



The Causeway Gazette

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Proudly serving Manahawkin, Barnegat, and surrounding communities

June 2026 • Number 145

The Causeway CAREs 5K Returns for Its 9th Year

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, September 20



MANAHAWKIN, NJ – What started as a local fundraiser has grown into a meaningful community tradition. The 9th Annual Causeway CAREs 5K returns on Sunday, September 20, with a goal of making an even greater impact on the lives of local families throughout Ocean County.

For nearly a decade, the Causeway CAREs 5K, presented by the Causeway Family of Dealerships and Causeway CAREs, has united runners, walkers, families, sponsors, and volunteers around a shared mission: supporting local nonprofit organizations that provide essential services to those in need.

Over the past eight years, the event has raised more than \$500,000 for local charities, helping fund programs that address food insecurity, support seniors, provide critical home repairs, and strengthen the community in countless ways.

Last year marked a significant milestone for the event. Although severe weather forced the cancellation of the race for the first time in its history, the generosity of the community remained stronger than ever. Through the support of sponsors, participants, and donors, the Causeway CAREs 5K raised more than \$100,000, making it the most successful fundraising year to date. The proceeds were distributed equally among Fulfill, Project Home Repair, and Meals on Wheels of Ocean County, helping each organization continue its important work serving local residents in need.

“The Causeway CAREs 5K has always been about more than running,” said David C. Wintrode, President of the Causeway Family of Dealerships and Causeway CAREs. “It’s about bringing people together to support our neighbors and strengthen our community. We are incredibly grateful for everyone who has helped make this event such a success over the years.”

This year’s event will once again welcome participants of all ages and abilities. Whether running competitively, walking with family and friends, volunteering, or sponsoring the event, everyone has an opportunity to be part of the Causeway CAREs mission.

The impact of the Causeway CAREs 5K extends far beyond race day. Funds raised through the event help support local nonprofit organizations that are dedicated to improving the lives of Ocean County residents. By participating, sponsoring, or volunteering, community members play a direct role in strengthening the place we all call home. The beneficiaries of this year’s event will be announced soon, so stay tuned to see how your support will make a difference throughout our community.

“The support from our community continues to amaze us year after year,” said Joe Stroffolino, Director of Marketing and Advertising for the Causeway Family of Dealerships and Race Director of the Causeway CAREs 5K. “We look forward to welcoming everyone back this September as we celebrate nine years of giving back and making a positive impact throughout our community.”

As the 9th Annual Causeway CAREs 5K approaches, community members, local businesses, and supporters are encouraged to get involved. Every registration, sponsorship, donation, and volunteer hour helps make a difference.

Together, the Causeway CAREs 5K community has helped raise more than half a million dollars for local causes over the past eight years. On September 20, that tradition of giving will continue as participants once again come together to support their neighbors and strengthen the community.

For registration information, sponsorship opportunities, or to learn more, visit CausewayCAREs.com.

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To learn more about Causeway CAREs, please visit CausewayCAREs.com or email Joe.Stroffolino@CausewayCars.com.



The Wintrode Family Foundation



Causeway CAREs' mission is to make a direct and profound impact in and around Ocean County in the areas of education, food security and quality of life. Founded in 2004 and funded by The Wintrode Family Foundation, Inc., Causeway CAREs strives to make the community a better place to live grow and thrive. To learn more, visit CausewayCAREs.com.

The Causeway Gazette
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 Publisher: Jayme Hill-Gardner
 Creative/Comp: Theresa Maye
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Driving change in our community. CausewayCAREs.com

Help Family Promise of the Jersey Shore Help Local Families Facing Homelessness This Summer

Summer is finally here and the Jersey Shore is buzzing once again.

With the heat and sunshine come relaxing days by the water, boardwalk fun and games, local concerts and ice cream. Many families are looking forward to vacations, beach days and making memories together.

But a growing number of local parents and children are looking at a different reality this summer: the prospect of homelessness.

Family homelessness in our community is rising at an alarming rate — and the need for help is growing faster than ever. We are seeing more families facing eviction, sleeping in unsafe situations, struggling to afford food and basic necessities.

Our neighbors experiencing homelessness at the Jersey Shore has always been highest during the summer months. Winter rentals ending and exorbitant hotel prices kicking in always pay a part in the spike of homelessness but this year the landscape is harsher.

Rising rents, a shortage of affordable housing and the continued impact of inflation on everyday expenses are driving homelessness up across the state but it hits families even harder during the summer.

And school's out. School provides more than education—it offers meals, support services and stability for children. When school is out, families often face additional childcare



costs and increased household expenses. At the same time, many families living paycheck to paycheck struggle to keep up with rising housing costs.

