspect's name has been released as Paul Miller, 24.

*Updated* 1:00 p.m.: The investigation is ongoing and no suspects are being held.

*Updated* 1:30 p.m.: The area around Joe Parker Road and Ocean Boulevard has been cleared and the manhunt is over.

*Updated* 2:00 p.m.: The victim's family has been notified and is being assisted by investigators.

*Updated* 2:30 p.m.: The suspect's motive is unknown and the investigation continues.

*Updated* 3:00 p.m.: The suspect had a history of mental health issues.

*Updated* 3:30 p.m.: The officer's family has asked for privacy.

*Updated* 4:00 p.m.: The suspect had a history of gun offenses.

*Updated* 4:30 p.m.: The suspect's father has released a statement expressing his shock and grief.

*Updated* 5:00 p.m.: The suspect's mother has also released a statement expressing her shock and grief.

*Updated* 5:30 p.m.: The officer's family has released a statement expressing their gratitude for the support.

“Lakewood Officer Fatally Shot”

“Massive Manhunt in Cop’s ‘Execution’”

“Englishtown Mourns Loss of ‘Brother’”

Charles Webster

Joseph Sapia
Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

**Courier-Post**

“Responders Cope with Blazing Heat”
“Fire Destroys Warehouse, Ten Houses in Camden”
“Residents’ Home Now Just a Pile of Rubble”
“City Warehouse Owner Is Delinquent on Taxes”
“Union: More Staff Could Have Helped Contain Fire”
Boonton slaying leaves pair's family asking 'Why?'

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

"Boonton Slaying Leaves Pair’s Family Asking ‘Why?’"

"An Assimilated Town United in Disbelief"

"Wife’s ‘Death Reveals Husband’s Half-Truths”

The Star-Ledger

Staff
D6: Reporting and Writing - News Writing Portfolio
Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

Daily Record

“Is Genomics Holy Grail?”
“Foreclosures Slow Pace”
“Reductions Limit Access”

Lorraine Ash
Magazzu wants nude photos off website

By JOSEPH P. SMITH
Staff Writer

MILLVILLE — One of Cumberland County’s most influential politicians, Louis N. Magazzu, is behind a website posting embarrassing photos and videos of public figures.

MAGAZZU — A website posting embarrassing photos and videos of public figures.

JOSEPH P. SMITH

“Magazzu Wants Nude Photos Off Website”
“Officials: Vineland Cop’s Lie Destroys 39 Cases”
“Soldier Rescues Cat from Afghanistan”

Joseph P. Smith
A child’s rare talent

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Express-Times

“A Child’s Rare Talent: Armless Boy Learns to Play Guitar”

“District Boss Accused of ‘Bullying’”

“Dad: ‘He’s Going to Be Missed’”

Sarah Wojcik
Leadership at a price

Some seek cost controls for college presidents

By JEREMY ROSEN
Courier-Post

Most presidents of state and tri-county public colleges haven’t received raises over the past four years, according to a Courier-Post analysis of contracts, amendments, and continuing employment agreements. But lawmakers and taxpayer advocates think that’s insignificant given the high values of presidents’ salaries, benefits, and bonuses.

"Leadership at a Price"
"Test Flight Fails to Ease Fears"
"Road to Red Ink 295"

Jeremy Rosen
CHOICE IN EDUCATION

The charter challenge

Schools fight for their place in public school system

By DIANE D’AMICO

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

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

After years of lukewarm state support, Gov. Chris Christie promised more charter-school flexibility in how they are run and more accountability for results. This month, acting Education Commissioner Christopher Cerf announced an increase in staffing for the Charter School Office from five to 14 people and placed two schools in Jersey City and Toms River on probation. A recent 23 new schools were approved in January to open in September, another round of applications is due March 31.

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

The New Jersey Charter School Law of 1997 promised greater flexibility in academic innovation at a lower cost. Run by private boards of trustees and authorized by the state Department of Education, charter schools receive 90 percent of the per-student cost in the school district where they are housed.

This year, public school districts are contributing almost $320 million toward charter school operations, including $185.5 million in Atlantic County, most from taxpayers in Atlantic City. Pleasantville, Galloway Township and Egg Harbor Township.

Students attend for free, a message telling clear to parents, “People still fight how much.”

Diane D’Amico

NJPA
Edison firing raises hopes, questions
Ex-business administrator placed on transition team

By BOB MAKIN
STAFF WRITER

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

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

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

— Edison Mayor Antonia Ricigliano

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

See Edison, Page A3
D7: Reporting and Writing - Environmental Writing
Portfolio
Precious Resources in Conflict

A rift over ‘fracking’ muddies the river

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

By Matt Fair

Across western and northern Pennsylvania, drilling rigs have sprung up like a forest of saplings over the last five years as energy companies seek out pockets of natural gas hidden deep beneath the ground in a rock formation known as the Marcellus Shale. They have brought with them a torrent of criticism from environmental groups, who worry that the method used to drill the wells, known as hydraulic fracturing or “fracking,” can lead to increased salt and rivers becoming contaminated by discarded drilling fluids. Some critics say the problem is creeping into the Delaware River Basin, from which water is used to supply towns along the western edge of Mercer County.

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

Matt Fair
Let the sunshine in

SUN AT WORK

SUN AT WORK

To learn more ...
- East Coast Alternative Energy, 973-305-5144; www.eastcoastalternativeenergy.com
- solarpowerenergyhome.net
- Database of State incentives for Renewables and Efficiency, www.odep.energy.gov/isection/index.cfm
- New Jersey Renewable Energy Incentive Program, 973-414-0900

Solar panels keep Sparta couple in eco-friendly mode

By STEVEN REILLY
scr@nj.com

SPARSA — When Sparta resident Ron Board was flying during his time in the Navy, he was always aware of the impact that his actions had on the environment. He credits his experience in the military with instilling a strong environmental ethic in him.

"I remember flying over mountains and seeing the impact of our actions on the land," Board said. "It was a humbling experience, and I knew that I wanted to use my skills to make a positive impact on the planet." Board recently installed a renewable energy system in his Lake Mohawk home, and he shares his story in this article.

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

New Jersey Herald

Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

“Solar Panels Keep Sparta Couple in Eco-Friendly Mode”

“Christie Dumps ‘Green’ Program”

“Pipeline Hearing Wednesday Meeting Will Focus on High Point Plan”

Steven Reilly
**Croak of the Wild**

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

By PEG QUANN

RASS RIVER — The night is soft and misty. The moist air carries the music of male frogs looking for mates. In the deep, dark woodlands near Bass River State Forest, volunteer Steve Mattan listens intently for the "ribbiting" love songs.

At one of Mattan’s spots, next to a lake, wood frogs belt out their rhythm.

Sometimes the males even join in a chorus, creating a chorus. Hopeful, Mattan’s vocal skills will trick a female into thinking she’s meeting another one.

"It will sound like our loud guy," Mattan explains. It’s March — when New Jersey’s 16 native species of frogs and toads start to make their calls. Like crown roosters, the male members of the frog family do all the croaking.

The females are quieter, and that’s the croaking. They’re conserving their strength to lay the thousands of eggs they will deposit in or near lakes and streams. Eventually, the eggs that make it to the water will grow into tadpoles before morphing into adult frogs.

Check out our online video at www.burlingtoncountytimes.com

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**First Place, Daily Under 45,000**

**Burlington County Times**

“Croak of the Wild”

“AJourney into a Bug’s Life”

“Wanted: Acorns for Mighty Oaks”

Peg Quann
Polluters rewriting rules for site cleanup

State says it invited environmentalists

By JAMES M. O'NEILL
STAFF WRITER

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

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

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

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

David Sweeney, the DEP's assistant commissioner for site remediation, said the DEP

See DEP Page A-6

Third Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Record (Bergen County)

"Polluters Rewriting Rules for Site Cleanup"

"Undersea Mission"

"Molasses Used in Cleanup of Polluted Sites"

James O'Neill
Radioactive waste leaking into U.S. ground water

Major spills from nuclear plants increased in recent years

Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

Asbury Park Press

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

“Ailments Afflict 9/11 Responders”

“Nor’easter Exceeds Irene”

Todd B. Bates
"A New Threat to Long-Sought River Cleanup"

"Drug Disposal Can Be Tricky"

"DEP Let Poison Flow for Decades"

Scott Fallon
D8: Reporting and Writing - Feature – Lifestyle and Entertainment Writing Portfolio
Share the land

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE provides stability for farmers, variety for shareholders.

FIND YOUR CSA

Reinventing the CSA

FARMERS LOOK BEYOND THE OBVIOUS AS A MAKEOVER FROM THE FARM TO THE FOLK

The Express-Times

“Share the Land: Community Supported Agriculture”

“Vietnam Project
‘Took My Breath Away’”

“One More Beat”

Kelly Huth
Ripple sought in hotel’s revival

BOROUGH HOPES UNION HOTEL’s redevelopment will bring new life to downtown Flemington. The rooms upstairs – where journalists and well-to-do stayed in 1983 while the Lindbergh kidnapping trial across the street made the borough known worldwide – were last used at least two decades ago. They’re congested by hallways of flaked and falling paint.

Joe LaPiccola just stepped on what felt like a rafter. The floor gave slightly, and a piece of white powder to keep rodents away swirled in the air. And past an anachronistic cash register, up the narrow stairs, a crack.

LePiccolo hardly notices. “I’ve seen worse,” he said, tapping his toe on the floor to see the floor story, 85,000-square-foot hotel is sound enough to have a future.

LePiccola, 40, of Bedington Township, is part of a three-man team picked Monday by borough council to redevelop the hotel, which was built in 1914, closed in 2008 and is counted among the National Register of Historic Places. He’s redeveloped similar buildings in Manhattan and Jersey City.

