2018
Bernard Kilgore
Memorial Scholarship
High School Journalist of the Year
Greta Frontero
Westfield High School
Westfield, New Jersey

Greta also was named 2018 New Jersey High School Journalist of the Year by the Garden State Scholastic Press Association.
At this time Dale Gerhard from The Press of Atlantic City along with NJPA Chairman Brett Ainsworth, The Retrospect, will come to the stage to begin the presentation of Photography Awards.
2017 NJPA Newspaper Contest Photography Results
Weekly Awards
North Bergen Reporter
Spot News
Weekly Division

FIRST PLACE
Victor M. Rodriguez
North Bergen Reporter

Fire and Ice
Weekly Awards
Ocean City Sentinel
General News
Weekly Division

FIRST PLACE
Kristen Kelleher
Ocean City Sentinel

Someone Lose A Watch?
General News Weekly Division

SECOND PLACE
David Nahan
Ocean City Sentinel

Unexpected Winner
General News
Weekly Division

THIRD PLACE
David Nahan
Ocean City Sentinel

Queens Make A Splash
Sports Action
Weekly
Division

FIRST PLACE
David Nahan
Ocean City Sentinel

Almost
Sports Action Weekly Division

SECOND PLACE
David Nahan
Ocean City Sentinel

Ejected
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Sports Action Weekly Division

THIRD PLACE
David Nahan
Ocean City Sentinel

Will It Or Won't It?
Sports Feature
Weekly Division

FIRST PLACE
David Nahan
Ocean City Sentinel

Fastest Pin
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Sports Feature
Weekly
Division

SECOND PLACE
David Nahan
Ocean City Sentinel

Hugs For Winners
And Losers
Sports Feature Weekly Division

THIRD PLACE
David Nahan
Ocean City Sentinel

Save It, Coach
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Sports
Feature
Picture Story
Weekly
Division

FIRST PLACE
David Nahan
Ocean City
Sentinel

Reclaiming Surf
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Feature Weekly Division

FIRST PLACE
Kristen Kelleher
Ocean City Sentinel

Sledding With No Hills
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Feature
Picture Story
Weekly
Division

SECOND PLACE
Kristen Kelleher
Ocean City Sentinel

Deaf Pride
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Portrait Weekly Division

FIRST PLACE
David Nahan
Ocean City Sentinel

Wrestling Coach
Portrait Weekly Division

THIRD PLACE
David Nahan
Ocean City Sentinel

Lifeguard For Life
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Pictorial Weekly Division

FIRST PLACE
David Nahan
Ocean City Sentinel

American Summer
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Pictorial Weekly Division

SECOND PLACE
Kristen Kelleher
Ocean City Sentinel

Ocean Alight
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Best Portfolio Weekly Division

FIRST PLACE
David Nahan
Ocean City Sentinel
Weekly Awards
The SandPaper
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Spot News Weekly Division

SECOND PLACE
Jack Reynolds
The SandPaper

Flames in the Night
Spot News
Weekly Division

THIRD PLACE
Ryan Morrill
The SandPaper

Eagles Nest Airport Plane Crash
FIRST PLACE

Ryan Morrill
The SandPaper

Surf City Water Rescue Training
SECOND PLACE
Ryan Morrill
The SandPaper

Partial Eclipse Was a Whole Lot of Fun
THIRD PLACE
Jack Reynolds
The SandPaper

Service Remembered
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Sports
Feature
Picture Story
Weekly Division

SECOND PLACE
David Biggy
The SandPaper

Challenger Track Meet at Pinelands
SECOND PLACE
Ryan Morrill
The SandPaper

Starry-Eyed
Wonder
Feature Weekly Division

THIRD PLACE
Jack Reynolds
The SandPaper

I’ve Got Ya
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Feature
Picture Story
Weekly Division

FIRST PLACE
Ryan Morrill
The SandPaper

A Night to Shine
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Feature
Picture Story
Weekly Division

THIRD PLACE
Ryan Morrill
The SandPaper

Chump's Second Chance
SECOND PLACE
Ryan Morrill
The SandPaper

PA Designs in his Workshop
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Pictorial Weekly Division

THIRD PLACE
Jack Reynolds
The SandPaper

Baby Terrapin
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Illustration Weekly Division

FIRST PLACE
Ryan Morrill
The SandPaper

Solar Pac-Man
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Illustration Weekly Division

SECOND PLACE
Ryan Morrill
The SandPaper

Titlexxx
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Best Portfolio
Weekly Division

SECOND PLACE
Jack Reynolds
The SandPaper
At this time we’ll ask NJPA associate directors Ed Efchak from Customers by Design and Ron Morano, FirstEnergy/JCP&L to come to the stage to announce the next round of awards.
Daily Awards
Spot News
Daily Division

THIRD PLACE
Bob Karp
Daily Record

No Turns
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Spot News
Daily Division

SECOND PLACE
Chris Post
The Express-Times

Gotcha!
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Spot News
Daily Division

FIRST PLACE
Bob Karp
Daily Record

Total Loss
General News
Daily Division

THIRD PLACE
Marko Georgiev
The Record
(Bergen County)

Deported
General News
Daily Division

SECOND PLACE
Anne-Marie Caruso
The Record
(Bergen County)

I'm going home
General News
Daily Division

FIRST PLACE
Lori M. Nichols
South Jersey Times

Philly Naked Bike Ride
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

News
Picture
Story
Daily Division

THIRD PLACE
Joe Lamberti
Courier-Post

Not Forgotten
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Second Place
Tim Hawk
South Jersey Times
First Place

Jake West

New Jersey Herald

Rain at the Fair
Sports Action
Daily Division

THIRD PLACE
Warren Westura
New Jersey Herald

Splash in the Sand
Sports Action
Daily Division

SECOND PLACE
Lori M. Nichols
South Jersey Times

The Dance
Sports Action
Daily Division

FIRST PLACE
Saed Hindash
The Express-Times

Ouch!
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Sports Feature
Daily Division

THIRD PLACE
Saed Hindash
The Express-Times

We just won!
Sports Feature
Daily Division

SECOND PLACE
Peter Ackerman
Asbury Park Press

Winners and Losers
Sports Feature
Daily Division

FIRST PLACE
Nancy Rokos
Burlington County Times

Wet morning at the racetrack
THIRD PLACE
Dale Gerhard
The Press of Atlantic City

The Last Quarter
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Sports
Feature
Picture Story
Daily Division

SECOND PLACE
Peter Ackerman
Asbury Park Press

Island Races
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Sports
Feature
Picture Story
Daily Division

FIRST PLACE
Aristide Economopoulos
The Star-Ledger

High School Preseason Football Camp
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Feature
Daily Division

THIRD PLACE
Carl Kosola
Burlington County Times

Enjoying the Ride
Feature
Daily Division

SECOND PLACE
Michael Mancuso
The Times

Moon Walk
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Feature
Daily Division

FIRST PLACE
David Maialetti
The Philadelphia Inquirer

No Pants
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Feature
Picture
Story
Daily
Division

THIRD PLACE
Peter Ackerman
Asbury Park Press

A Special Prom
SECOND PLACE

Lori M. Nichols
South Jersey Times
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Feature
Picture
Story
Daily
Division

FIRST PLACE
Aristide Economopoulos
The Star-Ledger
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Portrait
Daily Division

THIRD PLACE
Chris Pedota
The Record
(Bergen County)

Love Train
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Portrait
Daily Division

SECOND PLACE
Daniel Freel
New Jersey Herald

In the kitchen with
Brittany Frick
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Portrait
Daily Division

FIRST PLACE
David Swanson
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Letter of the Grave
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Pictorial Daily Division

THIRD PLACE
Bob Karp
Daily Record

White Out
Pictorial Daily Division

SECOND PLACE
Dale Gerhard
The Press of Atlantic City

Alien Lightning
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Pictorial Daily Division

FIRST PLACE
Peter Ackerman
Asbury Park Press

Sunrise Somersault
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Illustration Daily Division

THIRD PLACE
Doug Hood
Asbury Park Press

Four Roses
Illustration
Daily Division

SECOND PLACE
Doug Hood
Asbury Park Press

Toffee Cake
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Illustration Daily Division

FIRST PLACE
Erin Grugan
The Press of Atlantic City

A Voice For the Voiceless
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Contemporary Issues Daily Division

THIRD PLACE
Aristide Economopoulos
The Star-Ledger

Lakewood's Growing Pains
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Contemporary Issues
Daily Division

SECOND PLACE
Kevin Wexler
The Record (Bergen County)

Bergen County Imam
Contemporary Issues
Daily Division

FIRST PLACE
Vern Ogrodnek
The Press of Atlantic City

Living On The Edge Of Poverty
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Best Portfolio Daily Division

THIRD PLACE
Tim Hawk

South Jersey Times
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Best Portfolio Daily Division

SECOND PLACE
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Best Portfolio
Daily Division

FIRST PLACE
Peter Ackerman
Asbury Park Press
NJPA 2017 NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Photo Best of Show
Best in Show

Bob Karp | Daily Record | “Total Loss”
Congratulations to all of our photo winners.

We’ll take a brief intermission and ask Shane Fitzgerald from the Burlington County Times to the stage to begin the presentation of the Editorial Awards.
2017 NJPA Newspaper Contest Editorial Results
Cops Kick, Drag Victim: Video
Breaking News
Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE
Staff
The Express-Times

Trooper shot on Route 33
Breaking News
Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Staff
The Trentonian

Hell breaks loose: deadly 36-hour standoff in Trenton
Breaking News
Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Staff
The Record (Bergen County)

NYC Terror Attack
Breaking News
Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE
Staff
The Star-Ledger

New Jersey government shutdown
Breaking News
Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Staff
The Times

Deadly South Trenton Standoff
Coverage of Government
Art Weissman
Memorial Award
Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE
Pat Johnson
The SandPaper
Portfolio
Coverage of Government

Art Weissman

Memorial Award

Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Nanette LoBiondo Galloway

The Current of Ventnor, Margate and Longport

Mobile food pantry coverage

Ventnor to approve new spot for mobile food pantry

BY NANETTE LOBIONDO GALLOWAY
Staff Writer

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

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

The mobile food pantry truck distributed food in the parking lot of the VFW Post on Dorset Avenue for about five years, but at the end of last summer, the VFW asked it to leave after residents complained that clients were sitting on their front steps and knocking on their doors asking to use the bathroom.

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

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

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

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

See PANTRY on Page 4
Coverage of Government
Art Weissman
Memorial Award
Weekly, over 6,500

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

"Duneboggle' turns into 'Dunegate'"
Coverage of Government

Art Weissman

Memorial Award

Weekly, under 6,500

THIRD PLACE

Michael Nunes

The Ocean Star

Portfolio
Coverage of Government

Art Weissman

Memorial Award

Weekly, under 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Jacob Perry

The Bernardsville News

Mosque settlement
Coverage of Government

Art Weissman
Memorial Award
Weekly, under 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Joshua Jongsma
Verona-Cedar Grove Times

Neighbors react to return of horn

The return of the emergency horn in Verona has been a welcome sound for all residents, but a fire official promoted the importance of its presence in the township.

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

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

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

“We’ve always hated it, but we couldn’t do anything about it,” said Maria Shaw, a Gould Street resident of 12
News Writing
Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE
No award given
Somers Point family mourns pet mauled on steps of home

BY SUZANNE MARINO
Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

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

"I don’t want anyone else to have to deal with this. My hope is See PET on Page 11
News Writing
Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Victoria Ford
The SandPaper

Local Liberals Organize DC Trip for Historic March
News Writing
Weekly, under 6,500

THIRD PLACE
Michael Nunes
The Ocean Star

Portfolio
Caldwell police plagued by pair of lawsuits

Caldwell lieutenant, policewoman seek litigation against borough, chief

By DEREK ALLEN
STAFF WRITER

Caldwell – Police Officers Candice Marinaro and Lt. Michael Geary are moving forward with legal action against the Borough of Caldwell and Police Chief James Bongiovanni.

Both officers, represented by attorney Patrick Tuscano, allege Bongiovanni fostered an environment of favoritism, retaliation and racial discrimination.