The team at Family Promise of the Jersey Shore is working harder than ever to help local families who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of losing their home. But our resources are stretched beyond capacity.

We need your help more than ever. Every dollar donated helps provide emergency shelter, prevention assistance, transportation, meals, case management and hope to families who have nowhere else to turn.

No family should have to choose between keeping a roof over their head and feeding their children.

Together, we can make sure they don't have to make that call.

Together, we can make a difference. Together, we can help ensure that every child and every family has a safe place to call home.

Donations can be sent to Family Promise of the Jersey Shore at PO Box 83 West Creek, NJ 08092.

Or share your gift online by visiting pushpay.com/g/familypromisejerseyshore.

To donate by cell phone text "give" to 833-975-2970.

For more information about our mission visit www.familypromisejerseyshore.org.

Thank you.
Jim Lowney
Public Affairs Manager
jim@familypromisejerseyshore.org

HELP FAMILY PROMISE OF THE JERSEY SHORE HELP LOCAL FAMILIES FACING HOMELESSNESS THIS SUMMER

No family should have to choose between keeping a roof over their head and feeding their children.



FAMILY HOMELESSNESS IN OUR COMMUNITY IS RISING AT AN ALARMING RATE— and the need for help is growing faster than ever.

THE TEAM AT FAMILY PROMISE OF THE JERSEY SHORE is working harder than ever to help local families experiencing homelessness or at risk of losing their homes. But our resources are stretched thin. **We need your help now more than ever.**



Together, we can make a difference. Together, we can help ensure that every child and every family has a safe place to call home.

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Visit familypromisejerseyshore.org to learn more about our mission.

Thank you for helping local families find hope, stability, and a path home.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PRESENTED BY OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

2026 SUP THE RIVER
Make a splash for Ocean County College! Join OCC and the Kiwanis Club of Greater Toms River at the Toms River Yacht Club. Awards to the top three finishers in each category and gender, and a kid-friendly short course to wrap up the races! This competition is open to all levels.
Saturday, September 19, 2026 at 7:30am

ANNUAL OCC VIKING 5K AND FUN RUN
Lace up your running shoes in support of Ocean County College! This event is an annual tradition aimed at supporting the Foundation's mission of enhancing access to higher education for Ocean County residents through scholarships and awards.
Sunday, October 4, 2026 at 7:30am

THE 25TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC
Tee off for a good cause at Pine Barrens Golf Club. This annual event assists the Foundation in its mission to make higher education more accessible to Ocean County residents through scholarships and awards.
Tuesday, October 13, 2026 at 9:30am

Learn More: OCCFoundation.org

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Brews & Bites Brings Community Together to Support Local Neighbors in Need

On Saturday, May 30, friends, supporters, and community partners gathered at Icarus Brewing in Brick for A Need We Feed's 4th Annual Brews & Bites Fundraiser. Guests enjoyed an afternoon filled with craft beer, delicious burgers, live music, exciting prizes, and plenty of community spirit, all in support of a meaningful cause.



Brews & Bites is one of A Need We Feed's signature fundraising events, raising vital funds for the



organization's Weekly Meal Delivery Program. Through this program, nutritious meals are delivered directly to the homes of local veterans, seniors, and families facing food insecurity throughout our community.

The success of this event would not have been possible without the generous support of local businesses and community partners. A Need We Feed extends its sincere gratitude to event sponsors OceanFirst Bank, Seawind Health Advocacy Group, Kream's Auto Body, Tri-County Insurance, Obsidian Wealth Advisors, Liberty Payroll & HR, Spire Coffeehouse, Royal Stitch & Print, Sanvenero & Cittadino, Attorneys at Law, Monmouth Integrative Counseling Services, Chameleon Communications, and Broad Street Dough Co.



A special thank you goes to The NJ Duo for providing outstanding live entertainment throughout the afternoon, as well as to Burger 25 and Icarus Brewing for their support of this event.

Most importantly, thank you to every attendee, volunteer, donor, sponsor, and supporter who helped make the day such a success. Your generosity and commitment to helping others ensure that A Need We Feed can continue delivering meals, hope, and compassion to neighbors in need.

To learn more about A Need We Feed and its mission, visit ANeedWeFeed.org.



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Health & Support Services of Southern Ocean County
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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to help provide friendly support to our Seniors - a few hours per month, your choice of schedule. Our Volunteers are truly "Neighbors helping Neighbors", serving others with love, respect, hope and compassion.