Joining him are two borough men who didn’t even know each other until a few months ago, when LePiccola got them together: Matt McFerron, 33, who lives within a block of the hotel and owns and runs the popular Red Rooster Grill around the corner, and Frank Basich, a well-known community planner making his first foray into

“I See Flemington, NY”

“Ripple Sought in Hotel’s Revival”

“Answering the Call”

“Teen Must Keep Head Out of Game”

Douglas B. Brill
Locally grown — organic, too

Warren farm one of first in state

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

Daily Record

“Locally Grown”
“Morristown Dirt”
“Recovery Revolution”

Meghan Van Dyk
Third Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Record (Bergen County)

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

Lindy Washburn
Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Philadelphia Inquirer

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

Amy S. Rosenberg
Living homeless and on the edge

LAKewood CALLS IT AN ILLEGAL “TENT CITY.”

The minister who oversees it calls it “a living demonstration” of the need for a homeless shelter in Ocean County.

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

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

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

First Place, Daily Over 45,000

Asbury Park Press

“Living Homeless and on the Edge”

“Tent City Residents Given Eviction Notice”

“Struggling to Understand”

Shannon P. Mullen
D9: Reporting and Writing - Sports Writing Portfolio
Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

Courier News

“Coach Juggling Team...”

“Future Phenom”

“Social Anxiety”

By JERRY CARINO

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

BOYS BASKETBALL

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

Diaper changes? Check.

Feeding? Check.

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

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

"It's 100 percent advantages," said Grundy, who is in his sixth year at the Cougars' helm. "It's tough — I'm not going to lie. Luckily, for Megan and I our families have been great, really providing support. They know how passionate I am about basketball and teaching, I get home and it will be time

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

Hooker considered resigning after last season but it took his wife, Maureen, to bring him out of it.

"She said, 'You love it so much, you have to stay with it,'" Hooker exhaled. "And I really appreciate it. Maureen is very supportive of me doing what I have to do. She understands the late nights."

Hooker understood when Kris was asked to his laptop in the hospital room three days after the boys were born.

"It was listening to the state tournament broadcast of the Cougars' game against rival Hillsborough."

When Montgomery lost the most excruciating way possible, squandering a 30-point fourth-quarter lead, Grundy reflected on something Linden coach Phil Collica had said him the week before.

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

It made perfect sense.

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

Of course the competitive juices didn't disappear. Grundy returned the following week and has the Cougars at 3-1 with the state tournament looming. The twins are doing well, with plush basketballs in their crib.

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

The gift-givers were all thinking the same thing: This is a future backcourt.

"It's a basketball family," Grundy said. "Now I've got to work on the frontcourt!"
"Larger than Life Career for M’ville Grad"

"Crunchin’ and Punchin’"

"What’s on Deck?"

Josh Friedman
These Iron Pigs take aim at this hobby

"These Iron Pigs Take Aim at Hobby"

"Every Day Is a New Day for ESU Coach"

"Towson: Don’t Blame Us for Mess"

Michael LoRé
Phils will never forget trip that changed them

By RANDY MILLER
Courier-Post Staff

The view outside the window of a speeding jet was chilling.
Jimmy Rollins kept looking for normalcy.
There were blue skies and puffy white clouds high in the sky, buildings and homes and moving cars looking like little dots way down below.
Rollins barely noticed.
On the day the Phillies finally made it back to Philadelphia following 9/11 after being stranded in Atlanta and Cincinnati for three days, what Rollins remembers most about the character flight home is what he didn’t see.
There were no other airplanes in the sky.
This really got to Rollins, the Phillies’ star rookie shortstop in 2001 and their only player still around 10 years later.
Riding home, Rollins tried imagining the final See Trip, Page 12E

Courier-Post

“Phils Will Never Forget Trip that Changed Them’’

“Sniders’s Youth Influenced His Hall of Fame Path in Life”

“Public Enemy No. 1”

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

By KEVIN CALLAHAN
Courier post staff

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

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

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

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

After a smile and a nod from the 24-year-old, Briggs asks Miranda with the softness of sunlight to "find yourself in the middle of the saddle, let Ricky move for you.”

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

“All she could do was wag her feet for ‘yes’ or ‘no,’” says Mary Donohoo, who has her eyes as she recalls the first year her daughter was hospitalized.

See THERAPY, Page 6A
Easing the pain for ex-pro athletes

North Jersey doctors healing, helping

BY JEFF ROBERTS

They had all this glory before and the only thing they’re left with is the tragedy of the burdens that made them great in the game," Dr. William Recklies, M.D., medical director of P.A.S.T.

"They were all the stars - they were all the big deals," said Dr. Recklies.

Doctors and athletes - even those at the prestigious MLTA Medical Center - would not operate on the former All-Pro until his condition was so dire that surgery itself could jeopardize him, doctors said.

"I’ve never seen anyone with this type of MRI who’s been able to walk," said Dr. Arash Esmaili, one of the orthopedic spine surgeons who performed the operation. "Any more progress and we would have been in trouble.""
D10: Reporting and Writing - Scholastic Sports Portfolio
Fitting In While Standing Out

Exchange students use sports to learn more than just language

By Jane Havsy

When Noomhara Labee signed up for Morrisstown sportscast this spring, her first question was, “What is softball?”

As an exchange student from Thailand, she’d never seen a softball game but she wanted to be part of a team, and she was willing to learn. Labee had already joined the Morrisstown cheer team and looked for the high school during the winter, making fast friends while improving her English. Softball was no different.

“The first day, I didn’t know what they were talking about,” said Labee, a 16-year-old from Hat Yai, near the Malaysian border. “I got to learn a lot of vocabulary. I just asked, ‘What is that? I don’t understand.’ I went to try some things before I go back. When I have to do new stuff, I know people and I know how to talk to them. I know how to get along really well with them.”

Labee found her way to right field for the Colonials, slowly figuring out how to catch a fly ball and throw it back to the cutoff player. She bunted in with the junior varsity softball team and just like she had in the classroom at Morrisstown, one of almost 20,500 international students who attended American high schools last year.

“I always wanted to go away for a year. I wanted to go to another country, but I didn’t know which one,” said Lina Koch, a native from Germany who helped break Mount Olive records in the 4x400 and 4x800. “I’ve always been to different countries I would like to go, and I got a scholarship for America.”

New school, new rules

The vast majority of the international students in the United States—nearly 6,000—are from Germany, according to the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel. However, the school system—and, in some cases, even the day—is very different.

Koch has to adjust to Mount Olive’s block scheduling, complete with a daily one-hour lunch period. At home in Dortmund, she would be back about 30 minutes for lunch squeezed into the middle of a much longer school day, sometimes with 12 or 14 periods extending to 7 or 8

See FITTING, Page 83

German exchange student Lina Koch runs for Mount Olive at the Morris County Relay Championships. (FOR JOURNALIST PHOTOGRAPHERS)
Braves, ’Maids will square off for good cause

By Scott Chappelear

Girls basketball fans have gotten several opportunities in recent years to help area high school teams raise money for cancer research. But they can take it one step farther and help in a big way for Wawa’s second annual Cancer Awareness Game.

The Gloucester County Times — now known as The Sun — is the beneficiary of the game, which is being held at the school. It’s free for fans to attend, and they’ll be able to help raise money for a good cause.

“Braves, ’Maids Will Square Off”

“Glou Cath Baseball Had Special Inspiration”

“Kingsway’s Pentz an Inspiration to Team”

Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

Gloucester County Times

“Braves, ’Maids Will Square Off’”

“Glou Cath Baseball Had Special Inspiration”

“Kingsway’s Pentz an Inspiration to Team”

Scott Chappelear
Not running away

By PATRICK BUGANSKI
Staff Writer

Bridgeton’s Kassandra Izaryarry excelled in track less than a year after giving birth to a daughter. Izaryarry, her 11-month-old daughter, Aniyah. Izaryarry’s motivation to push through a tough workout on a hot day. What keeps “lazy” running through a hump or sore legs is the very person who last spring kept her away from the sport she loves—her 11-month-old daughter, Aniyah.

“She’s a beautiful baby,” Izaryarry said. “She loves laughing, she likes to play. She wants all the attention.” But giving an infant the attention she commands is tough on anyone, let alone a high school student. For a student-athlete who isn’t just participating but excelling, it’s nearly unheard of.

“She might be the first athlete to do it, to my knowledge,” Bridgeton head coach Cyndi Wilks said. “I remember some athletes, but not coming back to the success she’s had. From my memory, from my time (in school to now), I have not seen...
Third Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Record (Bergen County)

“A Tragic Ending to a Troubled Life”

“Hazing Turned Athlete into a ‘Different Person’”

“Byrne Was the Best of the 70’s by a Mile”

Jeff Roberts
A similar situation ... minus the fumble

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

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

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

This is not Wayne Hills, where half a town seems to have cracked its moral compasses over a football game. This is Matawan, about an hour down the Parkway, where school officials have handled a discipline problem on their football team with no such fuss.

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

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

What happened next made this story national news. The

See Politi, Page 48

Steve Politi

The Star-Ledger

“A Similar Situation... Minus the Fumble”
“Restoring Newark’s Promise”
“Crowning Moment for Hurley”

Steve Politi

Second Place, Daily Over 45,000
The fire nearly killed her. The recovery nearly broke her.
But in seven agonizing months, a determined high school soccer star
willed her way back onto the playing field. This is her story...

**ERYKA’S FIGHT**

| Story by Matthew Stanmyre | Photos by Tony Kurdzuk |

Though Howard Community College in Columbia,
Md., three down bobbing penalties b url across Field No.
1. They are stretching, chattering and clapping as
they prepare for another game in another soccer tour-
ament over another Memorial Day weekend.

In the anxious moments before the visitors from New Jersey
take on a team from Frederick, Md., the teens ag girls are sti-
ing up each other.

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

She looks more like a wounded soldier than one of New Jer-
sy’s best young athletes.

As Eryka Underwood, the 16-year-old defender, runs in the ear-
ly morning light she knows she will have to get used to the stores.

The third-degree burns that nearly killed her 206 days ago have left their mark On her and others.

Some of the damage, though, is as yet visible. Today she shows burns and the other marks from the fire’s ser-
sities of the human body, which in seven months can be pushed from near-death to elite athletic com-
petition. Eryka will not dwell on the other girls — vinfer, unscarred and beautiful in a different way than she now sees herself. She will not think about the nipped knee ligament that ended her dominant sopho-
more season at Arthur J. Johnson High School in Clark, or the backyard fire that lit her life on.