"When Binghams Brothers and Barmans and Hatley Circus finally closed down after all these years, we did not realize it would re-open in Caldwell, New Jersey," said Tuscano. "The line officers in that small but first class department deserve far better from their leaders."

Geary, an Asian American, and Marinaro is from the Caribbean. Both have worked for the Caldwell Police Department for more than a decade. The complaint papers filed said Marinaro had no disciplinary history to speak of.
Racial slurs, anti-Semitic text messages sent by councilman

Edward A. Burke
The Progress

Racial slurs, anti-Semitic text messages sent by councilman Thomas Tsiolson shared messages with members of the governing body.
95 and counting; Wood digs up time capsule; Children create 9/11 memorial
SECOND PLACE
Danielle DeSisto
Burlington County Times

Care package; Transitioning together/Florence couple fundraising to help homeless man
First Place
Rebecca Everett
South Jersey Times

The law is clear; Pride in patience; Doomsday prepper
News Writing
Portfolio
Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Bob Jordan
Asbury Park Press

Babies at risk; Trump’s FBI pick Wray is still at work for Christie; Vaad met with N.J. before amnesty
SECOND PLACE
Susan K. Livio
The Star-Ledger

The last goodnight; Nash heir perseveres through grief, illness;
Ex-governor tied to cushy hospital job for pal
Locked up, fighting back; Trooper makes deal, avoids jail; Blind justice, or justice blinded?
Coverage of Election/Politics
Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE
Rick Mellerup
The SandPaper

Portfolio
Coverage of Election/Politics
Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE
Marilyn Baer
The Hoboken Reporter

Portfolio
Coverage of Election/Politics
Weekly, over 6,500

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

Portfolio
Coverage of Election/Politics
Weekly, under 6,500

THIRD PLACE
John Burton
The Two River Times

Portfolio

Sen. Beck Reflects on Election Loss

By John Burton

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

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

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

“It was a clear backlash against Gov. Christie,” Beck was empathetic in her assessment. “It was palpable as we went door to door” campaigning, she said. “It didn’t matter if you were a Republican, a Democrat,” she offered. “It was a universal dislike of our sitting governor,” Republican Christie, who is coming to the end of his two-term limit, has a statewide approval rating that has been hovering around 15 percent since the summer months. In her district, which hosts Democratic, Beck said Christie’s job approval is somewhere in the vicinity of 11 percent. Compounding matters, Beck continued, is the general dislike of President Donald Trump, a Republican, among New Jersey voters. His approval rating stands at about 38 percent in the county, and around 38 in the 11th District. Nationally, Trump’s approval rating is at approximately 35 percent or slightly lower, depending on the poll. “It was the wave,” against Republican candidates affecting races in New Jersey and...
Coverage of Election/Politics
Weekly, under 6,500

SECOND PLACE
Joshua Jongsma
Verona-Cedar Grove Times

Portfolio
Coverage of
Election/Politics
Weekly, under 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Derek Allen
The Progress

Portfolio

West Caldwell ‘ringleader’ targeted by Congressman
Rodney Frelinghuysen sends letter to woman’s employer

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

SALLY WELFENDA
Target of Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen’s attacks.

The Progress
Local News Coverage
Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Staff
The Daily Journal

Oct. 6-11, 2017
Local News Coverage
Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE
Staff
The Trentonian
Local News Coverage
Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Staff
The Jersey Journal

Oct. 6-11, 2017
Local News Coverage
Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Staff
Asbury Park Press

Oct. 6-10, 2017
Local News Coverage
Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE
Staff
The Record (Bergen County)
Local News Coverage
Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Staff
Courier-Post

Sept. 8-12, 2017
Coverage of Crime, Police, Court
Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE
Suzanne Marino
The Current of Linwood, Northfield & Somers Point

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

Day two of Garreffi trial brings passengers to the stand; Mainland BOE remembers athletes lost; Vineland man gets 10 years
Coverage of Crime, Police, Court
Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE
Al Sullivan
The Jersey City Reporter

This is ugly; Army vet; Order returns; Free fire zone
Coverage of Crime, Police, Court Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Erika Norton
Advertiser-News North

Anti-Semitic graffiti found at diner days before Rosh Hashanah; We have proven that hate has no place here
No Automatic Disbarment for Child Sex Offenses, Court Rules

By Michael Booth

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

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

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

Continued on page 10
Coverage of Crime, Police, Court
Weekly, under 6,500

SECOND PLACE
Charles Toutant
New Jersey Law Journal

Robert Menendez Trial Coverage and Insights

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

By Charles Toutant

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

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

Continued on page 10
Coverage of Crime, Police, Court
Weekly, under 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Yael Katzwer
News-Record of Maplewood & South Orange

Town releases files from July 5 altercation; TC votes 'no confidence' in Chief Cimino; Maplewood reach settlement
Specialty Writing
Portfolio
Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE
David Foster
The Trentonian

Portfolio
Lyme disease, tick-borne infections on rise; Urgent care becoming the new ER; Assisters prepare for ACA
FIRST PLACE
Rebecca Everett
South Jersey Times

Cop fights back tears; Death of toddler prompts questions; Family of killer offers apology
Specialty Writing Portfolio
Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Lindy Washburn
The Record (Bergen County)

Portfolio
Specialty Writing Portfolio
Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE
Jonathan Lai
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Diversity Lacking; Fear for the future; Christie budgets medical training
Specialty Writing Portfolio
Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Ken Serrano
Asbury Park Press

The drug cartel next door;
Narcotic nation; Monmouth
drug deaths are dropping
Interpretive Writing
Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE
Al Sullivan
The Jersey City Reporter

What happened on Tonnelle Ave; Mayor reacts; FBI joins in
Interpretive Writing
Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE
Marilyn Baer
The Hoboken Reporter

Hope and Hassels on Main Street

Hope and hassles on Main Street
Washington Street rebuilding generates optimism and critiques

Construction on Washington Street won't be completed until July 2015
Northfield officials tackle sensitive issue of add-ons to bike-path memorials

BY SUZANNE MARINO
Staff Writer

NORTHFIELD — The bike path that winds from Somers Point through Linwood and Northfield is dotted with memorial benches and trees purchased from the cities and placed in memory of a special friend or family member or to mark an occasion. Each of the benches has a small plaque spelling out who the bench is in remembrance of and serves as a respite for walkers. For some the benches are a place to remember or connect with the person memorialized.

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

See MEMORIALS on Page 21
School Lunches Could Suffer with Ag Department Changes
Interpretive Writing
Weekly, under 6,500

SECOND PLACE
Charles Toutant
New Jersey Law Journal

Interpretive Writing
Weekly, under 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Charles Toutant
New Jersey Law Journal

As Legalization Looms, 3 Things Lawyers Need to Know About Stoned Driving
THIRD PLACE
Andrew Doerfler
The Express-Times

Making the best better;
Talking lots of turkeys; Ode
to scrapple
SECOND PLACE
Cheryl Makin
Courier News

They survived; Students share sweet message; Local Vietnam MIA remembered
A big milestone for a fantastic four

Slice of life; Politics makes an odd pairing; a big milestone for a fantastic four
Feature, Lifestyle, Entertainment Portfolio
Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Bill Ervolino
The Record (Bergen County)
Never too late to graduate

Her Diploma at 96

Dream Goes On; Her Diploma at 96; Family
FIRST PLACE
Christopher Maag
The Record (Bergen County)
We’ll take a short break while NJPA editorial committee member David Nahan of Sample Media, and NJPA board member, Mike Jameson, Burlington County Times, come to the stage to announce the next round of awards.
Mother turns educator after daughter’s drug use, recovery

By KRISTEN KELLEHER
Sentinel staff

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Included among the company’s speakers are Darryl Strawberry, a former Major League Baseball player who is now a minister and author, and Justin Luke Riley, the CEO of Young People in Recovery, who former President Obama spoke with at the National Rx Drug Abuse Summit in 2015, among many others.

See Speakers, page A10

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

OPIOID EPIDEMIC
A Series
Feature Writing
Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE
Matthew Salvatore
The Coast Star

Portfolio
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Feature Writing
Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Adam Young
The Coast Star

Portfolio
Rumson Letter Carrier Says Goodbye To Route, Hello To Retirement
SECOND PLACE

Jay Cook
The Two River Times

Horses Guide Disabled Vets from Combat to Calm
NEWSPAPER CONTEST: 2017 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Feature Writing
Weekly, under 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Jacob Perry, Charlie Zavalick
The Bernardsville News

The Holy Oak of Basking Ridge

‘HEART OF THE COMMUNITY’

SORROW AS ‘HOLY OAK’ COMES DOWN

By W. JACOB PERRY

BERNARDS TWP—It wasn’t something to be expected to see or hear or feel, but news of people turning out Monday morning to watch work begin the dismantling of the Great Oak Tree at Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church brought strong emotion in its aftermath.

The tree, a landmark in the community, had been a source of comfort and pride for many years. It was a 300-year-old oak, one of the oldest trees in the area, and its presence had been a reminder of the town’s history and heritage.

The tree was started to come down after it was discovered to be in poor condition. It was determined that the tree was too old and was causing problems for the church and surrounding area.

The tree was removed by a team of arborists who worked through the night to make sure it was done safely and without any damage to the surrounding area.

Residents and visitors to the church were heartbroken at the news, but they also expressed their appreciation for the arborists’ hard work and for the care they took in preserving the tree as long as possible.

“It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to this beautiful tree,” one resident said. “It has been a part of our community for so many years and has meant so much to so many people.”

The tree was cut into sections and will be used for landscaping and other projects in the church’s yard and surrounding area.

The news of the tree’s removal was met with both sadness and a sense of relief as people reflected on the tree’s place in their lives and the memories it had created.

“It was a part of our lives for so long, and it will be hard to let go,” another resident said. “But it’s also nice to see that it will be put to good use.”

The tree’s removal was a reminder of the importance of caring for our natural resources and the role they play in shaping our communities and our lives.
Sports Writing Portfolio
Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Jane Allison Havsy
Daily Record

Wrestling champ brings his tips home
Gold medalist Burroughs gives back to Jersey kids

RANDOPLH - When Jordan Burroughs looked over a crowd of young wrestlers at Buxton Athletic Training Center in Randolph on Sunday morning, he saw himself looking back more than 100 times over.

Burroughs grew up in Sicklerville, discovering wrestling in a room crowded of basketball and football.

Burroughs demonstrated fundamental maneuvers, including his trademark head double leg. As the wrestlers relied on a drum, he concluded with their technique tips—or just a fun game.

"I was one of those guys, going to wrestling camp, trying to get my favorite wrestlers’ autographs." Burroughs said during a break, as her 5-year-old son Beaux donned a remote-controlled car through the wrestling room.

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

A wrestler since he was 5-year-old, Burroughs won a 2006 NJCAA title at Window Top, High School, where the gym now bears his name. He was a two-time NCAA champion and three-time All-American for Nebraska. Considered to be one of the best pound-for-pound wrestlers in the world, Burroughs won Olympic gold in London in 2012, and also competed in Rio.

He also has four world titles, adding another last month in Paris.

Burroughs made sure to offer a few words to nearly everyone in the room over the course of training. Jeff Buxton - the former Blair Academy wre...
SECOND PLACE

John Lewis

Burlington County Times

Holy Cross' Bruneau; Pope takes teachings to new places; Unstoppable
Sports Writing Portfolio
Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Tom Rimback
Burlington County Times

Three-mendous;
Goalies follow circle of life;
Longtime BCT sports editor retires
Seton Hall-Villanova more than just a fantastic game

Jerry Carino
Asbury Park Press

Portoflio
SECOND PLACE
Matthew Stanmyre
The Star-Ledger

Portfolio
Sports Writing Portfolio
Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Steve Politi
The Star-Ledger

Yanks rock Cleveland;
Talent comes in to play;
The creek that connects
Facing Murder and Mayhem in Norman Rockwell Country; Bombs Away: Can the President Keep a Leash on His Generals

By Rick Mellerup

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

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

Murders, even the brutal stabbing of an old woman, aren’t uncommon in this country. But they are uncommon in Vermont, which had only 16 homicides statewide in 2016. And they are especially uncommon in Arlington, which, after all, is in Norman Rockwell Country.