Interfaith Health & Support Services is a non-profit, volunteer based organization partnering with community faith based communities and local businesses to provide free services & support to Seniors living at home independently in Southern Ocean County. Service area includes Forked River south to Tuckerton, and all of LBL.

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Transportation to medical appointments
- Grocery shopping or food pantry delivery
- Transportation to Community Programs
- Respite & support for the caregiver of a loved one with Dementia or Alzheimer's
- Friendly visits & Reassuring phone calls

If you are interested in volunteering, or receiving services please contact us at: 609-978-3839

From the Jersey Shore to the ACC: Riley Collins Named Assistant Men's Basketball Coach at NC State

By Pat Sharkey, Courtesy of TAPinto Stafford/LBI

RALEIGH, N.C. – The basketball journey that began on the local courts of Ocean County has reached a new peak. Riley Collins, once known throughout regional gyms as a relentless “basketball junkie,” has officially been named an assistant coach for the North Carolina State University men's basketball program.

The move marks a significant promotion for the 28-year-old Collins, who arrives in Raleigh following a highly successful four-year tenure at the University of Tennessee. He follows former Tennessee Associate Head Coach Justin Gainey—who was recently tapped to lead the Wolfpack as head coach—to join a revamped NC State staff. Collins brings a burgeoning reputation to the Atlantic Coast Conference as a tireless worker and an elite player development specialist.

Reflecting on his journey from a standout local player to a front-bench ACC assistant, Collins points to a very simple formula.

“It’s just through hard work and relationship building,” Collins said. “I realize there’s nothing special about myself other than I like to work hard, and I’m passionate about the game of basketball. I’ve learned that the game blesses those who work the hardest. I value that a lot—it rewards those who put in the work. To be where I’m at right now is just the beginning.”

Deep Roots in Local Hoops

Long before the bright lights of the SEC and the ACC, Collins was a foundational fixture in the South Jersey basketball scene. Growing up in Lacey Township, his obsession with the game was evident to anyone who crossed paths with him.

Local community leaders, including this writer, when serving as pastor of King of Kings Community Church in Manahawkin, remember a young Collins as a constant, driving presence in the regional basketball scene. He spent countless hours in local playgrounds, in area gyms, and on his own backyard court.

Collins credits his foundational drive directly to his family

“It’s a credit to how I was raised by my dad,” Collins noted. “My dad was a big part of how I’m able to work the way that I do and how hard I work. He raised me the right way, instilling good values and a strong work ethic. Guys who impacted me along the way? Obviously, there’s a ton—the list goes on and on. But three people who stand out are my dad, Coach Teckler, and Coach Gainey at NC State. They’ve all impacted me in completely different ways.”

Whether dominating the floor in the King of Kings Invitational Basketball Tournament or fueling local summer leagues alongside his sister Molly—also a phenomenal area player—Collins’ advanced basketball IQ and relentless drive stood out at an early age. It was clear to local observers even then that a major future in the sport was on the horizon.

A Meteoric Rise through the Coaching Ranks

Collins’ transition from standout player to high-major coach has been nothing short of meteoric. Following a stellar collegiate playing career as a guard and three-year captain at Division III Drew University—where he graduated in 2020 as the program’s all-time leader in points (1,973), assists, and three-pointers—he immediately pivoted to the sidelines.

He began his coaching odyssey at the Division III level as a graduate assistant at Marymount University in Virginia. By 2022, his reputation for player metrics and on-court skill training caught the eye of legendary head coach Rick Barnes at the University of Tennessee.

Joining the Volunteers’ staff, Collins made an instant impact across a historic four-year run in Knoxville, reaching the Sweet 16 every single year and advancing to the Elite Eight in three consecutive seasons.

Spiritual Growth and Mentorship under Rick Barnes at Tennessee

While Collins’ basketball acumen sharpened in Knoxville, his time under Coach Rick Barnes transformed him far beyond the stat sheets. Barnes, a devout Christian known for embedding faith into his program, took the young assistant under his wing to mentor him both as a professional and as a man of faith.

“Coach Barnes really turned me into a young man, a servant leader,” Collins shared. “I’m someone who is still growing in his faith, and he taught me about treating people the right way and doing things the right way, coupling that with a tireless work ethic. Coach Barnes is a huge Christian believer—it is what he is embedded in, and it’s what he does all day.”

Collins noted that Barnes’ devotion extends far beyond the hardwood, noting that the legendary coach works constantly with churches, youth organizations, and non-profits around Knoxville. Barnes and his son even recently purchased a vacant building to convert into a church space.