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First Place, Daily Over 45,000

**The Star-Ledger**

“Eryka’s Fight”

“Last Push to Greatness”

“Hoops ‘Schools’ Stretching the Learning Curve”

Matthew Stanmyre
D11: Reporting and Writing - Business and Financial Writing Portfolio
Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

Gloucester County Times

“Can the Green Be the Queen”

“On the Road to Recovery”

“County Interrupted”

Rob Scott

Can the Green Be the Queen

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

By Rob Scott

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

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

By Peg Quann

Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

Burlington County Times

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

Peg Quann
UEZ loans pay off for Vineland

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

Since 1986, Vineland has issued $154 million in loans and only lost $4.9 million of that total because it could not recover that money from the borrowers, despite taking legal action.

Since 1986, Vineidah has issued $154 million in loans and only lost $4.9 million of that total because it could not recover that money from the borrowers, despite taking legal action.

University Imaging Center

Vineland's loan REnOx $3.47 million was issued by the city's Economic Development Office.

In 26 years, 3 percent of loans reached default

By KRISTI FUNDERBURK

VINEYARD - The success and failure of the city's Urban Enterprise Zone loan program can be measured by its delinquency rate.

The report is a snapshot of every borrower who is behind in payments at a given moment, from those working diligently to get current with their payments to those who've entered a legal phase and may never repay their loan.

As of the end of April, the report shows nine borrowers — including the University Imaging Center on Sherman Avenue — that are all behind in their loan payments, but it various stages of delinquency.

Kristi Funderburk

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Daily Journal

“UEZ Loans Pay Off for Vineland”

“Market Offers Tasty Preview”

“Fallout Uncertain If Landis Theater Closes”
Fearing layoff, she jumped too soon

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

By Jane M. Von Bergen

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

“I got to see the strengths of people,” she said. “I had been part of the rehab experience.”

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

“I wasn’t unhappy,” she said, “but I was scared.” So she jumped ship to Haddon Township’s school district and municipality, where she serves as a community activities director, organizing adult, after-school, and community programs.

“I was thinking that school districts are recession-proof,” she said. “When I heard that our district was going to be losing $4 million in state aid, I knew that I would lose my job.

“I found the implant of the frying pan into the fire.”

Another irony: Magee didn’t have more layoffs. Had she stayed, she might have been there. The layoffs at the district did more than put Thieringer out of work. They doused the dreams of her husband, Joe, a medical-supply salesman who had returned to school with the hopes of teaching.

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

Thieringer lost her school district job in August. In October, her husband returned to his old field, landing a job as a medical-supply salesman.

At Magee, Thieringer became convinced of the value of peer-to-peer mentoring. The athletes who participated in her programs appreciated the relationships with the other athletes. They encouraged one another, sharing tips about how to adjust to their new and more difficult lives.

“The beauty of sports is the mentoring experience,” said Thieringer. ”A runner who loves to kayak on the Cooper River near her Haddon Township home. Thieringer now relies on peer mentoring in her job search. She belongs to several groups whose members help one another with encouragement, job leads, and feedback on resumes and interviewing.

“I’ve learned so much from each person’s successes and mistakes,” she said.

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

Contact staff writer Jane M. Von Bergen at 215-845-2768 or jvonbergen@phillipines.com.
Monopoly lost: Atlantic City's rise and fall
Monopoly lost: Struggling Atlantic City
belatedly looks to fix mistakes of past and stem slide

By WAYNE PARRY
Associated Press

¶ ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Four years ago, some Atlantic City casino customers were shelling out $1,000 for a brownie sprinkled with edible gold dust in a Baccarat crystal they could take home.
¶ Nowadays, some wait until 11 p.m. to eat so they can get a steak dinner for $2.99.
¶ At the beginning of 2007, Atlantic City's 11 casinos were at the top of a wave of prosperity. Starting with the 1978 opening of Resorts, the nation's first casino outside Nevada, Atlantic City for years was the only place to play slots, cards, dice or roulette in the eastern half of the United States. The cash kept pouring in, the busloads of visitors kept coming and the revenue charts went one way: straight up.
¶ And then, they didn't. Now, battered by competition from casinos all around it, Atlantic City is in a fight for its very survival.
¶ The resort is furiously trying to remake itself into a vacation destination that happens to have gambling, but with no guarantee it has a winning hand even as other threats loom.
First Place, Daily Over 45,000

Asbury Park Press

“Cracks in the Empire: Inside J & J”

“Is State’s Unemployment Program Too Generous?”

“Company to Pay $9.5M for Bankrupt Steakhouse Chain”

Michael L. Diamond
D12: Reporting and Writing - News Column
“It’s Me — Irene”
“Running with the Big Dogs?”
“Unplugged We’re Just Another Zombie Movie”

James Flachsenhaar
As delays continue, so does suffering

The suffering continues.
It’s remedy? Well, it’s contained in a document signed into law 18 long months ago by then-New Jersey Gov. Jon S. Corzine on his final day in office.
And yet that remedy, officially known as the Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act, remains out of reach, on a high shelf in the office of Gov. Chris Christie, whose repeated delays in implementing the program guarantee more days of sheer agony for the seriously ill constituents he’s sworn to represent.
Since the historic day Corzine put pen to paper, allowing chronically ill patients legal access to marijuana to help dull their pain, the Christie administration has dragged its feet and, in many ways, retreated on the matter.
Christie has tweaked, tinkered and delayed the original law to his liking, to the point where one wonders if his grand plan is to delay it to death. For example, he’s won a battle to reduce the potency of the drug that would be available to those in need and place restraints on obtaining and distributing it.
And the suffering continues.
Five hundred and 55 days after the law was enacted.
And one year after the most stringently regulated medical marijuana program in America was to begin.
Unconscionable.
The governor continues to drag his feet, so much so that he’s just

Burlington County Times

“As Delays Continue, So Does Suffering”
“Where Is the Hatred Coming From?”
“Medford Mayor’s Response Is Curious”

Phil Gianficaro
Discussing prejudice in the Pines

Ash Road was quiet and empty on a Saturday in Bass River, in the Pinelands of South Jersey. The calm belied a jarring event last week, when an 8-foot cross was burned in a nearby field off Route 9, illuminating the night sky.

Three white men were arrested, two from neighboring Tuckerton: Nicholas Comis, 22, of Ash Road, and Christopher Hurrell, 21, of nearby Birch Road. Also charged was Daniel Enders, 21, of the New Gretna section of Bass River.

While investigators have not said who the intended target was, neighborhood residents don’t hesitate.

“Black family, house behind that one,” said a woman on Jericho Road. “Moved in maybe six months ago. I haven’t seen them or talked to them since they been here, but everyone knows they’re here.”

Everyone knows about the cross burning, too, and no one — from Tuckerton to Bass River and points between — is surprised.

“We’re in the South here, and we don’t like Northerners,” said a laughing Carol Carey, a stylist at a hair salon on Route 9. Carey’s Bronx accent is strong, 42 years after she moved here.

“Piners, that’s what they’re called here. You should see the trucks running around here with Confederate flags, all the time,” she said. “We have very few black people down here, very few. When people talk about the ‘white beaches of Long Beach Island,’ that’s exactly what they mean.”

Bass River is 78 square miles of mostly rural woodlands that dissolve into lagoons and the back bays of the Atlantic Ocean.
Getting no answer(s) at Camden tax office

Camden is so dysfunctional that its employees don’t pick up the phone when people call to pay the city money or make improvements.

To check repeated complaints from readers, I made several calls Monday to Camden’s tax collection office at (856) 787-7003. As readers, Realtors and two city tax employees described, calls to the collector’s office can ring forever. No one picks up and there’s no voicemail.

I went to that office on Monday to see why a city stuck on financial life support is pulling such a vital plug.

Inside, I found a line of Camden taxpayers, some struggling to walk, others pushing baby strollers. A city employee stood up from a public seat and returned to a lonesome post behind a pane of glass. This employee fronted empty desks that used to be occupied by several laid-off employees.

I watched from a public seat and introduced myself to the woman next to me. She was South Jersey Realtor Jamillian Gray, of Century 21. Gray described how people should not call this office, which is charged to increase city revenues, decrease tax liens and administer payment plans for residents who can prove a financial hardship.

“There’s no one to pick up. It’s Camden,” she said.

So I took out my cellphone and tried calling the office one more time. Gray and I listened to unanswered rings for longer than a minute. A couple of employees circled behind the glass but didn’t move toward the ringing phone.

Gray chuckled lightly. “See? This is what happens here.”

For Camden residents trying to pay taxes, the city doesn’t have any option other than to come in person — which probably explains the high volume of delinquent property owners who live out of state and haven’t been tracked down. Tax
Coordinate law enforcement

Young toughs are giving a black eye to the Center City experience.

I fell in love with Center City the first time I walked up Walnut Street.

Arriving in Philadelphia from Syracuse, N.Y., where the downtown emptied out after 5, I eagerly embraced my new city's cosmopolitan vitality. Three decades later, I still do.

But lately when I hop on the Speed Line at Westmont and head downtown, an unwelcome guest comes along for the ride.

Fear.

This feels like a confession of uncoolness, or an admission I’ve become comfortably suburban or, worse, hopelessly middle-aged.

Or that I could be set upon by some young creep just because I'm a gray-haired guy standing on a busy sidewalk near Juniper and Walnut, as happened during the late-'90s "Flash mob.

I know very well that Philadelphia has never been safe, and that being there, particularly in the evening, has always required a certain attentiveness.

I remember the mini-riots on Chestnut Street during the 1980s, that crack-crazed decade during which my car was broken into multiple times.