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

Indeed, that area was the art capital of the United States in the late 1950s. Another American artist, Anna Mary Robertson Moses, better known as “Grandma Moses,” lived in the New York town of Hoosick Falls, only 12 miles from my home. Abstract impressionists such as Jasper Johns and Jackson Pollock may have been all the rage with highbrow critics, but Rockwell and Moses were the king and queen of American art as far as the larger population was concerned.

The former was an illustrator whose paintings graced the cover of The Saturday Evening Post 322 times over the...
Column Writing
Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE
Len Bardsley
The Coast Star

Portfolio
Newspapers have duty to report on social ills, Outcome of Lentz trial should shift focus as clouds of suspicion start to dissipate
Column Writing
Weekly, under 6,500

THIRD PLACE
Mark Zeigler
The Retrospect

Memory Lane-Those ’70s Summers/7th Grade History Class
Here's What I Think I'll Say; Hey, It's a Job, I Guess
Column Writing
Weekly, under 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Richard Welden
The Retrospect

Memory Lane—How I Spent My 1930s Summers/Pearl Harbor
Local Sports Coverage
Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Jane Allison Havsy
Daily Record
Local Sports Coverage
Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE
Staff
Courier News

Oct. 6-10, 2017
Local Sports Coverage
Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Staff
Burlington County Times

Sept. 8-12
Local Sports Coverage
Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE Staff
The Press of Atlantic City

Sept. 8-12
Local Sports Coverage
Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE
High School Sports Staff
The Star-Ledger

October 6-10, 2017
Local Sports Coverage
Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Mark Trible, Josh Friedman
Courier-Post

Oct. 6-10, 2017
Sports Writing Portfolio
Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE
Len Bardsley
The Coast Star

Portfolio
Sports Writing Portfolio
Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE
Bill LeConey
The Current of Absecon & Pleasantville

Portfolio
Sports Writing Portfolio
Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Bill LeConey
The Current of Linwood, Northfield & Somers Point
Sports Writing Portfolio
Weekly, under 6,500
No awards given
High-speed Chase; Newton QB Young; Newton brings home 1st Title
Minno Mania; pitman maintaining game with Clayton; Williamstown's Schauer never let hearing deficit hold her back in softball
Perth Amboy head wrestling coach Giordano retires after 35 seasons

“There are so many memories I’ll never forget. The one thing I’ll never forget is the hard work and dedication of the kids. They worked so hard, and they’re the ones who made this happen. They’re the ones who made this program what it is today,” said Giordano.

Giordano has coached wrestling for 35 seasons at Perth Amboy High School. He has won numerous state championships and has been named thestate coach of the year multiple times. He has also been inducted into the New Jersey Wrestling Hall of Fame.

“This program’s a dream. I never thought I’d be coaching this long. I’ve been coaching for 35 seasons, and I’ve never wanted to leave. I’ve loved every minute of it,” said Giordano.

The program’s success can be attributed to Giordano’s dedication and hard work. He has always focused on the development of the athletes and has never put his own needs before the needs of the team.

“Coach Giordano is an inspiration to all of us. He’s a great leader and a great coach. He’s always there for us, and we’re always there for him,” said senior Justin Rodriguez.

Giordano’s influence on the program has been immeasurable. He has touched the lives of hundreds of athletes and has inspired them to pursue their dreams.

“Coach Giordano has taught me so much about life. He’s taught me to never give up and to always keep working. He’s taught me to be a leader and to be a role model,” said senior Eric Garcia.

Giordano’s retiremen
Scholastic Writing Portfolio
Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Stephen Edelson
Asbury Park Press

Life lessons on the mat;
Overcoming adversity; 1953
Freehold team is a lesson
Second Place
Jerry Carino
Asbury Park Press

Superstars give back; Bench 2 officials who left game; Frauenheim legacy still alive and well
Scholastic Writing Portfolio
Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Josh Friedman
Courier-Post

Split personality; 'Magic Mitchell' a faceoff maven; Haddons turn road trips into victories
Robert P. Kelly Award
Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE
Hannington Dias
North Bergen Reporter

Secaucus lures amazon; Roque's son democratic chair
Linden examining impending legalization of recreational pot; Internal docs show disciplinary past of Hillside police chief
Take her or leave her; One nasty women
Robert P. Kelly Award
Weekly, under 6,500
No awards given
Hamburg bakery a family affair; Historic store renovations progress; Stillwater man a cut above
Why hospital deal fell apart; waterfront site; Another dry town opens first brewery
Business/Finance Writing Portfolio
Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Crissa Shoemaker DeBree
Burlington County Times

Savings through 2017; Warehouse boom; Aides need aid
Business/Finance Writing Portfolio
Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Dave Sheingold
The Record (Bergen County)

Portfolio
Business/Finance Writing Portfolio

Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Joan Verdon
The Record (Bergen County)

Portfolio

Toys ‘R’ Us now playing catch-up

Former giant lags in retail’s changing game

JOAN VERDON

Perfect timing helped Toys “R” Us grow from a single, tiny store into an international powerhouse over the course of 64 years. The company got its start selling cribs and carriages just as the baby boom was about to explode. It expanded into toys as these babies grew and it realized dolls and trucks produced more repeat business than baby furniture. It opened the first toy superstores just as the age of hot toys fueled by TV ads was dawning.

But the company that billed itself as “the center of the toy universe” now finds itself behind the times in the digital age and challenged by a retail world that is playing by a whole new set of rules. It must refinance $400 million of its crushing $5 billion debt next year with lenders who have grown less patient about waiting for results and who are less confident about the future of traditional retailing.

See RETAIL, Page 8A
Business/Finance Writing Portfolio
Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Karin Price Mueller
The Star-Ledger

'I can't thank him enough'; Baby safety; Company accused of 'scare tactics'
Now as much as ever, a free independent press matters; Under fire, MacArthur sticks to campaign pledges; Invite someone different home for dinner
Rentals

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

And then there was one. We tell.

Video Express and Cameo Express change in the Dover Field Plaza in Hamilton. In 1893, the last remaining video rental place in New Jersey. Reality.

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

Video Express in Hamilton has a lot in common with the last Mohicans. It’s not a movie, though, it’s a video rental store. It’s not the last Mohicans in the film, but it’s the last Mohicans in the video rental business.

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Menendez shows his Hudson DNA; Hudson County politics is a man’s game; It’s a pundit’s life for Bruce Alston, at least for now
News Column
Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Tom Moran
The Star-Ledger

This is what happens when testosterone and egos rule the day; Credibility crisis at teachers’ union; Why political machines forgive all sins
Summit detective killed in crash mourned with love, levity; Loss & forgiveness; The 46
Doo-Wop Aficionados Now Have a Home

Eric Englund
The SandPaper

Doo-Wop Aficionados Now Have a Home
Arts & Entertainment Writing
Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE
Pat Johnson
The SandPaper

Women Make Their Movie Marks Within Independent Film Venues
Arts & Entertainment Writing
Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Pamela Dollak
Atlantic City Weekly

In the P!nk
Livingston’s Soleil Thomas Competes on Kids Baking Challenge
Ellie Smith Reprises Her Grandmom’s Role in Music Man

by Bethany Mitros

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

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

“I was a wreck too,” Watson explained. She felt guilty that Smith,
an experienced thespian, was worried about her audition because she is usually not stressed about that part of theater.

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

(Continued on page 8)

TWO PEAS IN A Pod; At left, Nancy Watson and Ellie Smith playing the role of Marian the Librarian in The Music Man, 50 years apart. Above, Smith and Watson mirror each other on more than just the stage.
FIRST PLACE
Mary Ann Bourbeau
The Two River Times

Quon & Son: Father and Son Artists
Wayne McCabe
New Jersey Herald

Swartswood Methodist; Beaver Lake Station; Decker blacksmith and wheelwright shop
Dog making a difference for kids at Randolph school

Vivica Sosa/Staff Photographer, staff writer, and digital editor of the Daily Record

Ruse on the Loose

“Tigner says that the therapy dog named ‘Coco’ has helped kids overcome their difficulties in school and in social settings. He often accompanies Tigner to his class at Randolph Middle School. Tigner says that the therapy dog has helped him overcome his own challenges in school and in social settings. He often accompanies Tigner to his class at Randolph Middle School.

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Elie Wiesel’s message for Trump: Love is louder; Historic welcome for LGBT Catholics; Religion, politics share stage
This gem rocks; Montclair’s Hodera should be next great rock band to break out of Jersey; She’s in ‘CTRL’
On the Wine Trail
Feature/Entertainment column
Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Chris Maag
The Record (Bergen County)

Garden State of Mind
Experts say cyber risks are serious, Cyber attacks have not spared Cape May County
Special Subject
Writing
Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE
Gina G. Scala
The SandPaper

Oyster Creek Generating Station:
Two Decommissioning Options

Oyster Creek Generating Station is a nuclear power plant located in Lacey Township, New Jersey, on an 800-acre site. The two-unit plant, which was closed in 1999, is now being decommissioned. The plant consists of two reactors, each with a capacity of 1,100 megawatts. The decommissioning process involves the safe disposal of radioactive materials and the restoration of the site to its pre-plant condition.

The decommissioning process is divided into several phases. The first phase, called the site preparation phase, involves the removal of all non-radioactive materials from the site. This includes the demolition of all non-structural buildings and the removal of all remaining equipment and materials.

The second phase, called the site closure phase, involves the removal of all radioactive materials from the site. This includes the removal of all radioactive materials from the reactors and all remaining equipment and materials.

The third phase, called the site stabilization phase, involves the stabilization of the site. This includes the installation of barriers and the restoration of the site to its pre-plant condition.

The decommissioning process is expected to take approximately 15 years. The plant will be fully decommissioned and the site will be restored to its pre-plant condition by 2034.
Special Subject Writing
Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Ryan Loughlin
Atlantic City Weekly

Gritty in the city; Sex and Atlantic City
Special Subject
Writing
Weekly, under 6,500

THIRD PLACE
Nicholas Katzban
The Ridgewood News

Miss N.J. USA contestant is eager to break boundaries
Everyday Heirlooms

At the Endicott Reardon Museum in Seaville, tokens of family life are priceless treasures

BY JOAN KOSTIUK

Bennett Reardon Bailey was born in May 1915. Here she got as much love and care as a rose on the Ocean City Boardwalk.

Everyday heirlooms

At the Endicott Reardon Museum in Seaville, tokens of family life are priceless treasures

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Bennett Reardon Bailey was born in May 1915. Here she got as much love and care as a rose on the Ocean City Boardwalk.
Dark forces unleashed by Trump's travel ban
Sports Column
Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE
L.A. Parker
The Trentonian
Portfolio

Overbearing parenting isn’t really the worst thing

All this hoopla about the world’s most obvious basketball star not being taught by the greatest coach in the game is an example of the incredible overbearing, outgoing behavior of Father Ball.

Anyone who believes that Lavar’s son’s antics will derail Lavar’s future is not paying attention. Bird’s worst behavior may be that he is a loudmouth, but he is a great player who is being treated as a diva by the media.

Lavar Ball’s comments and behavior are nothing new. Black people have always been treated differently by society and the media. Bird’s comments are nothing new and should be taken as a reflection of how the media treats black people.

And he is the kind of out-spoken, social media personality who Lavar Ball is trying to be. Bird’s comments are a reflection of the media’s treatment of black people and how society views them.

Almost 50 years ago the Civil Rights Act was signed into law. Blacks were not treated as equals and were subjected to discrimination. Lavar Ball’s comments are a reflection of the media’s treatment of black people and how society views them.

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Sports Column
Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE
Tom McGurk
The Daily Journal

Pacheco strong even in unthinkable times; Lenape leaves Vineland in cold; Football fever runs rampant in Vineland
A good time for Hampton to take a bow; Newton continues to carry banner; The time has come to embrace innovations.
Sports Column
Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Bob Klapisch
The Record (Bergen County)

Portfolio
Closed stance; 0-5 means Reese, McAdoo must go; No St. Anthony hoops? Incomprehensible
Sports Column
Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Tara Sullivan
The Record (Bergen County)

Wyckoff's Hogan has game for the ages to lift Patriots

COMMENDARY
TARA SULLIVAN

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — About halfway up the stands behind Gillette Stadium's north end zone — Section 201, Row 18 to be exact — the family and friends of Chris Hogan danced and bellowed and clapped and hugged, delirious in their joy, lost in their amazement. Just below them on the bright green turf in Foxborough, the all-world quarterback with the game's best résumé was making his way to his seventh Super Bowl on the back of their son, their best friend, their fiancé, turning to their favorite football player to help win the AFC Championship game.

