



Purple reign

Minnesota QB Kirk Cousins ravages Philadelphia's secondary as the Eagles lose 38-20 to fall to 3-3 on the season. **B1**

LATEST ON SYRIAN CONFLICT

U.S. leans toward full withdrawal as hundreds of Islamic State supporters escape from a holding camp. **C1**

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Girl dies after falling off ride at Cumberland fest

DAVID DANZIS & MARK MELHORN
Staff Writers

Crowds at the Deerfield Township Harvest Festival in Cumberland County mourned the loss of a local fifth-grade girl who was killed after she fell off an amusement ride Saturday night.

"My heart just goes out to the family right now" said Tamica Williams, 29, of Vineland, a mother of three. "They'll be in our prayers, and everyone's, I'm sure."

According to State Police, the

10-year-old girl was "ejected" from a ride called "Extreme," which is a Wisdom Super Sizzler amusement park ride, at 6:18 p.m. and sustained serious injuries.

She was airlifted to Cooper University Hospital in Camden, where she was later pronounced dead at 7:20 p.m., police said.

The cause and circumstances are under investigation, police said. An email from the Deerfield Town-

See **RIDE**, A2



The rides at the Deerfield Township Harvest Fair are roped off Sunday after a 10-year-old girl was killed Saturday night after falling off one of them.

DAVID DANZIS / STAFF WRITER

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP

Plans for parkway hotel hit roadblock

BILL BARLOW
For The Press

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP — A plan for a \$17 million hotel just off the Garden State Parkway is in limbo after an issue with the wording of a recommendation from the Planning Board.

The proposed Hampton Inn would bring tax ratables and jobs to the township, an attorney for the developer has argued. However, neighbors have spoken against the plan, citing concerns about traffic and proximity to residential neighborhoods.

Over the summer, Township Committee introduced an ordinance to change the zoning of the property to make it part of the town center, but no final vote ever came. Kimberly Krauss, the township clerk and business administrator, said there was a fatal flaw in the resolution from the Planning Board recommending the change.

The resolution refers to the "town commercial" zone instead of "town center."

"That's a scrivener's error. It was a mistake by the drafter," said F. Thomas Hillegass, an attorney representing developer Cape May Hospitality. He said his clients are concerned about the delay but still plan to move forward with a 101-room hotel at 414 Garden State Parkway, what had been the site of the architectural firm Design Collaborative.

Neighbors vocally opposed the plan and any change in zoning that would clear the way for the hotel's construction. Several attended the Oct. 7 Township Committee meeting to again make those

See **HOTEL**, A2

IMMIGRATION IN SOUTH JERSEY



VERNON OGRODNEK / FOR THE PRESS

At right, Ivette Guillermo-MaGahee, founder of Allies in Caring, meets with other members of the Hammonton Health Coalition at the Fruta Mex restaurant in Hammonton on Thursday. The coalition's goal is to have an integrated Hispanic community.

Helping build a bridge

In a stressful time for immigrants, new group trains others to help them connect

MICHELLE BRUNETTI POST & VINCENT JACKSON
Staff Writers

HAMMONTON — News about tragedy and crime involving undocumented people, and conflict between law enforcement agencies over immigration enforcement, are taking their toll on immigrants.

It has left many people — undocumented or not — feeling insecure in their home communities.

"We do see more stress," said Ivette Guillermo-MaGa-

hee, founder and executive director of Allies in Caring in Hammonton. The agency provides mental health services and crisis intervention to immigrants and other at-risk children and families throughout South Jersey.

"The number of referrals has increased," Guillermo-MaGahee said.

Her agency routinely gets calls from people who have heard rumors of federal Immigration and Customs

See **HISPANICS**, A4



"They ask if I can help find out if it's true that ICE is out at Walmart looking for them. They send me pictures of a group of trucks and ask if I know if it's ICE or not."

IVETTE GUILLERMO-MAGAHEE
Founder and executive director of Allies in Caring

Legislators seek to give high school coaches more stability

Last November, the Atlantic City Board of Education voted not to reappoint boys basketball coach Gene Allen after a parent of a former player complained about a text message Allen had sent to the team. He sued to get his job back and was reinstated just days before last season.

VERNON OGRODNEK / FOR THE PRESS



DAVID WEINBERG
Staff Writer

A pair of state legislators are seeking to provide public high school coaches with some stability.

Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly, D-Bergen/Passaic, and Sen. Troy Single-

ton, D-Burlington, introduced bills last month that would require varsity head coaches to receive three-year contracts and assistant coaches two-year contracts.

Currently, coaches are appointed by their respective Boards of Education on a year-by-year

basis.

The Assembly Education Committee advanced Wimberly's legislation last month in a 10-0 vote with one abstention. The Senate Education Committee is scheduled to conduct a hearing this fall.

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CLOUDS EARLY, CLEARING LATE
HIGH: 75 LOW: 46
See your South Jersey forecast on **C6**.

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Atlantic County jail to expand opioid treatment

MOLLY BILINSKI
Staff Writer

MAYS LANDING — Atlantic County officials are planning an expansion of their jail's medical assistance treatment program to provide more services at an in-house facility for inmates battling addiction.

A new opioid treatment service facility will provide medical, coun-

seling and related services for inmates, County Executive Dennis Levinson said Tuesday in a news release.

"We now want to provide an in-house opioid treatment services facility that will include a patient dosing station, physical examination room, phlebotomy room and counseling office," he said.

Currently, the jail has a

mobile "Recovery on Wheels" dispensing unit through the John Brooks Recovery Center, the designated treatment provider for the jail.