See "Fear on B4"

The Philadelphia Inquirer

"Coordinate Law Enforcement"

"Sadness cover Rutgers’ Webcam Spying Trial"

"With Christie out, No Fear of Voting for Him"

Kevin Riordan

Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

D12: Reporting and Writing - News Column

NJPA - New Jersey Press Association
D12: Reporting and Writing - News Column

First Place, Daily Over 45,000

THE KILLING CYCLE
THE INSIDE STORY OF THE ESSEX HOMICIDE SQUAD

“The Killing Cycle”
“A Heart-Rending Question for a Fallen Cop: ‘Why, Daddy?’”
“Some Students Actually worked to Fund that $32,000 Payday”

Mark Di Ianno

The Star-Ledger

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

MARK DI IONNO, THE INSIDE STORY OF THE ESSEX HOMICIDE SQUAD

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

Mark Di Ianno
D13: Reporting and Writing - Opinion Column
It shouldn’t take death to appreciate life

The above lip stud piercing shimmered against her white skin. Her facial accessory looked purple, other times blue, and even raspberry colored depending upon the sunlight’s reflection.

Rebecca had a tattoo with an inscription of R.I.P. on her left shoulder, a remembrance of her grandmother who died of throat and lung cancer.

“Her name was Ruth but I called her Oma,” Rebecca offered.

Rebecca flicked her cigarette butt onto a sewer grate overloaded with paper, a plastic bottle and other debris. The tall woman and her black female friend walked down Walnut Avenue then turned right onto Garfield Avenue, where two police patrol cars were stationed just outside Garfield Avenue Park.

Monday’s late-night shooting of Deon Harris, 39, and a female companion, had produced tumultuous minutes but Garfield Avenue delivered calm after the storm yesterday morning as cold death mixed with steamy hot temperatures. Rebecca broke yesterday morning silence with condemnation.

“Nobody should die on the streets like this. We’re all neighbors here. This may not be the best place in the United States to live, but stuff like this should never happen. I just don’t know why people can’t get along,” she said.

Before Harris got shot, young men had waged war on a nearby basketball court in a park outlined by red, white, yellow, orange, blue and green pennants.

Now, small yellow cones identified either blood or bullet casings. They dotted the macadam landscape and one person said more cones littered a back alley.

If the cones identified bullet fragments then this seemed like overkill. There were more than the engraved hop scotch blocks on the blacktop.

A similar scene existed in Prospect Village where two patrol cars were parked. Patrol officers awaited an arrival of police detectives, some who had left Garfield Avenue for a crosstown ride to Prospect Village.

Yellow crime scene tape cascaded a courtyard like a Cat’s Cradle in a place that seemed disconnected from murder. Homicide seemed out of place here where one residence included an aqua-colored beach umbrella, potted flowers and plants, and other outdoor decorations. The entire courtyard, parking lot, and lawn exhibited care, unlike Garfield Avenue, where trash, boarded up houses, and blight ran roughshod over block after block.

Depression is king on Garfield Avenue, as residents shadow box demons, addiction, unemployment, and fatal feelings in a neighborhood that time forgot.

It may be a product of urban legend but some believe that hot weather upsets violent crime and even murder. Maybe it’s the closeness of living quarters, proximity of despair, or a stifling heat that choices the living daylights out of life-like an emphysema attack.

“Rest assured, there’s probably going to be some type of retaliation for this. Young men these days don’t let things slide,” Rebecca’s companion said.

“You know some of these kids from when they are this big to this big,” she said, holding her hand from child height then moving it upward.

“And then one day they come by and put a bullet in your ass.”

L.A. Parker is a Trentonian columnist and staff writer. His column appears on Tuesday and Thursday. Reach him at laparker@Trentonian.com.
Examining a painful history fraught with transgressions

By Fakhruddin Ahmed

The Times

Examining a painful history fraught with transgressions

“Examining a Painful History Fraught with Transgressions”
“Common Misconceptions About Muslim Americans”
“Strong Partnership Awaits America and Muslim World”

Fakhruddin Ahmed
Passing a law won’t make kids safer

Let’s agree that the world has more than its fair share of creepers. For the uninformed, creepers are something similar to predators. We read about them all the time. The specific type of creeper we’re talking about today is among the worst; those who prey upon children. They collect filthy photographs, make every possible and do whatever they can to satisfy their own perverted and sexual desires at the expense of the children.

So it’s understandable that parents want to protect their children. Unfortunately, protecting your kids is more difficult than ever today.

Persons in Hampton, N.J., were righteously up in arms last year when some 60-year-oldCreep was seen luring girls between ages 8 to 10 at a local swimming pool. When the eyes trapped hit the shoulder, he told them he thought the girls were sexy. Whether gay needs a knuckle sandwich, or not, the law on child molestation and trespassing, charges hastily were dismissed.

A bill under consideration in the New Jersey Legislature would have prohibited or required the removal of children when a “reasonable parent or guardian would feel uncomfortable if their child was the subject of such photography.” No action has been taken by the Assembly Judiciary Committee, most likely because at least some of the legislators recognize the measure as wildly unconstitutional.

Of course we’d like to legislate our way into a world where teenage creeps don’t get time at the expense of children. If there were serious and legal ways to end child molesting or abuse, every right-minded person would vote to make it happen today.

Unfortunately, there is not.

Consider the ramifications: You’re at your child’s ball game. All week long you’ve been talking about Little Johnny’s ‘first at bat.’ You have the video camera rolling because you want to send images to grandparents and friends and Aunt Sue. Of course, you get a shot of the pitcher and you also capture an image of the catcher after Johnny swipes a base and scores the run.

You are now a live breeder.

About 30 years later, you’re at the lawn tennis party of Johnny and Fiona and six of their friends as they are playing before climbing into the Illinois in the high school pool. Of course you get a nice photograph of the whole group.

You are now a two-time looser.

You say a “reasonable” parent would not object to such bloopers? Everyone has a different take on what is reasonable besides — and this is the really disgusting part — sometimes the preying creepers are also mom or dad, which makes the family album contraband.

Children subjected to such disturbing depictions. The best we can do is keep our children close and report criminals when they break the law.

You could also explore the knuckle sandwich note. A jury might think you did the right thing.

Joseph P. Owens
As sad and sick as the story is, it’s about all of us, too.

It’s not just a Penn State problem

Like a piece of rotting yarn, the loyal good-old-boy network continues to unravel in State College.

On Monday, Jack Raykovitz, president of Second Mile, resigned from the charity founded by former Penn State assistant coach and alleged child rapist Jerry Sandusky, and from which Sandusky reportedly plucked his victims. The at-risk kids had no idea how at risk they really were. Raykovitz’s departure brings to six the number of men who have lost their jobs or have been placed on permanent administrative leave because of their apparent complicity — one of whom is reportedly still collecting a $27,000 a month paycheck.

Given the no-snitching culture that hangs like a black cloud over Happy Valley, something tells me we’re only scratching the murky surface.

By leaving, Raykovitz said he hoped to restore the community’s faith in the organization.

Where have we heard that before? Why, from Joe Paterno himself. When the octogenarian coach announced his on-his-own-retirement date — just before he was booted out — he talked about the organization, too. See PENN STATE on B6

Annette John-Hall
Another teacher gets lost on Facebook

“Another Teacher Gets Lost on Facebook”

“An American Tragedy: The Rise and Fall of Corzine”

“Marriage by the Book of Merman and Mormon”

Alfred P. Doblin
First Place, Daily Over 45,000

Asbury Park Press

“Voters Not Unhappy with ‘Partnership’”

“Adoptees Deserve to Know Chapter 1”

“‘Tis Truly a Season of Brightly Burning Lights”

John Schoonejongen

Voters not unhappy with ‘partnership’

We have come to expect them — those press conferences held after elections to tell you, the voter, exactly what you were voting for. But if you were one of those who voted for the New Jersey Partnership for Reform on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, this year was no different. Gov. Chris Christie, making an appeal even as a hospitaI patient in New Jersey, was on the hustings and the politicians didn’t pick up seats in the Legislature and the results of the election (on gain for the GOP in the Senate, a seat left in the Assembly) were no surprise to most of the state.

Assemblyman John Wisniewski, the Middlesex County Democrat who also serves as the chairman of his state party, has long been a critic of the governor’s bully politics. The rate of New Jersey in popularity is steadily increasing in its Christie frouge index.

Wisniewski said on Wednesday, “And the people of the state of New Jersey want government that produces results, not excuses. Christie, however, is an expert at producing excuses, but not necessarily always so good at producing results.”

But what much of either story is true? Everyone admits that the redistricting map approved by commission is broken and the Garden State is in for a lot of post-election drama. But most agree that the state is in need of some change.

John Schoonejongen

“Tis Truly a Season of Brightly Burning Lights”

This was a wondrous election. Virtually encompassed in most of the state, the Istanbul and the New York City are sleeping. Republicans need to take steps to push their programs forward. People need a way to stay in control of your election on the governor’s radical agenda.

A Northeastern University/New Jersey Press Media poll conducted less than a month before the election confirmed the depth of the electorate. The survey showed that 63 percent of the people polled had not even heard that the entire Legislature would be up for election on Nov. 4. That’s a lie cry from the picture of a bad-omnament/s that Wisniewski paints.

See VOTES. Page 82

D13: Reporting and Writing - Opinion Column
D14: Reporting and Writing - Feature/Entertainment Column
Lately Ireland seems a little less ‘lovely’

By Sheila Bourke

I heard the word, ‘lovely,’ once. I heard it 1,000 times during my ten-day stay in Ireland.

When I met the steward on the plane, the very first thing she said was, ‘How lovely to meet you.’

When I boarded the plane, the very first thing she said was, ‘How lovely to meet you.’

On the flight, the Irish people are polite and very hospitable but times aboard will be tough.

The people are friendly, but times aboard will be tough.

In Ireland, I was able to see the Irish people on the island of Ireland, and the Irish people are friendly, but times aboard will be tough.

In Ireland, I was able to see the Irish people on the island of Ireland, and the Irish people are friendly, but times aboard will be tough.

Ireland’s history is a legacy of one-third of their soil is now occupied by the British government.

Ireland’s history is a legacy of one-third of their soil is now occupied by the British government.