"Just so proud," the father, Joe Hogan, was saying through glassy eyes.

"Just so surreal," the best friend, Mike Esposito, was saying through a permanent smile.

"So many good things happening," the fiancée, Ashley Bocchio, was saying, her hands rubbing the round bump of her

See SULLIVAN, Page 45
Environmental, Health & Science Writing
Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE
John Cohen
The SandPaper

In 'Dr. G' will See You Now -- Online
Environmental, Health & Science Writing
Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE
Kristen Kelleher
Ocean City Sentinel

Pinelands Commissioners approve gas pipeline: O.C.’s Bob Barr among yes votes and Protesters blast commission after vote
Environmental, Health & Science Writing
Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Pat Johnson
The SandPaper

Students, Crabbers Find and Recycle Ghost Crab Pots
Paddlers Explore Revived Delaware and Watershed

In Bethany Mitros

Two decades ago, the idea of a three-day kayaking adventure through the Delaware River’s polluted watershed into Camden County would have been crime-worrier at best. As the paddlers for Science Three-day Delaware River Expedition, convened by Upstream Alliance, kicked off last month, though, nearly everyone who heard about the adventure was anxious of the opportunity to explore Camden County from the perspective of the water.

“Twenty years ago, no one would have wanted to do this because the water was not clean. Now, we’ve brought it back to the point where we can,” said Camden County Eco-Curator Maggie McCann Julians of Haddon Heights. She said she grew up basically on the banks of the Big Timber Creek, where the three-day trip began, but seeing everything from the water was a completely new experience.

“It’s the winding, true home,” she explained. As they traveled under Route 42, McCann Julians said she saw beaver dams and bald eagle nests.

“We’ve been doing is that we can have more people have this experience so i. to not be uncommon.” McCann Julians explained. “People want to get out there and we want to provide more opportunities. They have to offer similar trips on river tributaries to the public in the future. We’re hoping that the more people experience the river, the more they’ll grow to love it and understand their role in keeping it clean,” explained McCann Julians.

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE: Last month, Upstream Alliance organized a three-day kayaking adventure through the watersheds of Camden County for Delaware River explorers. Here, kayakers hold up a sign that says “Paddler Science” in solidarity with the national March for Science. At left, Haddon Heights resident and Camden County Parks Eco-Director Maggie McCann Julians in front kayak along the Delaware River.
Environmental, Health & Science Writing Weekly, under 6,500

SECOND PLACE

Yael Katzwer
News-Record of Maplewood & South Orange

District explores new step in lead dilemma
Environmental, Health & Science Writing
Weekly, under 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Nicholas Katzban, Lindy Washburn
The Ridgewood News

Valley hospital coverage
Epic a test of faith; Intense docudrama is tribute to Boston Strong; Biographical drama serves up story behind McDonald's
SECOND PLACE

Robert Price
New Jersey Herald

Guy Davis pays tribute; Chicago feeling 50 years; One last trip around Musikfest
Critical Writing
Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Katie Moen
New Jersey Herald

Chicken eatery; Hackettstown
eatery; Plan B Pub
Critical Writing
Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Stephen Whitty
The Star-Ledger

MOVIE REVIEW
‘Mudbound’ gives strong voice to the powerless

James Frey, the director of ‘Mudbound,’ has been a critical voice in the film industry for years. His work has been praised for its boldness and innovation, and he has consistently pushed the boundaries of storytelling.

‘Mudbound’ is Frey’s latest film, and it is a powerful exploration of the impact of war on a rural Mississippi community. The film follows two families—white and black—who are torn apart by the war and struggle to come to terms with their new reality.

The story is told through the eyes of three main characters: two young men, a white man and a black man, who are drafted into the army and sent to fight in Europe. The film explores the ways in which the war changes their lives, and how they must come to terms with the sacrifices they have made.

The film is a powerful reminder of the impact of war on individuals and communities. It is a story of resilience and hope, and it is a reminder of the importance of strong leadership and effective communication.

In conclusion, ‘Mudbound’ is a must-see film for anyone interested in the impact of war on individuals and communities. It is a powerful and timely reminder of the importance of strong leadership and effective communication.
Critical Writing
Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE
Craig LaBan
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Served up for the summer; Park Place Cafe; Hearthside
Critical Writing

Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Jim Beckerman

The Record (Bergen County)

Portfolio

Living to age 90 was among rocker Chuck Berry's feats

VIEWPOINT
JIM BECKERMAN

Is Chuck Berry the first rock star to die of old age?

For heartbroken fans, that will be a distinction without a difference. What’s important to them is that Berry, the creator of rock and roll, is gone.

The rock and roll legend, who has never shied away from controversy, died on March 18 at the age of 90.

The news of his death, which came as a shock to many, was met with an outpouring of emotion from fans around the world.

Berry’s legacy is one of American music that has shaped the course of popular culture. His songs, which include hits like “Roll Over Beethoven,” “Rock and Roll Music,” and “Johnny B. Goode,” have become staples of the rock and roll genre.

Berry was born on October 18, 1926, in St. Louis, Missouri. He began his musical career in the 1950s, playing in various bands before forming his own group, the Chiffons.

In 1959, he released his first hit, “Maybellene,” which reached number one on the charts. His success continued with hits like “Roll Over Beethoven,” “Rock and Roll Music,” and “Johnny B. Goode,” which all reached the top of the charts.

Berry’s music has been influential in the development of rock and roll, influencing countless artists over the years. His influence can be heard in the music of The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Who, and many other rock and roll bands.

Berry was known for his distinctive guitar style, which included a combination of blues and rock and roll, and his unique vocal style, which was characterized by his gravelly voice and his delivery of lyrics in a way that made them sound like they were spoken directly to children.

He is survived by his wife, Them, whom he married in 1949, and his son, Charles. They have two children together, Tallulah and Snake.

Berry was diagnosed with hepatitis C in 1998, which led to a liver transplant in 2001. He was also diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2005, but he remained active in the music business until his death.

Berry was known for his controversial behavior, including his involvement in various court cases and his legal battles with music companies.

Berry’s music continues to be popular today, with his songs regularly played on radio stations and in films and television shows.

Berry was a true pioneer of rock and roll, and his influence on the music industry will be felt for years to come.

Berry’s passing is a loss for the music industry, but his legacy will live on through his music and his influence on future generations of musicians.

Berry, who was known for his love of music and his dedication to his craft, will be remembered not just for his music, but for his contributions to the world of rock and roll.

Berry was a true legend, and his legacy will live on through his music and his influence on future generations of musicians.

Berry will be missed, but his music will continue to inspire and influence for generations to come.
Somers Point Kmart customers keep coming back; Every pizza kneads creativity at Maggpie's; Somers Point Pet Pros store closing
Business & Economic Writing
Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Rory Pasquariello
Bayonne Community News

Bitcoin is here

By Rory Pasquariello
Reporter, staff writer

Bitcoin is catching on. Not only are some small businesses in Hudson County accepting the crypto currency, hackers are demanding ransom in it, and residents are investing in it like capital. Bitcoin is a digital currency that is exchanged electronically from one user (or peer) to another, anywhere in the world, instantaneously, without having to reveal an identity. It is based on potentially revolutionary technology called blockchain, a digital ledger that records transactions, shareable across a network of computers. No need for a central authority. It’s a code that can do what the banker used to.

The new technology attracts a lot of users but also makes it an ideal ransom for hackers, giving Bitcoin a bit of a bad reputation.

Bitcoin was created in 2008 by a mysterious Japanese man known as Satoshi Nakamoto. He set the rules that restrict the total number of Bitcoins ever to be created to 21 million, giving the technology the controlled scarcity required of a currency, but so far it has not been used as such.

City officials throughout Hudson County were contacted for this story. Most have been mum on the issue, as municipalities are widely outpaced by new technology. They often struggle to capitalize on the opportunities new technology presents and to defend themselves from new threats. Bayonne officials, like most people, are largely unfamiliar with this technology. Early adopters, meanwhile, feel Bitcoin will stabilize, as more people use it.

The coin collector

When Nick Kalcianes, manager at Helen’s Pizza on Newark Avenue in Jersey City, first heard about Bitcoin in 2013 it was during the currency’s first real boom. The Bank of Cyprus froze all its accounts during an unforeseen recapitalization, and Bitcoin simultaneously rose in value.

Whether Cyprus’s financial crisis has causal links to the Bitcoin boom is up for see BITCOIN page 12
NJ Fluke Fishing Industry in Flux

Story and photos by Jay Cook

Atlantic Highlands — After a decision made last week aimed at protecting the Atlantic Ocean's primary fluke fishery, New Jersey anglers now believe its industry is in flux.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), a federally regulated authority that oversees fishing management for the 15 states along the Atlantic Coast, has decided to increase regulations on summer flounder for 2017.

"With what they're proposing, it's going to be the final nail in our coffin," said Ron Sunti, a head boat captain based out of Atlantic Highlands.

On Feb. 9, the ASMFC passed Amendment XXVIII with a 7-3-2 vote, choosing Option 5, which calls for new recreational regulations on summer flounder, commonly known as fluke.

Those sanctions propose an increase in keeper length from 10" to 17", along with a reduction in bag limits from the fish to three. The season length will remain the same, though, open from May 23 through Sept. 25.

When looking at recreational and commercial fish, Point Pleasant, the Atlantic Highlands Harbor is one of the most popular head for party boat fishing destinations in Monmouth County. Though what makes Atlantic Highlands unique is the harbor is run as a public utility, similar to water and sewer departments in other towns.

According to Adam Hubeny, the borough's administrator, the Atlantic Highlands Harbor, which was constructed between 1938 and 1941, oversees one primary launch ramp, eight head boat slips, lease mooring and berthing space or bare boaters who don't buy fuel, that will have an effect on the municipal taxes, Hubeny said.

The Atlantic Highlands Harbor, which was constructed between 1938 and 1941, oversees only one primary launch ramp, eight head boat slips, lease mooring and berthing space or bare boaters who don't buy fuel, that will have an effect on the municipal taxes, Hubeny said.

NJ Fluke Fishing Industry in Flux

Continued on Page 2
Business & Economic Writing
Weekly, under 6,500

SECOND PLACE
David Gialanella
New Jersey Law Journal

Newspaper GC Continues Bridgegate Work, Gets Back to Private Practice
With Market and Rate Pressures, Firm Spinoffs Are an Option

By David Gialanella and Zack Needles

New Jersey Law Journal

The curious case of the law firm spinoff falls short of trend status, but examples are beginning to mount, in New Jersey and elsewhere.

Whether a chance at building a legacy outweighs the concerns inherent in abandoning a known brand is a calculus that varies by case, but it appears economic factors, including rate autonomy, invariably motivate those who go through with it.

The most recent example locally is Tanenbaum Keale, an 18-lawyer firm formed six weeks ago by a group splitting off from Sedgwick’s Newark office.

Continued on page 10
Robert P. Kelly
Award-New Journalist
Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Katie Moen
New Jersey Herald
Robert P. Kelly
Award-New Journalist
Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE
Corey McDonald
The Jersey Journal
Robert P. Kelly
Award-New Journalist
Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Joe Brandt
South Jersey Times
Robert P. Kelly
Award-New Journalist
Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Abbey Finch
The Record (Bergen County)
Robert P. Kelly
Award-New Journalist
Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE
Michael Sol Warren
The Star-Ledger

SEA WARS
Fishermen and environmentalists do battle over a 'sanctuary' section of Atlantic Ocean

NJPA 2017 NEWSPAPER CONTEST
Robert P. Kelly
Award-New Journalist
Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Erin Serpico
The Press of Atlantic City
A living laboratory
Students tour the landscape at Reservoir No. 3

By Al Sullivan
Reporter staff writer

Jennifer Freyner, an eighth grade student from ES 28, had her small troop over dirt with exposed tree roots, through a field of waving phragmites, and over a metal bridge she and other students had installed along the path to allow their schoolmate Anna to access the area.