That intentionality was felt daily by his staff

“He sends me prayers every morning at 7:00 a.m. to read, and he checks in to make sure I’m reading my Bible,” Collins said. “He’ll question you on certain things with religion just to ensure you’re living the right way—sacrificing for other



Riley with Coach Rick Barnes



At left, Riley with his sister Molly. At right, Riley's Dad, Terry Collins, Causeway Ford Sales Consultant, with Coach Rick Barnes.

people and knowing you’re not perfect. Everybody is a sinner, nobody is perfect, but you accept the fact that you are just trying to glorify God. Coach Barnes does the best job of that.”

The spiritual mentorship was a non-stop, daily education

“He helped me spiritually by getting me a Bible with my name on it, sending those daily prayers, and calling me to ask if I’ve read a specific book, chapter, or verse,” Collins added. “If I didn’t know what a passage was talking about, he’d question me and teach me. It was constant.”

The Next Chapter in Raleigh

At NC State, Collins transitions into a full, front-bench assistant coaching position under Justin Gainey. He joins a Wolfpack program eager to capitalize on his knack for identifying and polishing elite talent—a capability most recently on display as he helped Tennessee’s Ja’Kobi Gillespie and freshman standout Nate Ament secure All-SEC honors in 2026.

As he begins this new chapter in the ACC, the kid from Lacey Township remains deeply rooted in the core values that got him here.

“At the end of the day, I just want to be remembered as somebody who is going to work hard, create good relationships, and walk the way the Lord wants us to walk,” Collins said. “I’m not perfect, just like everybody else, and I’m trying to learn that through the game of basketball, which I’ve always done, and then instill that in other people. That’s the most important thing on this journey.”

“You never know where the game will take you, but if you’re a good person, a good human being, rooted in Christ, and growing every day, the game will bless you. Every relationship I try to create, I try to make better than the last one.”

“Collins was incredibly well-respected inside the Tennessee program for his relentless work ethic and his genuine relationships with the players,” a source close to the Volunteers program stated. “NC State is getting an absolute winner.”

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Iceland Christmas Markets (December 3-7, 2026)
Famed by snow and sometimes crowned by the northern lights, Reykjavik in winter is like something from a dream. This adventure includes nonstop airfare from Newark, four nights at the Fosshotel with room check in upon arrival, breakfast daily, afternoon at the Sky Lagoon with admission, private guided tours of the Christmas Markets in Reykjavik and Hafnarfjordur, private Golden Circle tour with lunch and all transportation. Rate per person is \$1,999.00. Local transfers will be provided for a nominal fee.

Eleven-night Vietnam & Thailand cruise aboard the Celebrity Solstice (January 2-13, 2027)
This bucket list trip starts in Hong Kong and ends in Singapore. Package includes balcony accommodations, classic beverage package and Wi-Fi. Cruise is sold out but Home Town has 5 cabins confirmed at a rate of \$2,953.00 per person. Air and pre/post nights are available at an additional cost.

Grand Mediterranean from Barcelona to Rome on Norwegian Cruise Line (August 8-15, 2027)
This amazing cruise starts in Barcelona and visits two stunning ports in the south of France: Provence and Villefranche. Then visit the birthplace of Renaissance, Florence, followed by Salerno, and Messina (Sicily) with a day at sea and disembarking in Rome. The rate of \$2,099.00 per person includes: balcony cabin, all meals including 3 specialty dining, Wi-Fi, unlimited open bar package, pre-paid shipboard gratuities, shore excursion credit and \$100.00 onboard credit. Airfare and pre/post packages are available in September.

Ireland is set for April 2027 and will have rates out next month, including a date for an informational night. Upcoming trips for 2027/2028: Pacific Northwest, Spectacular Scandinavia, Canada and New England Fall Foliage cruise from NY and Morocco.

“To travel is to live.”
– Hans Christian Andersen

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SOUTHERN REGIONAL SPORTS BEAT



Swimming

Congrats Southern Boys Swimming, Guy DeVita on his commitment to continue his education and swimming career at St. Peter's University in Jersey City, NJ. Guy is surrounded by his family and Head Coach Kevin Mahana and Coach Drew Wilgus.



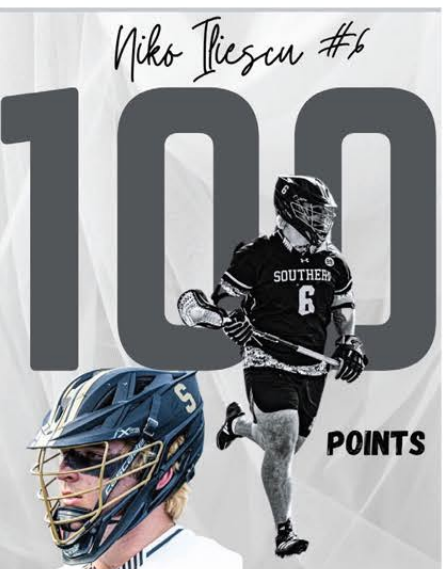
Track & Field

Congratulations, Southern Girls Track and Field, on winning the 2026 Shore Conference Championship. Well done athletes and coaches. Best of luck at NJSIAA State Group IV Meet.