The Jersey Journal

"Lately Ireland Seems a Little Less ‘Lovely’" 

"Hoboken’s Sanctuary for the Body and Soul"

"You Can Count on Saint Francis to Soothe the Animals"

Alex Santora
Signs of progress, post-Katrina, in La.

By Michael Daigle

SIGNIFICANT: Students working to help residents of New Orleans.

Signs of Progress

"New, the worse you see is the more left, which is not good for the community, but a sign of progress."

—Neil Jordan, executive director of Catholic Charities

"Before you see the marks on the houses, saying what they found in the house. This time, I will do the same thing."

—New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin

The city has made great strides since Hurricane Katrina.

Don't let the news fool you. What you see is not what you feel.

NGA

Curio Cabinet Sale!

Over 82 Kinds On Display...

Woven-Back or Tall, of Various Widths & Finishes, Corner or Wall Hanging...

We've Probably Got What You're After & At The Right Price

Sale ends Feb. 8th!

Harry Gory Fine Furniture

Free Immediate Delivery

FREY LAYAWAY

One Townsh Square, Dover, NJ (973) 361-2244

Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

Daily Record

“Signs of Progress”

“New Pastor”

“Great Wide Somewhere”

Michael Daigle
First Place, Daily Under 45,000

Gloucester County Times

"Wouldn’t Choose a Cruise"

"Now We’re Cooking"

"Holding Back the Tears"

Bob Shryock

Wouldn’t choose a cruise

If my wife’s ship ever comes in
And she hits the lottery, it’s
My guess she’ll rest perma-
nent palm tree space on a cruise liner.

So in retrospect it was no cri-
sis surprise when she handed
me an envelope at the Yelled Box before Thanksgiving and
said sheepishly, “I’m giving you
your Christmas gift early. I’ve
been paying on it since May.”

Oooh! But what is it? Lunch
with Meg Ryan? Burgers and
fried at Five Guys this next 365
games? Two passes to the 2011
Hawks or a month with Andy
Beale’s personal dietitian?

Not exactly, although all very
tasty options.

“We’re going on a cruise the
day after Christ-
mas.”

She could have hit me with a 2
x 4. And after
this column, she might.

She waited an eternity for me to
utter, “It’s abso-
lutely the best
Christmas gift ever. I’m so happy
I could just cry.”

But I was too
stunned to comment. If she had
said, “You can have your choice of
cruise or a week at the Star-
ss Hook Motor Lodge with free
continental breakfasts,” I’d have had
to flip a coin.

“Uh, very nice,” I flirted. I sum-
mom the waitress: “Another
Grey Goose ... and quickly,
please.”

You see, I’ve never been on five
or six cruises and other than all
the free ice cream I can eat, I
haven’t found too many reasons
to leave Manton.

But this cruise was different.
Kathy’s son Ken’s in-laws were
taking 20 some family members
in a week-long cruise aboard
the Carnival Pride, which sailed
east of Baltimore Harbor to Cape
Canaveral and the Bahamas the
day after Christmas. New Year’s
Eve on a cruise ship. Whoopie.

They just didn’t know we were
booked on the same ship.

“This is going to be a surpris-
Ken exclaimed.
She was hard to love, but I did

My mother died on the morning of February 15.

As soon as I saw the number of the person calling me, I knew. Ninety-three was as old as Florence Riley was going to get. Once she caught pneumonia, it was only a matter of time. I handled the phone call well, thanking the nurse for her kindness and saying all things you’re supposed to say — “This was a blessing,” and “She’s in a better place now” — and just because they are clichés doesn’t mean that they are not also profoundly true. My voice was firm and strong.

I hung up the phone in the kitchen and walked to my bedroom, where my wife was.

And I began to cry, with great heaving sobs.

“This is stupid,” I said, choking out the words. “I didn’t even like her that much.”

“No,” Sue said. “But you loved her.” And of course, she was right.

Asbury Park Press

“She Was Hard to Love, but I Did”
“High Technology for Dummies”
“Three Wise Men Knew How to Gift”

Michael Riley
For Ocean City’s No. 1 beach bum, every day is a day spent on the sand.

For Ocean City’s No. 1 beach bum, every day is a day spent on the sand.
Shack full of Cuban flavors
Tiny El Caney serves up classic cuisine six days a week

El Caney
48 W. Church St., Bergenfield
201-222-1401
Monday through Saturday, 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Chefs from all over the world are known for their innovative and unique recipes. However, El Caney, a small restaurant located in Bergenfield, New Jersey, offers a different culinary experience. The restaurant, owned by Tony and Nina Cartes, serves authentic Cuban cuisine six days a week.

The Cartes family immigrated to the United States from Cuba in the 1980s, seeking a better life for their children. Tony, the owner of El Caney, was born in Cuba and has a passion for cooking. He learned how to make traditional Cuban dishes from his mother, who taught him the art of cooking.

The Cartes family opened El Caney in 2008, and it has since become a popular destination for Cuban food lovers in Bergenfield. The restaurant offers a variety of dishes, including mojitos, which are a Cuban staple. The mojitos at El Caney are made with fresh mint leaves and lime juice, giving them a unique flavor.

The Cartes family also offers a variety of entrees, including pollo asado, which is a whole chicken that is slow-roasted in the oven. The chicken is juicy and delicious, and it is served with rice and beans. Another popular dish at El Caney is the Cuban sandwich, which is made with slow-roasted pork, ham, and Swiss cheese, all on a Cuban bread called pan de yuca.

In addition to the food, El Caney is known for its friendly and welcoming atmosphere. The staff is always happy to help customers, and they make sure that everyone has a great experience. The restaurant is open six days a week, with Sunday being a quiet day for the Cartes family.

Overall, El Caney is a great place to visit if you are looking for authentic Cuban cuisine. The food is delicious, the atmosphere is welcoming, and the staff is friendly. Whether you are a fan of Cuban food or just looking for a great meal, El Caney is definitely worth a visit.
D15: Reporting and Writing - Sports Column
Golden Eagles blast Minutemen
Morris Knolls shuts out Mendham to earn likely postseason berth

By Joe Hofmann

ESSEX — Heavy, wet snow, freezing temperatures and gusts of wind transformed yesterday’s Morris Knolls-Mendham football game into a battle for survival.

Knolls not only survived; it thrived, and earned a likely playoff berth in what was a do or die game with regards to the postseason.

The Golden Eagles managed to come on the game’s very first play and relied to a 16-0 victory.

So how’d they celebrate? By doing what any red-blooded 18-year-old would do during a Blizzard: With a snowball fight.

“We talked about having fun during the game during warm-ups,” coach Bill Regan said.

“Part of just what Knolls had — from the opening whistle right up until Regan broke the dry’s final huddle with everyone shouting the words, “Booze Angels!”

“They were just kids playing today,” Regan said with a smile. “We had a play date that’s all.”

The Golden Eagles adapted to the wintry weather a whole lot better than the Minutemen.

Regan, the starting quarterback, ran for 153 yards and three touchdowns for a touchdown. The first of three TDs from the same spot is split the uprights, and the rest was on.

Malke (30 for 110) added a yard touchdown run on the second play of the second quarter after Knolls recovered a Mendham fumble that came after a poor punt snap at the Minutemen 23. “Julian is a real leader,” Regan said.

“The played very well. We made a lot of good reads. I’m proud of the way we played today. We were very opportunistic,” Regan added.

Malchis and Kongs had plenty of help.

Joe Hofmann
"An Affectionate Farewell to the Duke of Flatbush"

"Human Element Can’t Be Removed Entirely from Baseball"

"Serious Decisions Loom for Phillies"

Rick Freeman
Rout caps entertaining series between teams

PHILADELPHIA — When looking back in the history books, you'll find that it took seven games to decide the Eastern Conference quarter-final series between the Philadelphia Flyers and Buffalo Sabres.

You'll read that Ryan Miller stood on his head and stole two 1-0 shutouts in Games 1 and 4.

And you'll read that two games were forced into overtime before the Flyers dominated in a 5-2 win in Game 7 at the Wells Fargo Center Tuesday to propel themselves into the next round.

Chris Pawling

(See FLYERS, Page C-8)
1,000
Paulsboro High hits a coveted mark in wrestling.

One way to find Paulsboro is to take Interstate 295 to Crown Point Road and ride that narrow two-lane through the marshes and past the truck depots and across the big steel bridge. Another is to step back in time.

The past always seems to come alive on winter nights inside the little, tan-bricked gymnasium at Paulsboro High School. That happened again Wednesday night, when a group of teenage wrestlers reached a historic milestone in a journey begun by another group of teenage wrestlers in the year before World War II. Paulsboro's 9-6 victory over Haddon Township was the 1,000th win in the history of a program that began varsity competition during the 1940-41 season.

The Red Raiders are the first high school team in the East. See PAULSBOO on A4

The Philadelphia Inquirer

"1,000 Paulsboro Hits Coveted Mark"
"Grief Multiplied"
"Sports Play Vital Role"

Phil Anastasia
Assistant’s ill son gives RU reason to fight

NEW YORK – Jim Carr had the room. And he had a message. “Two Feet. Zero. Zero.”

Carr, an assistant with the Rutgers men’s basketball team, made sure to repeat those numbers again and again. His boss, head coach Mike Rice, listened in quiet awe. The Rutgers players inside the team meeting room were rooted in rapt silence.

“Assistant’s Ill Son Gives RU Reason to Fight”

McHale Proving She’s Next Big Thing

“Friends & Allies”
Coach’s actions require a suspension of belief

We were actually willing to give Chris Olsen some benefit of the doubt — honestly, because we go back a bit, and that’s what we do in North Jersey.

We fondly recall his Bergenfield days, when he would perform backflips after a win, sometimes even after he ran up the score so shamelessly that the opposing coach refused to shake his hand.

We remember when Joe Clark fired him at Paterson Eastside — purportedly because the coach wouldn’t bench kids for skipping class or being disrespectful to teachers, and in those days you’d just shrug when he’d blame losses on the refs, or claim the other team did something dishonest to gain an advantage.