"Anna's in a wheelchair," Jennifer explained. "We wanted to make it easier for her to come here."

By here, Jennifer meant the landscape inside Reservoir No. 3 in Jersey City Heights that has become a living laboratory for students studying nature.

On April 29, Jennifer and other students along with adult teachers from School 28 came to the reservoir for an Earth Day clean up that would let students help clean the park. Some of the students temporarily abandoned their plastic bags full of trash to take the test.

The clean up was sponsored by the Embarkment Preservation Coalition, which supplied tools to help clear the trails. John Presto, a city employee, said city workers and the Jersey City City的历史

The reservoir, now a nature preserve, was constructed just after the Civil War in 1870. Reservoir Preservation Alliance oversees events in the reservoir.

A piece of Jersey City history

The reservoir, now a nature preserve, was constructed just after the Civil War in 1870 to accommodate the city’s growing need for fresh water. It could not use water from the Hudson and Hackensack rivers because of their salt content, so it used water sent in via a complex array of steam pumps from the Passaic River.

This practice ceased around 1910.
Education Writing
Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE
David Biggy
The SandPaper

STEAM - Stafford Schools' Latest
Class Imitative Resonates with Students
Proponents voice support for transgender policy at EHT schools

BY LAURA STETSER
Staff Writer

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP — While the Board of Education has tabled its final vote on a proposed policy outlining how the district should treat transgender students, community members continue to voice their thoughts on the topic.

The policy, which the board passed 8-1 on first reading in early November, was tabled at the request of the board’s policy committee. The policy outlines how students’ gender identity should be expressed to the district by transgender students and their parents. The policy as proposed would allow transgender students to choose the pronouns by which they want to be referred, and the restroom, locker room, physical education classes and extracurricular activities they prefer.

The transgender policy was not on the agenda for the board meeting Tuesday, Jan. 10, but a few residents spoke up in favor of the policy, a contrast in tone from the Dec. 13 meeting, when the only public commentary came from those opposed to all or part of the proposed policy.

Mico Lucide, who went by the name of Michael Heriege when he graduated from Egg Harbor Township High School in 2009, is a volunteer at Stockton University’s Women, Gender and Sexuality Center. He said he felt compelled to respond to the negative public comments made at the December meeting.

“I know the policy is not on the agenda tonight, but this is not a town of hate and exclusion, and I can’t let those voices be the only ones that are heard,”

See POLICY on Page 13
Education Writing
Weekly, under 6,500

THIRD PLACE
Joshua Jongsma
Verona-Cedar Grove Times

Students protest DeVos
School Board Continues Budget Talks: Discusses Special Ed. and Staffing

Ellen Lazer
The West Essex Tribune

The Livingston School Board discusses plans for special education and staffing as part of the 2017-2018 budget. The discussions will take place over the next several months. The topics will include the proposed addition of a language arts specialist at Livingston High School.

Loro Zigiys-Steiger, the district’s chief administrative officer, gave a detailed look at the changes in several components of special education in Livingston. She explained that the district has decided to add a full-time special education consultant to the staff.

Currently, the budget will be held on Wednesday, March 8, at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. The Board members are expected to vote on the tentative budget on Monday, March 27, and a public hearing and final vote will be held on Monday, April 24. Special Education Programs

Steiger provided a overview of programs that have been created and expanded over the last few years, which have allowed more students to attend the district for their education.

The district has invested in a long-term vision for special programs for ages, life skills, and social-emotional support. The district has increased the number of children with special needs to attend school in Livingston classrooms.

Steiger also noted that the district’s construction projects have provided additional classroom spaces to help increase the number of students.

Livingston places about nine new seats in special education out of district. The number of special education students is 9% of enrollment. The number is a significant increase.

The district has a plan to build a new building that will accommodate all students. The building will be constructed at the site of the old school. The new building will have 600 seats and will be ready for students in the fall.

The district is also working on a new special education center that will be located near the new school. The center will have 100 seats and will be ready for students in the fall.

Steiger also noted that the district is working on a plan to build a new special education center that will be located near the new school. The center will have 100 seats and will be ready for students in the fall.

Three new buildings will be constructed in the buildings, a half-time support staff person at Holmen Middle School, and a full-time support person at LHS for evening work, are also being reviewed.

A new building is being considered for a new special education center. The school will be located near the new school and will have 100 seats. The center will be ready for students in the fall.

School Board Continues Budget Talks:

Ellen Lazer
The West Essex Tribune

School Board Continues Budget Talks: Discusses Special Ed. and Staffing

Ellen Lazer
The West Essex Tribune
What can be done to help these kids; Student stress crisis seen in Bernards; Student stress key issue here
HOME FOR THE HOLIDAY

State parks close following government shutdown, spoiling weekend plans and sending campers packing.

CAN'T BELIEVE THEIR EARS

Salem County event continues through today, with plenty of animals to observe and vendors to visit.

1,500 pounds of corn collected for sau, kitchen.

Best Headlines
Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Ron Panarottti
South Jersey Times
Best Headlines
Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE
Martha Esposito
Burlington County Times
Best Headlines
Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE
James Moening
The Express-Times

He knows all the ins and outs
How a Saylorsburg farmer creates his 11-acre corn maze

Safe at home
With Majestic deal, Major League Baseball uniforms will continue to be made in Easton area
Best Headlines
Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Ilana Keller
Asbury Park Press

claws and EFFECT
Bear sightings are way down, but experts don’t agree on why
New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

UPTICK IN LYME FEARED
Possible surge in the amount of disease-carrying ticks starting this month and lasting into summer
Best Headlines
Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE
Marc Jenkins
The Record (Bergen County)
Best Headlines
Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Phil Cornell
The Star-Ledger
Fresh Approach to Routine Reporting
Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE
Suzanne Marino
The Current of Linwood, Northfield & Somers Point

Long may he wave

Long may he wave

Man in wheelchair raises flag at passing cars to spread goodwill

LINVILLE — Al Glenn has become somewhat of a celebrity among people who travel Shore Road through Linwood in the early morning. He is the man in the wheelchair who has been waving a large American flag at every vehicle that passes.

Glenn, 74, said he is not a veteran, but the proud son of a World War II veteran. U.S. Navy Lt. Cdr. Milton Glenn. His father returned from the war and eventually went into politics, serving as a congressman from 1957 to 1964.

Al Glenn said Sunday afternoon, "It's for my wife, Salvatore, and me, and making it about other issues — I don't know what the answer is."

Suzanne Marino
Fresh Approach to Routine Reporting
Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE
Pamela Dollak, Rebecca King, Ryan Loughlin
Atlantic City Weekly

Good enough to tweet
Fresh Approach to Routine Reporting
Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Pamela Dollak, Rebecca King, Ryan Loughin
Atlantic City Weekly
Fresh Approach to Routine Reporting
Weekly, under 6,500
No awards given
Best Lede
Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Kyle Morel
New Jersey Herald

FRANKFORD — One of Sussex County’s most popular restaurants, the Chatterbox Drive-In, is well-known for its atmosphere of posters, classic cars and other elements evoking memories of the 1950s and ’60s.

OGDENSBURG — Soon, the American Museum of Natural History in New York City will feature a slice — or, more accurately, a slab — of Sussex County in one of its exhibits.

SUSSEX BOROUGH — Avid marathoner Bob Whitescarver was simply hoping to learn some helpful training tips when he purchased world-champion distance runner Stu Mittleman’s book “Slow Burn” nearly two decades ago. Instead, the contents of the book altered the course of his life.
Best Lede
Daily, under 20,000
SECOND PLACE
Terrence T. McDonald
The Jersey Journal

BY TERRENCE T. MCDONALD
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

In the 1965 musical flop “Skyscraper,” a visionary architect sings what may be Broadway's only love song to high-rises.

“Today it's 100 floors / Tomorrow 1,000 floors / Slowly, but surely, the stars” go Sammy Cahn's lyrics to “More Than One Way (To the Stars)."

BY TERRENCE T. MCDONALD
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Imagine an episode of “House Hunters” devoid of all relationship drama but with an undercurrent of political theater. That's what transpired during a special hearing at Hudson County Plaza Thursday afternoon.
By David Levinsky
Staff Writer

NORTH HANOVER—Walter Perry was poring over papers early Tuesday when he finally came to grips with the fact that he might be in real danger of losing his home.

The 93-year-old resident flew in B-25 bombers in the Army Air Corps during World War II and in Air Force B-50s during Korea. After retiring from the military, he spent 26 years as an aeronautical engineer for commercial airlines, including U.S. Airways.

But this was an enemy he couldn’t quite understand. During the last several years, the house Perry shared for over two decades with his late wife,

By DAVID LEVINSKY
STAFF WRITER

James Logan Jr. built an over six-decade legal career largely on his famous courtroom oratories, frequently mixing poetry, Bible passages and literary references into arguments about motive, evidence and reasonable doubt.

But there was one word he couldn’t quite grasp: retirement.
NJPA 2017 NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Best Lede
Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE
David Weinberg
The Press of Atlantic City

DAVID WEINBERG
Staff Writer

PHILADELPHIA —
Atlantic City lightweight
Cesar Balmaceda spit out his mouthpiece,
slowed his breathing
and tried not to think
about the forearm that
was squeezing the air
out of his windpipe Sat-
urday night.

My son Kyle pried one of my
prized smoked spare ribs out of
his Weimaraner’s mouth during
the third quarter of the Super
Bowl, thereby preventing the
second-biggest choke Sunday.

DAVID WEINBERG
Staff Writer

ATLANTIC CITY —
The last time he fought,
Pleasantville welter-
weight Anthony Young
got his bell rung just
before the bell rang.
Best Lede
Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE
Christopher Maag
The Record (Bergen County)

GARDEN STATE OF MIND
CHRISTOPHER MAAG

The first time Billy Ryan’s fighter jet was shot out of the sky, he ejected into the black night. He floated in the South China Sea until a military helicopter rescued him a few hours later.

Every Friday afternoon, Steve and Denise Thorpe board an NJ Transit train in Metuchen, near their home. They transfer at Secaucus and again at Hoboken, where they board the No. 59 express through Bergen and Passaic counties to Port Jervis, New York, the final stop. They walk to Brother Bruno’s, a pizza shop, one block from the Port Jervis station. Every time, they order the same thing: a small pizza with banana peppers. Steve’s favorite. After dinner, they scurry back to the station and catch the last train home, leaving at 9:27 p.m. and returning to Metuchen at 1:02 a.m. Round trip, it’s a nine-hour slog. They have completed it nearly every Friday for six years. See RAILS, Page 6A

GARDEN STATE OF MIND
CHRISTOPHER MAAG

The fire started in the kitchen at 7 a.m. on Aug. 13. It burned up nearly everything — the sofa, all of Julie Vazquez’s clothes, even the fancy case that held her flute. After the fire, Vazquez’s parents returned to the apartment and retrieved the flute, undamaged and shiny. Three days later, Vazquez attended practice with the Passaic High School marching band. This was the band’s final all-day practice before the start of the fall competition season. Officially the temperature in Passaic reached 84 degrees on this Saturday in September, but the sun bouncing off the turf at Boverini Stadium made it hotter. Vazquez didn’t want to talk about the heat. She didn’t want to talk about the fire. She didn’t want to talk much at all.
Best Lede
Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Jason Nark
The Philadelphia Inquirer
Graphics & Illustration
Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE
No award given
Graphics & Illustration
Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE
Leslee Ganss
The SandPaper

WANTED
FIRST PLACE
Leslee Ganss
The SandPaper
NJoy N.J.!
Graphics & Illustration
Weekly, under 6,500

No awards given
Special Issue
Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Staff
South Jersey Times

South Jersey Times Football Tab
Special Issue
Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE
Jesse Kryscio, staff
New Jersey Herald

Vision magazine
Special Issue
Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Staff
The Jersey Journal

The Jersey Journal celebrates 150 historic years
Special Issue
Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Staff
Asbury Park Press

Towns of New Jersey
Special Issue
Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE
Staff
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Your Ultimate Shore Guide
2017
Special Issue
Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Staff
The Star-Ledger

The last goodnight
NASDAQ 2017 NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Headlines
Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE
Pamela Dollak
Atlantic City Weekly
SECOND PLACE
Craig Schenck
The Sentinel of Somers Point, Linwood & Northfield
Headlines
Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Craig Schenck
Cape May Star & Wave

Protection money
Grant would fund dune in township, help decrease flood insurance rates

By JACK RICKMANN
Cape May Star and Wave
VILLAS — A proposed project that would provide a sand dune along Lower Township’s beachfront could provide not only protection from storms but decrease flood insurance premiums for hundreds of homeowners.