Lacrosse

Congratulations, Southern Boys Lacrosse Middle School team on defeating Barnegat, on Monday, May 18, 2026 and finishing their inaugural season with a record of 10-0. Congratulations players and coaches.



Lacrosse

Congratulations, Southern Boys Lacrosse Niko Iliescu on his 100th career point. Continued Success. Photo Credit: Southern Boys Lacrosse Instagram page



Softball

Congratulations Southern Softball on a very successful #SeniorDay Tuesday, May 19, 2026. Congratulations players and coaches of the Middle School team for winning the OCIAL "Red" division championship. Congratulations Southern Varsity Softball on winning the "Public" Freedom Division Championship, for the 2nd consecutive season, with a 4-3 victory over Pinelands. Congratulations Abigail Krill on her 100th career hit. Thank you Seniors for all you have done for Southern.



Lacrosse

Congratulations, Southern Girls Lacrosse on defeating Clearview on #SeniorNight, May 11, 2026, by a score of 12-1. Thank you Seniors for all you have done for Southern. It was also great to honor 2 Alumni from the Class of 2025 at halftime. Delaney Falk who was named All American for her play last season in 2025 with the Rams. Avery Smith was named an Academic All American for both the 2024 and 2025 seasons at Southern. Congratulations. Best of luck the rest of the season.



Volleyball

Congratulations Southern Boys Volleyball players on eclipsing the following career marks during the 2026 season: Logan Homme - 1800 Assists • Van Miller - 700 Kills • Lucas Bonner - 600 Digs.



Junior ROTC

On behalf of the Southern Regional Air Force Junior ROTC, we would like to extend our gratitude to all those faculty and staff members and students who supported last week's Field of Flags and Memorial Day Ceremony. This event is a heavy lift each year, but it always comes together for a wonderful remembrance of those service men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country.



Track & Field

Congratulations, Southern Girls Track and Field, on winning the 2026 NJSIAA South Jersey Group IV Championship. Congratulations student athletes and coaches. Best of luck the rest of the season.



Football

Congratulations Southern Football Alum Pat Fulginiti on being presented the National Football Foundation Hampshire Award at Kutztown University for the 2025-2026 year. The Hampshire Award from the NFF honors academic excellence in the game of College Football. Congratulations Pat.



Wrestling & Football

On Monday, June 8, 2026, Southern Regional had 2 student athletes commit to continue their education and athletic careers.

Atilla Vigilante (left) Wrestling - USMMA Kings Point
Ben Recker (right) Football - Chestnut Hill College
Both students are surrounded by their families and members of the coaching staff.



Swimming & Football

On Thursday, June 4, 2026, Southern Regional had 2 student athletes commit to continue their education and athletic careers.

Jacob King (left) Swimming - Ramapo College
Logan Transue (right) Football - Hamilton College
Both student athletes are surrounded by their families and respective student athletes. Best of luck.



Track & Field

Congratulations Southern Regional MOC Track & Field Qualifiers from the NJSIAA state Group IV Meet on Friday, May 29th and Saturday May 30th.

- Girls team qualifiers:**
- 4 x 800 relay: Adrianna Zitzner, Carly Murray, Emma Baker, Isabella Millard
 - 4 x 400 relay: Kara Davis, Taylor Diller, Carly Murray, Isabella Millard
 - 4 x 100 relay: Taylor Diller, Gemma Bongiorno, Izabella Barczyk, Kara Davis
 - 400 hurdles: Taylor Diller
 - 100 dash: Kara Davis
 - 200 dash: Kara Davis
 - High Jump: Addison Johnson
 - Long Jump: Gemma Bongiorno
 - Triple Jump: Addison Johnson
- Boys team qualifiers:**
- 3200: Jack McLennan





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FORKED RIVER – Celebrate America’s 250th anniversary with author Michael C. Gabriele as he discusses his newest book *Colonial Taverns of New Jersey* at 2 p.m. Monday, June 29 at the Lacey Branch of the Ocean County Library.

Books written by the author will be on hand for attendees to purchase. A Q&A session and book signing will follow the discussion.