Honestly, we didn’t want to pile on Chris Olsen, a fine high school coach despite his reputation for being a classless winner and a lousy loser, which — luckily for the adoring townspeople of Wayne, who bow to his domineering countenance — is a side he doesn’t have to show very often.

That was the case again last night, when Wayne Hills posted a 48-21 rout of Paramus in a state semifinal. To call this a fervent spectacle would be seeing D’Alessandro, Page 28
D16: Reporting and Writing - Critical Writing
Sugarland keeps fair crowd dancing

By Tiffany Bentley

Sugarland showed more than 20,000 people Friday night at the Great Allentown Fair that the show must go on.

Just two weeks after a stage collapse in Indiana killed seven people before Sugarland was to perform, the group showed that life continues.

The Express-Times

“Sugarland Keeps Fair Crowd Dancing”

“STP Intoxicated with Rock n’ Roll”

“Snoop Dogg Mesmerizes Crowd and Crocodile Rock”

Tiffany Bentley
Dramedy finds humor in serious subject matter

Grade: B-
Starring: Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Seth Rogen, Anna Kendrick, Bryce Dallas Howard and Angelica Huston

Director: Jonathan Levine

Running Time: 105 minutes
Parental Guide: R (sexual content, adult themes, harsh profanity, drug use)

Certainly cancer is no laughing matter, and the tally behind “50/50” clearly recognize that.

But they also understood that humor sometimes possesses the power to soften pain and lift the heart of someone suffering from a life-threatening illness. That’s the case in the warm, funny and well-timed “50/50.”

In the R-rated dramedy, 27-year-old Adam (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) faces the news of terminal cancer, which in turn leaves him with a 50/50 chance of surviving a complicated operation or a malignant tumor.

With those in Adam’s family, especially his high-school girlfriend (Angelica Huston), fast devastated by the news, his best friend, Kyle (Seth Rogen), sees the condition in a different way. The colorful Kyle believes he can improve his buddy’s social life by getting young lads to the newly handsome Adam for pity sex or as a date at a bar.

The general plot might make “50/50” sound沉重, but the movie rarely feels that way. The screenplay by Will Reiser, who also wrote the script on his own cancer diagnosis and treatment, hits the right notes and introduces people who are genuine, not like one-dimensional sitcom characters.

Bryce Dallas Howard (“The Help”) appears as Adam’s girlfriend, who begins to have second thoughts about their future together once his cancer diagnosis is revealed, but the role never challenges her.

Anna Kendrick, who recently received an Oscar nomination as best supporting actress for her role as an emotion-challenged beam coach in “13 Going on 30,” is much better served by the material. She plays a well-meaning 24-year-old therapist who has only had previous success in life, and is ill-equipped to handle someone like Adam, a patient with a totally uncertain future.

Although the serious matter of “50/50” doesn’t seem very commercial, director Jonathan Levine (“The Wackness”) takes a well-structured approach to this material. The filmmaker warns that life can be short and sug- gests that it should be enjoyed with good humor and a sense of adventure, whether a person is 21 or 97.

Lou Gaul
Scotswoman brings civilized tradition of British tea rooms to Hopewell

Le Chardon Tea Room
37 Ml Blvd, Hopewell
(609) 610-0707
HOURS: Open Sun., 10 am - 5 pm, Sat. 10 am - 8 pm, Fri. 10 am - 7 pm.

COST: Low to mid
FOOD: The menu offers a variety of
artisanal goods, including tea sandwiches, soups, and pastries.

The Times
First Place, Daily Under 45,000

Scotswoman Brings Civilized Tradition of British Tea Rooms to Hopewell

Restaurant on Site of Old Farm Stand Blends Italian, Portuguese Cuisines

Blue Rooster Rises from Flood Waters with Its New Streamlined Menu

Susan Yeske
The Broadway musical, based on the 1994 film starring Celia Weston and Bo McKitrick, is a lively and entertaining piece that will keep your toes tapping and ears humming from start to finish. The show stars in Rockefeller Center’s 33rd Street, and it is a must-see for anyone who loves Broadway shows and musical theatre.

Asbury Park Press

“It’s Raining Divas”
“The Heart of a Newsman”
“World Class”

Bill Canacci
The Star-Ledger

“Singer Ricky Martin Lets Loose at Prudential Center”

“Taylor’s Shift”

“Song of the Week: ‘In Paris’”

“The Throne”

Tris McCall
The Philadelphia Inquirer

“Zeppoli”
“Shore Dining Part 1”
“Shore Dining Part 2”

Craig Laban
Dispute grows over farming

By Aaron Morrison

CHATHAM TWP — Organic farmer Mike Bucuk, 24, isn’t tending the overgrown arugula at his family’s three-acre Green Village home.

Bucuk and his parents, Tom and Debbie, planted a vegetable garden with hopes to sell its bounty at the local farmer’s market. But doing so would mean the Bucuk’s home would qualify as a commercial farming operation, which violates Chatham Township law.

At issue is the commercial label, the family says. The Bucuk’s, who were Chatham residents who moved to their Green Village home in November, insist the word “commercial” overstates their plans.

“They are not building a farm as large as an apple orchard,” Tom Bucuk joked.

Word of their plans spawned a backlash from some neighbors, who are concerned their small-scale organic farm would be an intrusive nuisance.

Although Mayor Nicole Hagan and other township officials support adoption of a local Right to Farm Act that would allow farmers to bypass local zoning rules, the Bucuks have been ordered to halt all farming operations until action is taken.

“For me, it’s depressing,” said Mike Bucuk, who studied agricultural ecology at Rutgers University. “I just stay away from (the crops). We don’t weed anything, we don’t cultivate.”

MIKE BUCUK, who studied agricultural ecology at Rutgers University

“For me, it’s depressing .... We don’t weed anything; we don’t cultivate.”

“Dispute Over Farming”

“Hooked on the Lake”

“Thriving Hives”

Aaron Morrison
Pet poisoner list grows?

Two more dogs with similar symptoms are dead.

By Lauren Taniguchi

SOWNE TWP. — Two more dogs have been reported dead under suspicious circumstances in the Tidwell Creek area.

Raymond, an Australian Shepherd, was found dead Wednesday afternoon by a dog owner who wished to remain anonymous regarding the death of his or her two dogs.

The onset didn’t allow the meat
Raymond consumed to reach
his stomach. "Digestion just
doesn’t work that fast, and that’s
frightening," SPCA’s Bev Carper said.

"Pet Poisoner List Grows?"

"White Tiger Succumbs"

"A Harsh Lesson for Area Schools"

Lauren Taniguchi
Guarding the marketplace

Homeland Security spends $1.4 million on malls — for what, no one wants to say

By Samantha Costa

LAWRENCE — It's all very bushwhack.

Quaker Bridge Malls among several malls in New Jersey that have been earmarked for hundreds of thousands of dollars in Homeland Security enhancements. Tight-lipped officials have chosen not to disclose why this township that lies just 56 miles south of Ground Zero is getting these enhancements.

Lawrence Chief of Police Daniel Polinanni and several marketing and security personnel at Quaker Bridge were not available for comment, but the Times has confirmed that the mall is one of the sites to benefit from the Homeland Security enhancements.

A security officer patrols the parking lot near Macy's at the Quaker Bridge Mall in Lawrence earlier this month. Below, another officer rides a personal transporter as he patrols the mall's walkways.

Samantha Costa

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Times

“Guarding the Marketplace”

“Learning the Confucius Way”

“Steamboat Comes to Shore”

Samantha Costa

MALL SECURITY GRANTS

The police departments applied for: Homeland Security grants for malls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Grant Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridgewater</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freehold</td>
<td>$294,988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry Hill</td>
<td>$125,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eatontown</td>
<td>$316,865</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: $1,488,000

Other agencies and municipalities throughout the state were awarded the COPS-4 grant for камии, st., st.}

Samantha Costa
Longport brothers try to stay whole while crafting Nub TV

By ELISA LALA
Staff Writer

The first sign of what it would be like to raise three fearless sons came to Cammy Graeff of Longport when her youngest son, Tucker was 2.

Tucker, now 19, was playing with his two older brothers, Ben, now 22, and Hob, 24, on the family’s land in Pennsylvania when his tiny body went sailing down an ice-covered cliff and hit a tree headfirst.

“When I got to him, he was unconscious,” said Cammy, recalling the incident — still terrifying years later — as she stood beside her sons on a recent afternoon.

Looking back on the incident — the first of many emergency room trips, broken bones and worrisome days to follow — she said it foreboded the way they would come.

“Growing up, we weren’t allowed to watch TV or use the Internet,” said Ben, the middle son, “We were told to go eat and have fun. We had the open space, and we just ruled it.”

Now grown and living in Longport, the Graeff brothers haven’t eased up. Rather, they have evolved their passion for risk-taking into a profession. The Graeffs, along with creator and owner of Nub TV — video of their daring, dangerous and sometimes straight-out silly antics to be viewed by the world. In its raw form, Ben said, Nub TV is something like “Jackass,” the former MTV stunt and prank series.

In order to make Nub TV a reality, the brothers took different focuses. Hob and Tuck became certified stuntmen graduating in June 2018 from the Kalloru Stunt School in Orlando, Fla., and Ben enrolled in film school at the Art Institute of Philadelphia. Ben also is a professional surfer.

When it began, Nub TV was a YouTube channel created by Ben, covering mostly his local surfing exploits with a few skirts here and there. Then, Hob and Tucker were still away at stunt school. It rapidly accumulated thousands of hits.

In September 2010 the brothers back in Longport, the Graeffs began a partnership with Robbe Oak, a video production professional, and Zac Gorton, a fellow starrevil from Harrisburg, Pa., and began filming episodes of single stunts to be put onto Vimeo for free download.

“We figured we’d get about 500 downloads on the episode,” Hob said, “but we woke up to crazy feedback.”

In one day, more than 1,000 people had downloaded the video, which soon reached more than 11,000 hits. Seeing Nub TV’s potential, the crew began more episodes for download. They are enough free, jumped off buildings, belly-flopped onto a table full of open mouse traps. Nothing was beyond them.