The dune would be constructed from Pinewood Avenue in Cape May Beach to West Miami Avenue in Villas, following a path from just north of Cornwall Hall Creek to Fishing Creek, the marsh between Villas and Del Haven.

An informational meeting was held Oct. 25 at Township Hall attended by

Historic former church features lifestyle fit for upwardly mobile

By CAIUI H Penguins
Cape May Star and Wave
CAPE MAY — The historic combination of 750 Broadway, No. 2, was transformed into a contemporary home with modern amenities including the combination of a chef’s kitchen and a guest bedroom.

The structure was developed by a contemporary house with modern amenities including the combination of a chef’s kitchen and a guest bedroom. Within the 1,200 square feet, the combination has three bedrooms, an eat-in kitchen, and a powder bath.

Snow leopard cubs spotted at county zoo

By KEVIN C. WILSON
Cape May Star and Wave
The snow leopard cubs at the Cape May County Zoo were born on April 15, 2017. The four cubs, two males and two females, are currently under the care of the zoo’s animal care team.

The cubs have been named Luna, Stella, Ciera, and Kyra. Luna and Stella are the female cubs, while Ciera and Kyra are the male cubs. The cubs were born to parents named Juma and Simba.

The cubs are expected to be on public display at the zoo in the coming weeks.
Headlines
Weekly, under 6,500

THIRD PLACE
No award given
Headlines
Weekly, under 6,500

SECOND PLACE
Russ Crespolini
The Progress

Muckraking mailers muddy waters before elections
Correspondence criticizes campaigns in Caldwell, Roseland

Did the cat get their tongues?

Did the cat get their tongues?

West Essex Cops
‘Mustache’ You To Donate

This annual event has become extremely popular with the support of local businesses. ‘Mustache’ is a quick and easy way to give. The money raised goes towards the event and to community causes.

Essex Fells School pickup plagued by parking problems
Rolling drop-off program faces suspension, termination

by DEEK ALLEN

Essex Fells – Parents of Essex Falls School of the Arts students have been frustrated by the school’s rolling drop-off program. The program has been plagued by confusion and delays, causing traffic congestion and disruption to nearby businesses. The PTA is working on a solution to improve the program, but until then, parents are faced with the challenge of finding a safe and efficient way to drop off their children.
**Headlines**

Weekly, under 6,500

**FIRST PLACE**

Christina Johnson

The Two River Times
News/Business Page Design Portfolio
Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Colleen Prendergast
Burlington County Times
News/Business Page Design Portfolio
Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE
James Moening
The Express-Times
News/Business
Page Design
Portfolio
Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Luis Solano
The Daily Journal
News/Business
Page Design
Portfolio
Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Take Uda
The Record
(Bergen County)
News/Business Page Design Portfolio
Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE
Robert Cohn
Asbury Park Press
News/Business Page Design Portfolio
Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Ashley Downing
Courier-Post
We’ll take another short break while NJPA executive officer Paul Grzella, Courier News & Home News Tribune comes to the stage to announce the remaining editorial awards.
Best Lede
Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE
Hannington Dias
North Bergen Reporter

By Hannington Dias
Reporter Staff Writer

A young man wearing a green beret and jester outfit dashed onto the stage. He quickly greeted the empty auditorium with cries of “All cellphones off! We’re set! We’ve sexted.” These lines officially launched a rehearsal of Pierre Corneille’s “The Liar,” a farceical play that will show at North Bergen’s High Tech High School in May. (High Tech is the county’s public arts and technical magnet school.)
Best Lede
Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE
Rick Mellerup
The SandPaper

By RICK MELLERUP
Pinelands Regional High School is literally screwed up. The threat of support screws falling from the building’s atrium has closed the high school and is forcing an indefinite move to split sessions for students this week.
Best Lede
Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Rick Mellerup
The SandPaper

It seems as if the magazine Sex, etc. may soon become “Sex, Ex.” at Pinelands Regional Junior High School.
Best Lede
Weekly, under 6,500

No awards given
Feature
Section
Page Design
Portfolio
Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE
James Moening
The Express-Times
SECOND PLACE
Tom Raski
Burlington County Times

Reality
FIRST PLACE
Merry Eccles
The Daily Journal

@issue
Feature
Section
Page Design
Portfolio
Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Rachel Van Blankenship
Courier-Post
SECOND PLACE
Claudia Saavedra
Courier-Post
Feature Section Page Design Portfolio

Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Take Uda
The Record (Bergen County)
General Typography & Layout
Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE
No Award Given
General Typography & Layout
Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE
Kathy Disbrow, Jill Metzger
Atlantic City Weekly

Two-Faced; Things to float your boat
General Typography & Layout
Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE Staff
The SandPaper
General Typography & Layout
Weekly, under 6,500

No awards given
Sports Page Design Portfolio
Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Jesse Kryscio
New Jersey Herald
SECOND PLACE
Zachary Vance
The Daily Journal

NJPA 2017 NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Sports Page Design Portfolio
Daily, under 20,000
Sports Page Design Portfolio
Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Colleen Prendergast
Burlington County Times
Sports Page Design Portfolio
Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Ian Young
The Record (Bergen County)
Sports Page Design Portfolio
Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE
Ian Young
Courier-Post
Sports Page Design Portfolio
Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Marc Jenkins
The Record (Bergen County)
Front Page Layout
Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE
Fred Tuccillo
The Coast Star
Front Page Layout
Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE Staff
The Gazette
Front Page
Layout
Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Staff
Town Journal
Front Page
Layout
Weekly, under 6,500

THIRD PLACE
Staff
Nutley Sun
SECOND PLACE
Staff
Verona-Cedar Grove Times
Editorial Section
Layout & Content
Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE
No award given
Editorial
Section Layout & Content
Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE
David Nahan
Ocean City Sentinel
Editorial Section Layout & Content
Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Gail Travers
The SandPaper
Editorial Section
Layout & Content
Weekly, under 6,500

No awards given
Feature Section
Layout & Content
Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE
No award given
SECOND PLACE

Jill Metzger
Atlantic City Weekly
Feature
Section Layout & Content
Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Staff
The SandPaper
Feature Section
Layout & Content
Weekly, under 6,500

THIRD PLACE
No award given
Feature Section Layout & Content
Weekly, under 6,500

SECOND PLACE Staff
The Montclair Times
Feature
Section Layout & Content
Weekly, under 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Staff
The Ridgewood News
THIRD PLACE
David Biggy
The SandPaper
Sports Section
Layout & Content
Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE
David Nahan, Kyle McCrane, Craig Schenck, Kristen Kelleher
Ocean City Sentinel
Sports Section
Layout & Content
Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Len Bardsley,
Adam Young,
Joyce Manser
The Coast Star
Sports Section
Layout & Content
Weekly, under 6,500

No awards given
Special Issue
Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE
Staff
The SandPaper

The Beachcomber Holiday Guide
Special Issue
Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE
Staff
The SandPaper

Oktoberfest Shore Style
2017
Special Issue
Weekly, under 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Fred Tuccillo
The Coast Star

Superstorm Sandy Special Section
Special Issue
Weekly, under 6,500
No awards given
ONLINE AWARDS
Best Web Project
Daily

THIRD PLACE
Staff
The Press of Atlantic City

Josh Vadell - Chronicling the recovery of an Atlantic City police officer shot in the line of duty
Best Web Project
Daily
SECOND PLACE
Staff
The Star-Ledger
Death & dysfunction
Best Web Project
Daily

FIRST PLACE
Shannon Mullen,
Payton Guion,
Thomas P. Costello,
Peter Ackerman
Asbury Park Press

Renter Hell
Best Web Project
Weekly
No entries submitted
Best Multimedia Element
Weekly

THIRD PLACE
No award given
Best Multimedia Element
Weekly

SECOND PLACE
Rebecca King
Atlantic City Weekly

How rolled ice cream is made at Sweet Charlie's in Ocean City
Best Multimedia Element
Weekly
FIRST PLACE
Erika Norton
Advertiser-News North
Living Tiny
Best Multimedia Element
Daily

THIRD PLACE
Chris Pedota
The Record (Bergen County)

The Inclined Plane - 3D computer animation
Best Multimedia Element

Daily

SECOND PLACE
Nicole Leonard, Erin Grugan
The Press of Atlantic City

Impact of Domestic Violence:
In their own words
Best Multimedia Element
Daily

FIRST PLACE
Karen Yi, Jessica Mazzola, Andrew Maclean, Carla Astudillo
The Star-Ledger

In their words: 50 years after the riots
Best Video
Weekly

THIRD PLACE
Craig Matthews
Atlantic City Weekly

How rolled ice cream is made at Sweet Charlie's in Ocean City
Best Video
Weekly

SECOND PLACE
Vernon Ogrodnek
Atlantic City Weekly

Price is Right down the shore

-30- Price is Right down the shore - May 11

While Atlantic City is known for hosting a variety of live shows each week, rarely are game shows part of that lineup. This week we head to Harrah's Resort in Atlantic City for an inside look behind the scenes at Price is Right. Atlantic City native Ryan Loughlin spoke with host Jerry Springer and uncovered how the host of America's favorite daytime talk show managed to land such a family friendly gig.
Best Video
Weekly

FIRST PLACE
Vernon Ogrodnek
Atlantic City Weekly

Writers in the sky

-30- Writers in the sky - Sept. 7

The Skypipers are not only sky writers but sky writers. Find out the difference when At The Shore Editor Pamela Dohlic takes a ride with them during the Atlantic City Airshow, in this segment of 30: The Press of Atlantic City's television news magazine.
Best Video
Daily

THIRD PLACE
Chris Pedota
The Record (Bergen County)

Artist behind 60 years of Athlete of the Week portraits
Best Video
Daily

SECOND PLACE
Andre Malok
The Star-Ledger

Tamaroa of 'Perfect Storm' sunk while former Coast Guard members look on
Best Video
Daily

FIRST PLACE
Brian Johnston
Asbury Park Press

Special needs wrestler shocks the crowd
Innovation Award
Weekly

No entries submitted
Innovation Award
Daily

THIRD PLACE
Dan Grote,
Mike DellaVecchia,
Krishna Mathias, Kevin
Post
The Press of Atlantic City

Real Estate
Innovation Award
Daily

SECOND PLACE
Matt Dowling,
MaryAnn Spoto,
Andre Malok
The Star-Ledger

Facebook live drone over Casino Pier in Seaside Heights
Innovation Award
Daily

FIRST PLACE
Carla Astudillo
The Star-Ledger

In their words: 50 years after the riots
Online Breaking News
Weekly

No entries submitted
Online Breaking News Daily

THIRD PLACE Staff
The Star-Ledger

Beachgate
Online Breaking News Daily

SECOND PLACE Staff The Star-Ledger

New York terrorist attack
Online Breaking News Daily

FIRST PLACE Staff
The Record (Bergen County)

NYC Terror Attack
Best Web Event
Weekly
No entries submitted
Best Web Event
Daily

THIRD PLACE
Staff
The Star-Ledger

Solar Eclipse 2017
Best Web Event
Daily

SECOND PLACE
Staff
The Record (Bergen County)

Menendez Trial
Best Web Event
Daily

FIRST PLACE
Staff
The Star-Ledger

New Jersey government shutdown
Best Use of Social Media
Weekly

THIRD PLACE
Jason Cascais
The SandPaper

MTV Beach House
Best Use of Social Media

Weekly

SECOND PLACE

Staff

Atlantic City Weekly

50 Bites +
Best Use of Social Media Weekly

FIRST PLACE
Jason Cascais
The SandPaper

Mary Lee Great White Shark
Best Use of Social Media

Third Place
Staff
Asbury Park Press

Meet the Editor; Ask the Editor: Fake news and more; Ask the Editor: Chat with Hollis Towns and Opinion editor Randy Bergmann
Best Use of Social Media

Daily

SECOND PLACE

Carly Romalino

Courier-Post

#FridayLIVEdrives
Best Use of Social Media

Daily FIRST PLACE Staff
The Star-Ledger

New Jersey government shutdown
Responsible Journalism Awards
Editorial Comment

Weekly, over 6,500

No awards given
Never more proud

We have had countless occasions over the years to be proud of Madison, but never more so than Monday night, when a majority of the Borough Council declared Madison a "welcoming community." This is part of the story on page 1.