WARETOWN – Do you have gardening questions? The Rutgers Master Gardeners of Ocean County can help you from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, June 27 at the Waretown Branch of the Ocean County Library.

New Jersey was the “Crossroads of the American Revolution.” As battles raged, colonial taverns formed the social network that held the state together. Taverns were the main stage for the unfolding drama of a colony transitioning into statehood and making decisions about declaring a war of independence, the places where the voices of history took shape.

This program is generously sponsored by the Ocean County Library Foundation Grant.

Whether you are planning a new garden, want help troubleshooting plant problems, or need advice on growing, the Rutgers Master Gardeners are ready to assist. Bring your gardening questions – along with photos or samples of insects, plants, shrubs, or trees – for identification, diagnosis, and recommendations.

A haven for patriots and loyalists alike, colonial taverns were the “seedbeds” of the Revolution, strongholds for political activities, beacons for travelers, and venues for entertainment, merriment, and libations. George Washington would commandeer taverns as his temporary headquarters during the war and men would enlist to become part of local militias.

Registration is required for this free program. To register, visit tinyurl.com/TavernsLacey, call 609-693-8566, or stop by the branch at 10 East Lacey Road, Forked River. Registration is open now.

The Rutgers Master Gardeners are trained and certified volunteers who partner with the Rutgers Cooperative Extension. They provide Ocean County residents with free, research-based information on sustainable gardening practices, soil health, pest management, native plants, composting, and much more. No question is too big or small – whether you are a seasoned gardener or just starting out.

Michael C. Gabriele is a lifelong resident of New Jersey and a 1975 graduate of Montclair State University. He has worked as a journalist, freelance writer, and author for more than 40 years. *Colonial Taverns of New Jersey* is his fifth book on New Jersey history, all of which have been published by Arcadia Publishing/The History Press.

AARP TO PRESENT ON PUBLIC BENEFITS FOR OLDER ADULTS AT THE WARETOWN BRANCH

WARETOWN – Financial planning is crucial for older Americans. AARP will present “Public Benefits for Older Adults” at 2 p.m. Thursday, June 25 at the Waretown Branch of the Ocean County Library.



This presentation will demonstrate how you or a loved one can help supplement your income and decrease your spending by securing the essentials, eligible benefits, discounts, and crucial refunds. It will cover the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Affordable Connectivity Program, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Medicare Savings Programs, and the Medicare Extra Help Plan. Attendees will walk away with easy access to resources to apply for these programs.

Registration is required for this free program. To register, visit tinyurl.com/BenefitsWaretown, call 609-693-5133, or stop by the branch at 112 Main Street.

LEARN THE HISTORY OF SUNFLOWERS AND HOW TO GROW THEM AT THE BARNEGAT LIBRARY

RUTGERS New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension of Ocean County

BARNEGAT – Think sunflowers may be a good addition to your home garden? Learn about the different varieties of sunflowers and how to grow them with a Rutgers Master Gardener at 10:30 a.m. Monday, June 29 at the Barnegat Branch of the Ocean County Library. Seeds and pots of soil will be provided to start your own sunflower plant from seed.

The sunflower is an American native plant. How it spread around Europe and Russia and was developed into one of the top 3 agricultural crops in the world is a fascinating story.

Noreen Baris of the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Ocean County will present the program. Rutgers Master Gardeners are trained and certified volunteers who assist Rutgers Cooperative Extension personnel in providing research-based information on sustainable horticultural practices to Ocean County residents.

Baris has been a Master Gardener for 15 years. She was also an elementary school teacher for 30 years and ran a garden club for the students. She then spent years researching and developing this presentation. She has a huge vegetable garden and helps instruct new Master Gardeners in proper gardening techniques.

Registration is required for this free program. To register, visit tinyurl.com/BarnegatSunflowers, call 609-698-3331, or stop by the branch at 112 Burr Street.

CELEBRATE AMERICA’S 250TH ANNIVERSARY WITH BETSY ROSS AT THE WARETOWN LIBRARY

WARETOWN – Bring the past to life and celebrate America’s 250th anniversary with a special living-history performance of Betsy Ross at 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 6 at the Waretown Branch of the Ocean County Library.



Historian performer Alisa Dupuy of the Ladies of History will play Betsy Ross – upholsterer, flag maker, patriot, and founding mother. Through Dupuy’s storytelling and historical insights, learn about Betsy Ross’s significant role in early America and the spirit of independence that helped shape our nation.

This program is part of the Ocean County Library’s celebration of the United States’ 250th anniversary, made possible through the generous support of the Ocean County Library Foundation. The Ocean County Library Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization now in its 25th year of enhancing services and opportunities to all OCL users.