“Everything is 100 percent real, and everything still hurts,” Hob said, “but it’s just safer. Then again, it’s not all that safe. Basically, stunt school changes the level of hurt a person would get in a certain situation.”

But it doesn’t keep the Graeffs out of the emergency room — and that is what scares their mother.

“Our parents are supportive of Nub,” Ben said, “They just don’t want us to die.”

Just a few weeks ago, Cammy said, she again spent a day in the hospital waiting room.

“I’m nervous every time, I pray every time they do their stunts,” she said, her stern gaze moving from one son to the next. “I hate the stunts, I really wish they would just go to med school.”

See Brothers, 9

To learn more
To download Nub TV episodes or learn more about the crew, see:

nubrevolution.com
beachnude1.com
nastythethornhorse.com/splash.html

Elisa Lala

The Press of Atlantic City

“Longport Brothers”

“St. Baldrick’s Head Shaving at LCMR”

“Petersburg Boy Helps Bring Awareness of Osteogenesis”

Elisa Lala
Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Record (Bergen County)

“Child Abduction Response Tested”
“Silence, Lawsuit Hinder Probe”
“A Revolving Door for Burglars”

Rebecca D. O’Brien
First Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Star-Ledger

“A Burden Too Great for Anyone to Bear”
“A Patriotic Town Honors Another Fallen Soldier”
“N.J.’s Top Lawman Takes on Wall Street”

Jason Grant
D18: Reporting and Writing - Best Headlines
Veni, vidi, veto

Christie wields pen like a weapon, killing 14 tax, jobs bills

By Ginger Gibson
STATEHOUSE BUREAU

With a dramatic thud, Gov. Chris Christie dropped a stack of 14 vetoes on his desk yesterday and in one fell swoop dashed a Democrat-backed tax incentive and jobs package, setting off a war of words punctuated with personal attacks and biting criticism.

The tax-cut-touting governor killed the series of tax cuts for businesses in the largest batch of vetoes in a single day in recent memory, calling the bills “irresponsible” and “political games.”

Calling the vetoes “disgusting” and accusing Christie of “complete disregard for the well-being of working-class residents,” Assembly Majority Leader Joe Cryan fired back that the governor is playing politics with people’s livelihood.

While partly disagreeing that tax cuts are needed, the spat sparked by Christie’s vetoes cranked up the rhetoric in advance of his budget address next week and the expected firestorm to follow.

“Just like I vetoed continuing appropriation bills, I’m vetoing these tax cuts and incentive programs,” Christie said. “We have to be consistent on this.”

Senate President Stephen Sweeney (D-Gloucester) intends to challenge Christie’s vetoes.

“Honestly, we had like 38 votes (out of 40) on almost every one,” Sweeney said. “Don’t see VETOES. PAGE 28.

Blake Johnson

Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Times

“Veni, Vidi, Veto”

“Dread on Arrival”

“Bank Robber Admits Role as Both Bonnie and Clyde”
Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

Daily Record

“A Squirrel’s Misstep…”
“Forecast?
A Category 3 Hurricane…”
“Green House Effect”

James Flachsenhaar
Confidence is a big thing. I have a feel for the other wrestlers. I've wrestled almost 30 matches, and I'm going to stick with what's worked so far.

— Trent Hampton

The main event: 285 pounds

The 285-pound class is at least six deep. While Pennsville's Trent Hampton is the favorite, there could be dark horses like Millville's Jeremy Wilson and Deerfield's Trent Hunter, who have already won at the state level. There will be several talented heavyweights who won't move up, so this is clearly the stiffest class at District 31.

— Bill Evans

It's a really deep weight class and everyone in it has a shot at a title. It's going to be really tough competition this year.

— Jeremy Wilson

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

Gloucester County Times

"Bruise Brothers"
"Bats Out of Hell"
"Jimmy Two Times"

Matt Cosentino
Up for 4 Grammys, a song that dare not speak its name

By Dan DeLuca
INQUISER MUSIC CRITIC

When the Grammy Awards are presented Sunday night at the Staples Center in Los Angeles in a ceremony broadcast on CBS, a naughtily infectious song by soul man Cee Lo Green has an excellent chance of being named both song and record of the year.

But if it wins, you won’t hear the song’s correct name. That’s because it contains an obscenity.

The devilishly catchy pop tune, which is up for four awards, is about a heartbroken guy moved to shout out the two words that best express his frustration at losing the girl he loves to a well-heeled rival.

It became an instant viral Internet sensation when it was released last summer. So far, the official video has racked up more than 43 million YouTube hits in its unexpurgated version, which also has garnered plenty of play on satellite radio. If See SONG on A15

The Philadelphia Inquirer

“Up for 4 Grammys, a Song That Dare Not Speak Its Name”

“Restaurant’s Peak Brings Parking Pique”

“Opera Company Back in Flash”

Miriam Tarver
Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Record (Bergen County)

“Frozen? Yes. Safe to Skate? Maybe”
“Pettitte Ready to Face Rocket’s Red Glare”
“Hard to Work for, Harder to Kill”

Orlando R. Lorenzo
Fish draw cast of thousands
Anglers line up as state fills waterways for fall fishing

First Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Press of Atlantic City

“Fish Draw Cast of Thousands”
“‘Messiah’ Rehearsals a Moving Experience”
“Learning Is Endgame for Chess Club in A.C.”

Craig Schenck
D19: Reporting and Writing - Special Issue
D19: Reporting and Writing - Special Issue

Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

Daily Record

“Living 2011”

Staff
Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Daily Journal

“Happy Birthday, Vineland”

Staff

NJPA
New Jersey Press Association
We Remember 9/11

Hudson County heroes and survivors, tears and triumphs – 10 years after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks

Ken Thorbourne
Reena Rose Sibayan
Sergio Bichao
WE DO NOT NEED TO TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED 10 YEARS AGO TODAY. YOU KNOW.

You may no longer recall the exact times of the attacks, what countries the hijackers came from, or how many people were killed in Manhattan, Arlington, Va., and on a field near Shanksville, Pa. But you will never forget where you were when you heard, or the outpouring of grief that followed.

And if you are like many people in New Jersey, you believe the event is ranged you. Forever.

Even if you did not know anyone who died.

First came the shock of hearing a jetliner had plowed into the World Trade Center, under slices so clear and blue it had seemed a perfect morning. Then, when another plane hit, fear. Finally, terror.

The realization that something unimaginable had happened, it could happen again. If planes could be turned into guided missiles, couldn’t trucks or bridges or even clouds become weapons of mass destruction? If office towers were enemy targets, why not schools or hospitals?

These were not abstract questions. Some of us lived close enough to see the smoke billowing from the towers. People went home and held each other. Strangers hurrying home from train stations, or walking their dogs, asked one another “Is your family okay? Do you know anyone who died?”

We were changed, as individuals and as a people. Our sense of invincibility and superiority was gone. So was our optimism and faith in the future. We mourned our government’s failure to foresee the attacks, yet stuck flags on our cars, felt we really were “one nation” and demonstrated increased respect for the armed forces. “Thank you for your service,” we said.

We drank in 9/11 stories of courage and heroism. We grew paranoid and mistrustful of foreigners, and of Muslims, and supported the war on terror.

It’s different now. Rumble from a summer storm can still sound like a plane flying too close, too low. But it hasn’t felt as if we were all pulling together for a long time. The economy has replaced terrorism as the top national concern. Public opinion is conflicted about the war in Afghanistan.

People complain about excessive security at airports. Many have buried their memories of 9/11, or at least stopped talking about them. Fundraising for the National Park Service Flight 93 Memorial in Pennsylvania has come up $10 million short. Some even say they are tired of the annual ceremonies and that, after so long, it’s time to move on.

Maybe we have reached the point when 9/11 has become history. We may think we already know all there is to know about it, but we don’t. We can study it, and learn from it, for we are better students of history than we were back then. We can also remind ourselves of the vows we made to let the people close to us know we care about them, and live every day as if it could be our last.

The 2,977 people who died from the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, didn’t have that privilege.

BY MARY JO PATTERSON, WHO WROTE THE FIRST STAR LEDGER STORY ON 9/11 TERRORIST ATTACKS, 10 YEARS AGO THIS MORNING.
D19: Reporting and Writing - Special Issue

Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Record (Bergen County)

“9-11 A Decade Later… Love and Memories Live On”

Staff
D19: Reporting and Writing – Special Issue

First Place, Daily Over 45,000

Courier-Post

“Never Forget”

Staff
Better Newspaper Contest 2011

D20: Design and Presentation - News Page
Design Portfolio

NJPA Awards
Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

Gloucester County Times

“Our Sputnik Moment”
“A Massive Strike”
“Rattled”
“Target: New Jersey”
“Coming Home”

Glenn Koppelman
Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

Burlington County Times

“Burlington County Times”
“BCT Local”

Colleen Prendergast
Morgaine Ford-Workman
First Place, Daily Under 45,000

Herald News

“The Heat Is On!”
“Relief Still Days Away”
“Rivers Show No Mercy”
“The Best Ever!”
“Gadhafi Death ‘the Last Chapter’”

Scott Muller
The Star-Ledger

“The End Is Here”

“N.J.’s Most Devastating Storm Ever?”

“Paterno Fired”

“Running for Cover”

“108 Degrees”

Shawn Weston
American dream out of reach

The median household has an income of $89,500 which can afford a home priced at $357,500 but the median home price is $432,000.

What’s affordable

Median home prices in Bergen and Passaic counties are beyond the means of a majority of households in each county, despite four years of declining values.

The median household has an income of $58,000 which can afford a home priced at $186,600 but the median home price is $319,450.

Monthly cost of owning a typically priced home would consume:

35% of median household income in Bergen County

Flat fixed: $2,481

Partial affordability: $2,361

What? Affordability: Rent is 6.8%

43% of median household income in Passaic County

Flat fixed: $2,369

Partial affordability: $2,290

What? Affordability: Rent is 6.2%

North Jersey home prices outpace paychecks

By KATHLEEN LYNN and DAVE SHEINHOLD

Mortgage rates are at rock-bottom 5 percent, and home prices have tumbled as much as 20 percent — making North Jersey homes much more affordable.