The Borough of Madison has long embraced and welcomed individuals of diverse racial, ethnic, religious, and national backgrounds. The resolution states, affirming Madison’s very different policy of “equal, respectful, and dignified treatment of all people, regardless of their immigration status.”

She even went one step further, under the resolution, “no department, employee, or official of the Borough of Madison shall condone the provision of borough services or benefits on matters related to citizenship or immigration status.”

In other words, no “immigration policy” here. Further, borough employees are to monitor any efforts by the federal government to withhold or withdraw federal funding as a result of the policies in the resolution. And borough employees should look at any efforts by the federal government to “expel” borough employees or resources to enforce federal immigration laws and to “take action to appeal or challenge any such requirement.”

That is a very strong stance in standing up to the White House and affirming Madison’s values.

Mayor Robert Conley said immigrants have made Madison and America, saying “it is not fair and it is not right to be judged by the
SECOND PLACE
Russ Crespolini
The Progress
Portfolio

It’s not okay

There are many disturbing things about the text message exchanges between the two members of the Roseland Mayor and Council. The racially charged and hostile communication is demeaning to the residents. As was the silent, tactics by Peter Siniff, John Dunhale, Rich Leonard, and Mark Vizovitch who were guilty of the messages but said nothing to condemn them.

Referring to racial and ethnic stereotypes and commoning on the state of people’s individuals is something that should be done to the people. On some level, the folks on the exchange know this because the-op-ed is not to include Councilman Michele Toth in any way. They think the thread should not be allowed to continue.

But for us, what is striking about right now are the adjustments for the language given by Dunhale, the current mayor of Roseland. When reminded of the language used in the thread, he was included Dunhale said that was nothing more than “joking among friends that has no bearing on borough business.”

Well, that is certainly a sweeping statement to make in response to Toth’s use of the term “Stonewall.”

No bearing on borough business! Toth has been elected to represent the people and their interests and use those interests to Roseland’s advantage in lowering the cost of living and housing requirements. Does Dunhale think Toth is the best possible choice for the borough on a topic like this in light of Dunhale’s comments? Maybe he does. We do not. Dunhale was on the wrong side of the joke that has lost the shock value in once had instant and that is no different than what would be bullied about to walk on a sidewalk.
Editorial Comment
Weekly, under 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Charlie Zavalick
The Bernardsville News

Portfolio
Editorial Comment
Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE
John Berry
The Trentonian

Portfolio

When both choices seem dismal, maybe none of the above is the answer

New Jersey is facing a historically dull election for governor. Democrats seem to default to Phil Murphy, Republicans seem to default to Kim Guadagno.

Neither has really labored to support a candidate. That’s why The Trentonian cannot see either candidate for governor.

There are a lot of problems to fix in the state, many of which will get pitched to under Guadagno, diferente problems will get pitched by under Murphy.

Neither candidate is lacking like they have what it takes to get permanent solutions and neither is deemed to address all of the issues that our state has.

This is a time when the total lack of candidates is the same time when we need someone exceptional.

We hope that whoever gets elected proves to be wrong. If not, either we need to see a leader in this state who cares more about the citizens of New Jersey than campaigning for the next leg of the next election cycle.

The rub is, what is the realistic candidate that our state does not have?

We would love to see bold leaders that have the best interest of the state at heart. These New Jersey candidates need to be out there.

Nothing in the campaign materials, in interviews, or debates shows a view of this from Murphy or Guadagno.

Sure, Murphy has been mentored at a large, and spent. Bernies is not so clear, but even those assumptions are clear and tie to the fact that they are the actual issue that is almost every Democratic candidate for any office in recent memory.

Conversely, we’re seeing the same tired fundraising direct mail campaign that Democrats have been trying to make stick to their收割和s, Chris Christie, and even his ties to Trump through the transactional portion of political connections, become her ties to Trump.

There needs to be more to the race for governor than just the two major parties with each other with the old-style campaigns.

It’s time to expect the two parties to lose and let some of the independent voices be in the conversation.

New Jersey is a very important state this year when the majority of the candidates are given a shot to win the process. But it’s been a little slow for one of them to win as of Tuesday, getting more than just the runners to fill the race may have brought some more creative solutions to these discussions.

The rub is, what is the realistic candidate that our state does not have?

We would love to see bold leaders that have the best interest of the state at heart. These New Jersey candidates need to be out there.
Editorial Comment

Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE

Keith Ryzewicz

Courier News

Portfolio
First Place
Elliot Goldberg
South Jersey Times

Portfolio

In TD deal, a penny sought is a penny burned

The people who work at TD Bank because its branches,
automated teller machines didn’t always disburse a
penny with every transfer for speedier change have
spent longer in the cold.

A complaint by Capitol Bank reportedly involved a
customer whose transactions were not always in line with
the bank’s policies. The problem was that every time
a customer approached an automated teller machine
and inserted a bank card, the machine would dispense
a penny automatically.

The bank did not accept the issue, claiming that the
transaction was not intended to be paid in cash. The
complaint was denied, and the customer was forced to
accept the penny. It was only after the customer
complained to the bank that the issue was resolved.

The TD Bank’s practice of automatically distributing
change is not new. The bank has long been known for
its consistent policy of providing change with every
transaction. This policy is intended to ensure that
customers receive the best possible service.

However, the policy has been the subject of criticism
from some customers, who believe that the bank is
exploiting its customers by providing them with
additional cash unnecessarily. The practice of
automatically dispensing change has raised concerns
among some customers, who believe that it is a form
of exploitation.

Despite the criticism, TD Bank has steadfastly
continued to provide change with every transaction.
The bank’s policy is designed to ensure that
customers receive the best possible service, and it is
intended to ensure that customers receive the best
possible service.

The bank has defended its policy, arguing that it is
necessary to ensure that customers receive the best
possible service. The bank has also indicated that it
will continue to provide change with every
transaction, and it is clear that the bank is committed
to providing the best possible service to its
customers.
Editorial Comment

Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE

Dave D'Alessandro
The Star-Ledger

Portfolio
Editorial Comment
Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE
Alfred Doblin
The Record (Bergen County)

Portfolio
Editorial Comment

Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Randy Bergmann

Asbury Park Press

Who will deliver on tax relief?

Our View

Thomson M. Driscoll, President and Publisher
Hollis E. Teens, Executive Editor and Vice President/View

Randy Bergmann, Editorial Page Editor

RESPONSIBLE JOURNALISM
While Mosque Suits Proliferate, Lawyers Fear Retreat by Feds

By Charles Toutant

Lawyers and municipalities are watching the Trump administration to see how strictly it applies a law that’s increasingly been used to investigate allegations of religious discrimination targeting the construction of new mosques.

The U.S. Department of Justice has played a major role in enforcing the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act since its enactment in 2000, but some lawyers are contemplating what would happen if the government takes a lesser role...
Two Years After Hospital Tax Ruling, Prognosis Still Uncertain

As speculation proved true that a 2015 Tax Court decision providing for taxation of nonprofit hospitals would result in a wave of litigation, lawmakers are once again trying to solve the problem in Trenton. The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee has twice taken up S-3243 recently, but twice declined to move it.

Continued on page 10
FIRST PLACE
Caitlyn Bahrenburg
The Ocean Star

Brick neighbors fight to reclaim lagoon
No Funding Relief for LBI Tax Payers for Decade at Least

By Gina G. Scala

New Jersey school funding + regional school districts + high property values = unfair. It’s a formula as disproportionate as it drew a nearly standing-room-only crowd to the Harvey Cedars Bible Conference chapel June 1 for a meeting to begin a decades-old fight to change school funding for the Southern Regional School District. The meeting was hosted by the Joint Council of Taxpayers Association of Long Beach Island.

“New Jersey is a mess,” Morris County-based attorney Vince Giangiordi, in a law firm Petrosio, Bromberg and Newman said as he opened the two-hour meeting. “And if you’re a member of a regional school district, it’s a bigger mess.”

Throw in high property values, the New Jersey fact, and it’s the worst kind of mess. Southern Regional consists of seven constituent members: Stafford Township and the six Island communities of Barnegat Light, Beach Haven, Harvey Cedars, Long Beach Township, Ship Bottom and Surf City. The cost to each municipality to educate its students is based on property value, not actual per-pupil cost. Varnetown, which also sends its students to Southern Regional as a sending district, pays an annual tuition per student.

“It’s a ridiculous structure,” Giangiordi said, noting Stafford Township pays less than 6 percent of the costs associated with the school district, which educates students in grades seven through 12, but it holds a majority of the seats on the nine-member school board.

Giangiordi has successfully represented five municipalities, including Surfside Park, Avalon and Stone Harbor, in their quest to amend school funding in their communities. He is now fighting the battle here on Long Beach Island and a part of the team that conducted the 2006 feasibility study funded by Beach Haven and Long Beach Township — to investigate changing the Southern Regional school funding for Island taxpayers. That effort didn’t go anywhere.
Enterprise
Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE
Pat Johnson
The SandPaper

Taxi industry fighting to survive Uber
Enterprise
Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Kristen Kelleher,
Eric Avedissian,
Craig Schenck, David
Nahan
Ocean City Sentinel

Opioid Epidemic

‘How could you live through that? But you do.’
Mother shares struggles of coping with son’s addiction, getting him help

1. The opioid epidemic is a serious public health crisis.
2. The epidemic has affected individuals, families, and communities across the United States.
3. The crisis involves the inappropriate prescription and misuse of opioid medications.
4. The epidemic has led to an increase in opioid-related overdose deaths.

Opioid Epidemic
Arbitrator vindicates Trenton teacher of "time theft"

Michael Craig, a Trenton Public Schools teacher, has been vindicated in a case involving "time theft" at the district levels. The arbitrator ruled in favor of Craig, who claimed he was denied credit for time he worked over and above his contract hours. The decision reverses a prior finding that Craig had engaged in "time theft," and he now has the right to receive credit for the time he worked.

The case involved a dispute between Craig and the district over the calculation of his contract hours. Craig alleged that he worked additional hours, but the district claimed he was only entitled to the hours specified in his contract. The arbitrator ruled in favor of Craig, stating that he was entitled to credit for the additional hours he worked.

The decision has implications for employees across the district, and it may prompt a review of the district's timekeeping policies. Craig's case is seen as a victory for employees who feel they have been denied credit for work they have done.

The arbitrator's decision is final and cannot be appealed. It is expected that the district will comply with the arbitrator's ruling and provide Craig with the credit he is entitled to.

The decision is a significant victory for Craig and for employees who feel they have been denied credit for work they have done. It is expected that the district will comply with the arbitrator's ruling and provide Craig with the credit he is entitled to.

Read more about this case in the Trentonian and the Enterprise Daily, under 20,000.
Enterprise
Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE
Lisa Ryan
Burlington County Times

The mystery of Margaret Fox
Enterprise
Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Kelly Kultys
Burlington County Times

Opioid epidemic grips county
Accumulated Sick-Day Payouts: "Local" Problem Hits $2 billion and counting
SECOND PLACE
Matthew Stanmyre,
Steve Politi
The Star-Ledger

Escape from Eastside High
Enterprise
Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Susan K. Livio
The Star-Ledger

The Last Goodnight
First Amendment Award
Weekly, under 6,500

THIRD PLACE
None awarded
First Amendment Award
Weekly, under 6,500

SECOND PLACE
Brett Ainsworth
The Retrospect

Missing Public Notice Underscores Need for Publication
First Amendment Award
Weekly, under 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Jay Cook
The Two River Times

Government Transparency Reinforced by OPRA Decision
First Amendment Award
Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE
None awarded
First Amendment Award
Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE
Rick Mellerup
The SandPaper

'MTV Beach House' to be Set on LBI, Shot in Loveladies
First Amendment Award
Weekly, over 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Al Sullivan
The Jersey City Reporter

Loose lips sink bids
First Amendment Art Weissman Memorial Award Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE Staff The Trentonian

Prior Restraint fight
High Point’s Ripley criticized as pay hike shelved

By ERIC OBERNAUER
ecobernauer@newjerseyherald.com

After sending out mixed signals over the weekend about the prospect of an early contract extension and pay increase for Superintendent Scott Ripley, officials of the High Point Regional High School District stated Wednesday that the proposal has definitively been removed from consideration for now.