Registration is required for this free program. To register, visit tinyurl.com/RossWaretown, call 609-693-5133, or stop by the branch at 112 Main Street. Registration will open June 22.

SOUTHERN REGIONAL SPORTS BEAT



Lacrosse
Congratulations, Southern Boys Lacrosse on defeating Washington Twp 10-6, on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, and capturing the NJSIAA SJ Group IV Championship. Congratulations players and coaches. It is the 5th sectional title in school history. Great job players and coaches.



Softball
Congratulations Southern Softball Kendra Perrini on her commitment to continue her education and softball career at Georgian Court University. Kendra is surrounded by her family and the Southern Softball Coaching Staff. Best of luck.

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Sun: Closed

*Excludes 2026 Frontier S Trim. Not all buyers will qualify. Any pricing is plus tax, tags, doc fees, bank fee. See dealer for complete details on all offers.



Scan For New Nissans

www.CausewayNissan.com

Ocean County Business Association Announces 10th Annual Marty Aronow Charity Golf Classic Benefiting CAREing for Children and Ocean County

TOMS RIVER, NJ: The Ocean County Business Association (OCBA) is excited to announce its 10th Annual Marty Aronow Charity Golf Outing, taking place on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at the picturesque LBI National Golf & Resort in Little Egg Harbor. This milestone event will bring together local business leaders, community members, sponsors, and golf enthusiasts for a day of networking, camaraderie, and, most importantly, charitable giving in support of CAREing for Children.

Now celebrating its 10th year, the annual outing has become one of Ocean County's premier charity golf events, raising funds to support local children and families facing hardship in times of need. Since its inception, the tournament has generated more than \$182,000 to provide school supplies, food, and holiday gifts to underserved families throughout Ocean County. All net proceeds directly benefit CAREing for Children (CFC), a fully volunteer-run non-profit initiative with no overhead expenses.

CAREing for Children was founded in the late 1980s by community advocate Clare Bojus and supported by dedicated OCBA members. CAREing for Children lives on in Clare's memory, led by



Barbara Farley of Chap Construction. CAREing for Children continues to make a meaningful impact throughout Ocean County, helping to make the holiday season full of hope and joy for children and their families. CAREing for Children's proceeds have directly benefitted local youth- and family-serving organizations such as Providence House, Salvation Army, Faith Community Church, and Ocean Partnership for Children. The golf outing also honors the legacy of Marty Aronow, whose commitment to community service and philanthropy helped inspire the outing's mission and growth over the past decade.

"I have been honored to volunteer for CFC for the last several years," states



Kawee / stock.adobe.com

Farley. "CFC has served local families for over 40 years, using 100% of proceeds for those in need. When families struggle for any reason, our mission is to give them hope, help them bring smiles to their children and ease their burden with much needed assistance."

Golfers can expect a full day of activities beginning with registration at 11:30 a.m., followed by a boxed lunch and a 1:00 p.m. shotgun start, with access to the driving range. The outing will feature scramble-format play, team prizes, longest drive and closest-to-the-pin contests, a putting contest, and the highly anticipated hole-in-one competition. The evening concludes with dinner, an awards ceremony, and a gift basket auction. In addition to golfer participation, the

event offers a variety of sponsorship opportunities for businesses seeking to support a meaningful local cause while increasing community visibility. Sponsors receive recognition through course signage, event promotions, and OCBA marketing initiatives throughout the tournament season.

Registration and sponsorship opportunities are now available. To learn more, register to golf, or become a sponsor, scan the QR code on the flyer or check out Ocean County Business Association online (www.oceancountybusinessassociation.com).

For media inquiries or information, contact the Ocean County Business Association at 866-606-6222. Visit: <https://careingforchildrenj.com/>



SAVE THE DATE FOR AN EVENING SUPPORTING OCEAN PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN



MASQUERADE MURDER MYSTERY AND SILENT AUCTION

Join us for a thrilling evening of mystery and suspense benefitting youth and families in Ocean County, as we honor those who make our mission possible.

SEPTEMBER 24TH
6:00 - 10:00 PM

THE GRENVILLE HOTEL & RESTAURANT
345 MAIN AVE.
BAY HEAD, NJ 08742

STAY TUNED FOR TICKET LINK AND TABLE RESERVATIONS

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact:
Jessica Pepe, Development Coordinator at jpepe@oceanpartnership.org or scan QR code:



10th Annual Marty Aronow Charity Golf Classic

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

LBI National Golf & Resort
99 Golf View Drive
Little Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08087



To benefit CAREing for Children

FEATURES and PRIZES

- Team Prizes
- Scramble Format
- Straightest Drive
- Hole in One Contest
- Putting Contest
- Driving Range

CAREing for Children

We at Ocean County Business Association are pleased to again present the Tenth Annual Marty Aronow Charity Golf Classic.