The mobile methadone clinic, managed by and staffed with experts from the Brooks center, county jail and Jewish Family Service, is intended to treat pregnant women abusing opioids or on methadone, any inmate

already using methadone and addicted people at high risk of recidivism, according to previous reports. It was part of a state pilot program to bridge a gap in services.

Nearly 80% of addicts released from jail are re-arrested compared with 45% of those who have received treatment, according to the center. "We were the first," Levinson said. "And our

program has been so successful, treating and providing referrals for more than 750 individuals, that the state has agreed to provide \$8 million in funding for medication-assisted treatment at all county jails."

The jail has been renovated to include the in-house facility and has applied for state funding to support services like peer-to-peer recovery

and case management, according to the release.

"There are very few of us who have not been impacted by the opioid crisis," Levinson said. "In Atlantic County, we are taking steps to help these individuals get counseling and treatment and break the insidious cycle of addiction."

Contact: 609-272-7241
mbilinski@pressofac.com
Twitter @ACPressMollyB

HISPANICS

Continued from A1

Enforcement (ICE) activity in the area, she said.

"They ask if I can help find out if it's true that ICE is out at Walmart looking for them," Guillermo-MaGahee said. "They send me pictures of a group of trucks and ask if I know if it's ICE or not."

Many stay at home when they hear such rumors, increasing what Guillermo-MaGahee called an isolation and loneliness epidemic.

"We see that we are not developing positive relationships, which are really the basis of what sustains our health and well being," Guillermo-MaGahee said.

With the help of a \$100,000 grant from the New Jersey Health Initiatives and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Guillermo-MaGahee's Allies in Caring is working on a two-year project to build trust between native born and newly arrived peoples.

The goal is to address negative health effects of poverty by creating a culture of inclusion, allowing immigrants to fully participate in Hammonton's vibrant community.



VERNON OGRODNEK / FOR THE PRESS
Jim Paul Bacon, 35, who emigrated from Peru, speaks during a Hammonton Health Coalition meeting in Hammonton on Thursday.

Hammonton's population of 14,000, known for decades as one of the most Italian communities in the U.S. and the most Italian in New Jersey, is now about 20% Hispanic, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Drawn here to work on blueberry farms and in other aspects of agriculture, some are now business owners in town, which has a growing reputation for excellent Mexican restaurants.

Guillermo-MaGahee is bringing together health and community service providers, civic groups, volunteers and a group of people trained to be connectors — to build a bridge between immigrants and the broader community. The goal of

the Hammonton Health Coalition is to have an integrated community where people know each other, learn to trust each other, and lessen the stress and isolation many immigrants feel.

Stress and loneliness are major contributors to both physical and emotional health problems, Guillermo-MaGahee said.

Every week she meets with the connectors, who are Spanish and English speakers who get paid a small stipend to go through a training period and to eventually begin working to increase immigrants' participation in every aspect of life in Hammonton.

"Most of it is fear," said

Jim Paul Bacon, 35, of immigrants' reluctance to participate in events and community gatherings.

Bacon is a Hammonton resident who emigrated from Peru as a teenager, works for TD Bank and is in training to be a connector.

Bacon said many immigrants have told him they don't come out to events or activities because they fear ICE will be there. And after Hammonton voted for President Donald Trump in the 2016 election, he said, many people felt hurt.

"It was a little bit of a punch in the gut," Bacon said, because of what many consider Trump's anti-immigrant stance.

The stress is being felt by immigrants all over the county.

Arleen Caballero Gonzalez, 62, of Atlantic City, came to this country in 1974 from Puerto Rico and graduated from Atlantic City High School in 1975.

She is an associate professor of criminal justice, criminal law at Stockton University.

Gonzalez thought America had transcended its long history of racism when Barack Obama was the first person of color elected president.

"I felt safe, and I felt like I belonged. I don't feel that way anymore," said Gonzalez. Donald Trump started his presidential campaign by maligning the Mexican people, she said.

"In every instance where there has been a matter of racism, he (President Trump) has failed to take a stand, to defend the people who have been hurt or injured," Gonzalez said.

Irvin Moreno-Rodriguez, 26, of Ventnor, put much of the blame on social media.

He was born in Atlantic City, but both of his parents are from Mexico. He didn't experience racism growing up in Ventnor, he said. But he sees it online.

"People on social media have been empowered to say racist and xenophobic things," said Moreno-Rodriguez, adding Trump is not alone in doing this.

"They are not stating it. They are screaming it."

Guillermo-MaGahee said the training for connectors focuses not on what is wrong in the community, but on community strengths, including what resources and activities are available.

It also focuses on developing the skills of

connectors to become better listeners and problem solvers, and to better appreciate the strengths they already have.

At Thursday night's meeting at Mexican "street food" restaurant Fruta Mex on 12th Street and Bellevue Avenue, connectors shared stories about the people who most influenced them in their lives, and discussed how they can model that behavior for others.

Guillermo-MaGahee is partnering with organizations like the Noyes Museum and the Pine-lands Preservation Alliance, so immigrants will feel comfortable participating in the arts and in nature programming and more.

Both art and nature have a positive affect on mental health, she said.

"All the fear and the hostility that's happening — like many times in human history, when bad things happen, good things emerge," Guillermo-MaGahee said. "It's important to tell the story not just of despair but all the strength and courage that's coming out of that place."

Contact: 609-272-7202
VJackson@pressofac.com
Twitter@ACPressJackson

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SOUTH JERSEY'S HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS NEWSLETTER

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