If approved, the proposal would have given Ripley—a current contract does not expire until July 2015—what would have amounted to a two-year extension and a pay hike retrospective to nearly five months ago.

The announcement that the proposal is now off the table, which High Point Board President R. Wesley confirmed Wednesday in a private conversation, had shocked many would-be candidates to have been a heated closed-door discussion about the matter Tuesday among High Point’s board members prior to their representing for their regularly scheduled public meeting.

The High Point board’s handling of the matter, including its earlier plans to approve the contract extension without the state’s required 30-day notice and public hearing, appears to be the latest instance of tension between the High Point administration and at least two of the four School Board districts from which High Point draws its students, both of whose board presidents publicly chastised the High Point administration Tuesday night.

Bob Hlebih, president of the K-12 Montague Board of Education, said that he felt “with ‘ruger cuts’ and layoffs approved by the High Point board earlier this year, we’re asking everybody to do more with less, and we have to hand it out—let’s get right from the top to the bottom.”

“I understand the necessity to continue our day-to-day business, including filling immediate vacancies, such as a master or classroom teacher,” Hlebih said. “But when a superintendent’s contract expires over a year from now, the necessity isn’t there to remember a future board.”

Hlebih’s comments were backed by Amber Sinema, a fellow member of the Santa Monica Board, who questioned the fleeting of the contract extension and then its removal.

“Widening events that have transpired over the past year, I have come to the educated conclusion that something’s not right here,” Sinema said. “Just the fact that this contract was there, then it’s gone, and it’s disappeared—it all seems very shady.”

Sinema also made indirect reference to a High Point board member—Deborah Anderson—having stepped down in July 2014 so Anderson’s daughter would be hired, and then returning to the High Point board and voting two months later to approve an earlier contract extension and raise for Ripley that he resolved in September 2014.

The Santa Monica Board sought an articulated negotiating policy for this purpose two years ago that went beyond the state’s prohibition on hiring relatives of current board members. Under Santa Monica’s policy, the district now requires a “cooling off” period of 12 months after a board member’s term of office ends before that member’s relatives may be considered for employment.

Anderson, addressing her role on the High Point board, indicated in a phone conversation Wednesday that she has since been informed by High Point’s board attorney that it is a conflict of interest for her under the state’s school ethics law for her to be involved in any further deliberations affecting the employment of her daughter’s supervisor, including Ripley, and stated unambiguously that she will no longer do so.

Sinema, however, questioned the fact that certified board members could still take part in other personnel matters—including the layoff of 17 High Point employees in the spring, none of which included Anderson’s daughter.

“Then [the resolution that certified board members could still take part in personnel matters] hasn’t accomplished anything,” Sinema said. “When you look at it from the eyes of the public, it doesn’t look great,” Sinema said.

The K-12 Montague School District appears to be having a similar difficulty with High Point—ever after it appointed a new board president and a new chief school administrator earlier this year. Given Ripley’s Montague board presidency, it appears that despite recently he has appeared to be struggling to improve cooperation between the districts, “not to fight but just so we’re communicating.” But at Tuesday’s meeting, a frequently suggested to the High Point board that the representatives have not been communicating. “I just want to be able to talk to him.”
First Amendment

Art Weissman Memorial Award

Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE

Lori Comstock, David Danzis
New Jersey Herald

County pays $150k to settle ex-inmate's lawsuit.
First Amendment
Art Weissman
Memorial Award
Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE
Jean Rimbach,
Hannan Adely
The Record (Bergen County)

Charter schools under scrutiny
First Amendment Art Weissman Memorial Award Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE Stephen Stirling, S.P. Sullivan The Star-Ledger

How New Jersey fails the living ... and the dead
FIRST PLACE

Curtis Tate
The Record (Bergen County)

NJ Transit Investigation
Best story originating from a legally required Public Notice
Daily, under 20,000

THIRD PLACE
No award given
Best story originating from a legally required Public Notice Daily, under 20,000

SECOND PLACE
Lori Comstock
New Jersey Herald

Frankford rescinds bid to kill construction
Best story originating from a legally required Public Notice Daily, under 20,000

FIRST PLACE
David Danzis, Katie Moen
New Jersey Herald

Green residents question plans for treatment facility
Best story originating from a legally required Public Notice Daily, over 20,000

THIRD PLACE
S.P. Sullivan
The Star-Ledger

Trooper makes deal, avoids jail
Best story originating from a legally required Public Notice Daily, over 20,000

SECOND PLACE
Sarah Nolan, Keldy Ortiz, Kristie Cattafi
The Record (Bergen County)

Satin Dolls could be sold
Liquor license will be transferred

Satin Dolls

Sarah Nolan

LODI – Liquor license for the borough-issued Satin Dolls and its Sinclair subsidiary, A.J. Gentleman's Club, may soon change hands, after state authorities said earlier this month that the strip joins must relinquish their liquor licenses because they were being run by a restricted retailer.

Two companies have applied to take over liquor licenses for the clubs. Councilman Vincent Martin is partnering with Joseph Pannetta for ownership of the Sinclair location. Pannetta has applied separately for ownership of the Lodt bar.

Martin said Friday that should the purchases be approved by the state Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, he would have "absolutely nothing to do with the Lodt establishment," and would recuse himself from not only any matter involving the Lodt club, but any liquor license matter that comes before the Borough Council.

"There's no relationship between my governing body position in Lodt, a Bergen County town, and my interest in purchasing a liquor license in Secaucus, in Hudson County," he said. "One has nothing to do with the other. They would be owned by two separate entities.

Satin Dolls garnered fame after it served as the location for the fictional Bada Bing! go-go bar in "The Sopranos," where mobster Tony Soprano and his friends routinely held business meetings.

See LICENSE, Page 31.
Best story originating from a legally required Public Notice Daily, over 20,000

FIRST PLACE
Jim Walsh
Courier-Post

State to restore Cramer Hill riverfront
Public Service

Lloyd P. Burns

Memorial Award

Weekly, over 6,500

THIRD PLACE

None awarded
Public Service
Lloyd P. Burns
Memorial Award
Weekly, over 6,500

SECOND PLACE
Erika Norton
Sparta Independent

Opioid crisis
Fulop: I’ll defend our immigrants against Trump
President pledges to crack down on ‘sanctuary cities’

By Al Sullivan

During his first week in office, Donald Trump and his staff took aim on immigrants and may have entered the United States illegally, including those designated “sanctuary cities” in the United States. In response, Jersey City Mayor Steven Fulop said Jersey City will join a number of other municipalities that will resist Trump’s executive order despite the threat of losing federal funding.

“We intend to stand by our principles and values as a city,” Fulop said. “Jersey City was founded as a city of immigrants, and we are unwilling to be put in a corner that breaks families apart or harms immigrants who are in this country.”

Three days around the country have designated themselves “sanctuary cities” whose local police are told not to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement unless suspects are involved in criminal activity. Jersey City is not one of them, but Fulop said that he would resist a “blueprint of federal police to investigate people living here for immigration violations.”

U.S. Court of Appeals President Leonard Garza appointed a new committee to investigate immigrant cases last week (see story).

Jersey City has estimated 20,000 people who could be targeted, according to city officials, who blame this on mistakes from the previous administration and its agencies.

Trump signed an order on Jan. 25 that would strip federal grants from cities that don’t cooperate with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Trump and the CDF campaigned on the premise that they would stop efforts to investigate illegal immigrants.

In the end, Jersey City and the Garden State would not cooperate with the order.”
Public Service
Lloyd P. Burns Memorial Award
Weekly, under 6,500

THIRD PLACE
Bethany Mitros
The Retrospect

Opioid addiction
Can North Jersey communities afford $273M in worker payouts?

Steve Janoski, Megan Burrow, Sarah Nolan
Glen Rock Gazette

Can North Jersey communities afford $273M in worker payouts?
Public Service
Lloyd P. Burns Memorial Award
Weekly, under 6,500

FIRST PLACE
Edward A. Burke, Russ Crespolini, Derek Allen
The Progress

Racial slurs, anti-semitic text messages sent by councilman
Thomas Silinis shared messages with members of the governing body

THE PROGRESS
Roseland, N.J.

RACIAL SLURS AND ANTI-SEMITIC TEXT MESSAGES SENT BY COUNCILMAN THOMAS SILINIS SHARED MESSAGES WITH MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY
Public Service

Lloyd P. Burns Memorial Award
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THIRD PLACE
Nick Muscavage
Home News Tribune

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Public Service
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SECOND PLACE
Bill Duhart, Rebecca Everett
South Jersey Times

Officers: Chief not doing anything for his pay

Rebecca Everett  South Jersey Times

Several ranking officers in the Haddon Township Police Department allege that Police chief Mark Cavallo is not "doing anything for the money he is paid," and that township officials have not investigated the situation.

The four officers — Capt. Scott Bishop, Lt. Sean Gooley, Sgt. Thomas Whelan and Detective Sgt. Joseph D. Johnson — have notified the township that they intend to resign and sue the chief.

They allege that after they complained to then-Commissioner and Public Safety Director John Foley about Cavallo, the chief denied their rights by retaliating against them and creating a hostile work environment. Solicitor Jeff A. Rose and Mayor Ronald P. Teague and Commissioner Paul Daughtey, never heard of the officers' concerns until the tort claim notice came Feb. 11.

"Now that they have been made aware of these concerns, an investigation of the allegations is being undertaken," he said.

The notice was obtained, along with several emails and letters on the topic, through a public records request by NJ Advance Media.

Township officials responded — without giving a specific reason — by an entire page of the officers' claims. The reduction is under the heading "circumstances regarding the occurrence or accident."

According to the parties not blacked out, the officers claimed Cavallo was not doing his job, the department was unfair to them and Foley failed to act on officers' complaints and requests for a meeting with Teague. Foley resigned Feb. 24 and was replaced by Jim Holley.

They also said Cavallo was creating an unnecessary lieutenant position and interviewing candidates, though he was preoccupied with the two scanners who had complained about him.

Foley declined comment, said Cavallo attorney, Patrick, Madison. Messages left for Cavallo and the officers' attorney, John Eastlick Jr., got no response. Eastlick wrote in the note that allegations against Cavallo go back to 2008. "It's not clear if he is referring to the claims about Cavallo's job performance or other allegations that were reduced. Cavallo, 58, who has served in law enforcement for over 30 years, was paid $131,512 in 2018, according to state records.

OFFICERS' ALLEGATIONS

In a Jan. 14 email to Foley, Bishop requested a meeting with Teague. Foley and a group of officers who were concerned about how Cavallo was running the department.

"It has been almost a year since I met with you in your office regarding the chief and the issues we have been having with him not doing anything for the money he is paid," Bishop wrote. "He's doing even worse now, does not provide any direction or leadership and we are struggling and have been for some time."

The notice of tort claim includes a list of 30 responsibilities the officer feel he failed to perform, ranging from not preparing an annual budget estimate or maintaining a police records system to not implementing rules and regulations with in the department.

The two ranking officers allege that because Cavallo does not perform on those duties, they fall on the ranking officers "by default." In a letter to Foley, Eastlick said Cavallo had eliminated employee performance reviews.
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FIRST PLACE
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Burlington County Times

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FIRST PLACE
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Renter Hell
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2017 NJPA Newspaper Contest General Excellence Awards
General Excellence
Weekly, under 6,500
General Excellence
Weekly, under 6,500

New Jersey Law Journal
General Excellence
Weekly, over 6,500
General Excellence
Weekly, over 6,500
General Excellence
Daily, under 20,000
General Excellence
Daily, under 20,000

Burlington County Times

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General Excellence
Daily, over 20,000
General Excellence
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The Star-Ledger
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