But the region remains one of the most unaffordable in the country. Buying a home — including the cost of property taxes — remains out of reach.

The record found that a North Jersey household with the median income is further away than they were in 2000 from being able to buy a median-priced house — a traditional measure of affordability.

And the market is only getting worse with each passing year.

Jerry Luciani
First Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Star-Ledger

“Deluge Leaves N.J. at River’s Mercy”

“Justice Has Been Done”

“Death of a Dictator”

“Rattle & Hmmm”

“The Biggest No in Politics”

Joe Lee
NJPA Awards

Better Newspaper Contest 2011

D21: Design and Presentation - Feature Section
Page Design Portfolio

NJPA Awards
D21: Design and Presentation - Feature Section Page Design Portfolio

Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

Daily Record

“November 17, 24
December 1, 15, 29”

Elizabeth Thompson
D21: Design and Presentation –
Feature Section Page Design Portfolio

Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Express-Times

“Dine Out”
“Get the Look”
“To Be or Not to Be”
“If Looks Could Kilt”
“Shoot to Thrill”

James Moening
D21: Design and Presentation - Feature Section Page Design Portfolio

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

Burlington County Times

“Reality”

“Food”

Tom Raski
The Record (Bergen County)

“Hats for Summer”

“Concierge Services Make Shore Rentals a Snap”

“Shake It Up with Bold Gin Drinks”

“Gordon Ramsay’s Gear”

“Faux & Fabulous”

Elaine Isaacson
D21: Design and Presentation -
Feature Section Page Design Portfolio

Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Star-Ledger

“Fake News, Real Influence”

“Could a Nuclear Disaster Happen Here?”

“Montclair Rock City”

Shawn Weston
D21: Design and Presentation – Feature Section Page Design Portfolio

First Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Star-Ledger

“With One Missile: Judge, Jury and Executioner”

“His Second Stage”

“Reading, Writing and Radical”

“The Kid Stays in the Pictures”

“A Day at the Beach”

Neville Harvey
D22: Design and Presentation - Sports Page
Design Portfolio
D22: Design and Presentation -
Sports Page Design Portfolio

Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

Daily Record

“Daily Record Sports Pages”

Kiersten Schmidt
D22: Design and Presentation - Sports Page Design Portfolio

Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

Burlington County Times

“BCT Sports Pages”

Deb Ungerman
Paul Moser
Kirby raised chaos for Pirates

Arm takes Lisa places

D22: Design and Presentation - Sports Page Design Portfolio

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

Burlington County Times

“BCT Sports Pages”

Bill Tull
LEAD ON, SANCHEZ

Motivation comes in many forms, even confetti

By: J.P. McINNIS

PITTSBURGH – In the pressure of being a quarterback and the constant need to be on your toes, it's easy to forget the little things that can make a big difference. But for New York Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez, it's the little things that have been key to his success.

1. Can Sanchez deliver again?
   - Sanchez has been inconsistent in recent games, but he's also shown flashes of brilliance. Can he put together a complete performance?

2. Happy mother's day?
   - Sanchez's mom, who lives in Long Island, will be in attendance. She can't wait to see her son play in the NFL.

3. Taylor's dream come true?
   - Jets running back Chris Johnson has been a revelation. Can he keep it up against the Steelers?

4. Jets run on "D" on the Mount?
   - Despite allowing 28 points in the first quarter, the Jets defense held strong in the second half. Can they carry that momentum into the second half?

5. Will Polishak make things hairy?
   - The Jets have been using a lot of new players this season. Can they find a winning formula?

Firehouse upbringing readied QB for this day

PITTSBURGH — For as long as he can remember, Mark Sanchez has heard the stories of how his grandfather, who played football for the University of Pittsburgh, inspired him to be the best he could be. And while those stories may have been exaggerated, they certainly helped shape him into the quarterback he is today.

The Record (Bergen County)

"Lead on, Sanchez"
"Super Run for Record Scribe"
"Say Cheese!"
"Baseball’s Burning Questions"
"Baseball in Their Blood"

Chuck O’Donnell
Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Star-Ledger

“3000”
“2,362 Games to 3,000 Hits”
“Kickin’ It at Heinz Field”
“A Jumbled War of Words”
“The Head Coach”

Dan Worthington
SMACK DOWN

Jets put money where mouths are, motor into AFC title game

“Smack Down”
“Can’t Mask the Pain”
“Passing the Buck”
“Monumental”
“It’s Bruise Day”

John Connolly
D23: Design and Presentation - Graphics/Illustration Portfolio
D23: Design and Presentation - Graphics/Illustration Portfolio

Third Place, Daily Under 45,000

Burlington County Times

“Reality Goes to the Movies”
“Roller Coasters”
“Sickening Epidemic”
“Draw Your Dreams”
“Text-iquette”

Tom Raski
D23: Design and Presentation -
Graphics/Illustration Portfolio

Second Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Daily Journal

“Holiday Chaos”
“Brighten Your Home”
“History of Vineland”
“All in at Atlantic City”
“A Snapshot of Our Area”

Joe Moore
D23: Design and Presentation - Graphics/Illustration Portfolio

First Place, Daily Under 45,000

The Daily Journal

“Millville Bolts”
“Paint by Numbers”
“Happy Birthday Vineland”
“Wanted, Diabetic Super Foods”

Joe Moore
American dream out of reach

What’s affordable

IN BERGEN COUNTY
The median household has an income of $89,500, which can afford a home priced at $357,500, but the median home price is $432,000.

IN PASSAIC COUNTY
The median household has an income of $58,000, which can afford a home priced at $186,600, but the median home price is $319,450.

Monthly cost of owning a typically priced home would consume:

35% of median household income in Bergen County
Monthly cost: $2,651

43% of median household income in Passaic County
Monthly cost: $2,689

North Jersey home prices outpace paychecks

By KATHLEEN LYNN and SAVI SHEHNAW

Mortgage rates are at a rock-bottom 3 percent, and home prices have tumbled 30 percent in Bergen County, making North Jersey homes much more affordable.

The Record (Bergen County)

Third Place, Daily Over 45,000

"American Dream Out of Reach"
"North Jersey's Losing Ground"
"Yankees vs. Tigers"
"More Going Than Coming"
"Black Friday's Big Deals"

Jerry Luciani
D23: Design and Presentation - Graphics/Illustration Portfolio

Second Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Press of Atlantic City

“ShopRite LPGA Classic”
“Time to Toss It”
“Dining in High Style”
“A Different Kind of Light”
“Remnants of a Resort”

Krishna Mathias
First Place, Daily Over 45,000

The Record (Bergen County)

“Derek Jeter Joins the 3,000 Hit Club”
“An Asthma Primer”
“A Cutter Above”
“Back Up Power Source”
“The Cost of Holiday Lights”

R.L. Rebach
Better Newspaper Contest 2011

D24: Overall Award - Innovation Award
History — and lots of his stories

For the head of the African American Heritage Museum, the start of Black History Month the most hectic time of year

BUENA VISTA TOWNSHIP — Ralph Hunter Sr. is busy telling stories. Very busy — especially now.

Hunter, a man who seems to have a story about everyone he meets, had a busy day recently. Behind him, the African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey's new exhibit titled "Building a Legacy in South Jersey" is open.

Staff

Ralph Hunter is director of the African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey in Buena Vista Township. Hunter will take the museum's traveling exhibit to about 30 schools during February, his busiest month of the year.

"I'm not sure if it's just me or the weather, but it seems every day I'm telling stories," Hunter said. "And the stories never end."
Life tailored around God

By CHRISTINA MITCHELL
Courier-Post Staff

The Rev. Dr. Charles G. Russell Sr. was a man of God blessed with an immaculate sense of style. So well turned out was he — so "pressed and crisp," says his wife of 56 years, Laura — they say people would stop him in the street and say, "I believe I’ve never seen him in shirt sleeves.

And it was longer than that before he realized his husband wore a uniform to work as a supervisor for Edgy Shoe Company in Philadelphia.

LIFE WELL LIVED
Rev. Russell, who died Oct. 5 at 78, wore a suit to work each morning after rising at 5 a.m. for prayer. He would change into work clothes — his suit, then lose the suit again for a car ride to his native Camden.

Mrs. Russell — who goes by Yera — had always wanted to wear her clothes thinking they belonged to someone else. "One day, I happened to go to his work," she recalls of the man she dubbed Sybby. "And I saw this guy in work clothes and I said, "Hmmm, that man looks like my husband." And I thought, 'Baby don’t go to work looking like that!" He just laughed at me, of course."

Children recall how the "Rev." of a neighborhood who talked with him — would show up at parties and other outdoor gatherings in a suit, usually navy blue. Sometimes a fedor. Almost always black wingtip shoes from Forsheim.

"I never saw my dad in sneakers or jeans," says daughter Rosalind, who is one of six children. "Most guys dressed down; he dressed up."

And up was where he surely was headed when he died of oral cancer. For a man of God, he spoke through an apparatus attached to his jaw. After it was removed, his family feared the holiday season. Bitterly ironic, Rev. Russel’s family acknowledges. "We were barely home," says she.

Yet even as he lay dying at Lourdes Hospital, the man who founded Lomi...
The Star-Ledger

“PolitiFact Watchdog is Coming to Jersey”
“Judges Have Best Benefits, Lowest Costs”
“Christie Undervalues Impact of Jobs Stimulus Bill”
“Our Agenda: Accountability”

Caryn Shinske
Erin O’Neill
Bill Wichert
General Excellence Awards
General Excellence

Editorial

Daily under 45,000
Better Newspaper Contest 2011

General Excellence

Editorial

Daily under 45,000

is a tie!
General Excellence

Editorial, Daily under 45,000

Burlington County Times

Willingboro
General Excellence

Editorial, Daily under 45,000

Daily Record

Morristown
General Excellence

Editorial

Daily over 45,000
Better Newspaper Contest 2011

General Excellence

Editorial, Daily over 45,000

The Star Ledger

Newark
Better Newspaper Contest 2011

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