Last year's outing raised \$22,000. Those funds were used to buy gifts and food boxes which are donated to under privileged children and families. These gifts have been distributed by CAREing for Children (CFC) to charitable organizations in Ocean County.

Because CFC is run strictly on a volunteer basis, there are no overhead costs as 100% of all donations go to support those in need. Additionally, 100% of the Golf Classic's net proceeds are funneled directly to CFC. Over the first 9 years of the event, we have raised and donated over \$182,000 worth of food and children's toys to the community. Additionally, in both 2024 and 2025 we donated 100 backpacks stuffed with school supplies to children in need.

Many thanks for joining us and enjoy a fun day of good golf and fellowship.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Diamond Sponsor @ \$3000 each (includes foursome & tee box sign)
- Major Event Sponsor @ \$2250 each
- Platinum Sponsor @ \$1500 each
- Gold Sponsor @ \$750 each
- Silver Sponsor @ \$500 each
- Tee Box Sponsorship @ \$150 each

GOLF AND DINNER ENTRY FEES

- Foursome @ \$900 each (includes boxed lunch, dinner, and tee sign)
- Single Golfer @ \$200 each (includes boxed lunch and dinner)
- Dinner Only @ \$100 each

Please make checks payable to CAREing for Children and send to:
C/O Glenn VanPell
12 Lexington Ave.
Toms River, NJ 08753

Scan the QR code to register or go to CAREingforChildreNJ.com - click on Sponsorship Opportunities





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Advocating for Seniors Beyond the Meal

When most people think of Meals on Wheels, they picture a meal being delivered to a senior's doorstep. While nutritious meals remain at the heart of our Meals on Wheels Ocean County's mission, supporting older adults means much more than food alone. It also means advocating for the programs, services, and resources that help seniors remain healthy, independent, and connected in their communities.

In May, Meals on Wheels Ocean County joined Meals on Wheels America and providers from across the country in Washington, D.C. for Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill. Together, advocates met with members from the House and Senate to discuss the growing needs of older adults and the importance of strengthening support for senior nutrition programs. Across the nation, Meals on Wheels providers deliver more than 244 million meals annually to 2.6 million older adults, helping address food insecurity, malnutrition, and social isolation. Yet demand continues to outpace available resources, leaving many seniors waiting for services they desperately need.

For organizations like Meals on Wheels Ocean County, advocacy is an important extension of the work we do every day. Federal funding through the Older Americans Act helps support senior

nutrition programs nationwide, but funding has struggled to keep pace with rising costs and the growing senior population. As a result, many communities across the country are facing increased demand and service waitlists.

Advocacy gives local providers the opportunity to share the real stories behind the statistics. It allows us to speak on behalf of the older adults we serve and highlight the impact these programs have on their health, independence, and quality of life. Every meal delivered represents more than nutrition. It represents a wellness check, a friendly face, and a connection to the community.

At Meals on Wheels Ocean County, we are proud to serve more than 2,000 seniors each year and deliver over 286,000 meals annually. While our staff and volunteers work tirelessly to meet today's needs, advocacy helps ensure we can continue serving older adults tomorrow.

Whether through delivering meals, providing connection, or advocating for policies that support older adults, our commitment remains the same: helping seniors live nourished, independent lives together. If you or someone you know could benefit from our program, we're here. Give us a call at 609-978-6869 or visit csimow.org to learn more.



Meals ON WHEELS
OF OCEAN COUNTY

ONSITE MEALS

SOCIALIZATION

RECREATION

EDUCATION

ARTS AND CRAFTS

AND MUCH MORE!

STAFFORD COMMUNITY CAFÉ
OCEAN COUNTY SOUTHERN SERVICE CENTER
179-A SOUTH MAIN ST.
MANAHAWKIN, NJ 08050

Requirements:

- 60 years of age or older
- Ability to take care of self at site
- MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE
- Limited Transportation Available

Join our Community by calling 609-978-6866
Café Hours: Morning session 9-12, Lunch 12-1, Afternoon 1-2

Waretown/Barneget Shoppers Loop

TUESDAYS ONLY

For WARETOWN Reservations call:
Ocean Town Hall
(609) 693-3302, ext. 221

For BARNEGAT Reservations call:
Barneget Town Hall
(609) 698-0020

Ocean Ride

Service Day: Tuesday

Communities Served: Waretown Locations: Stafford Park (near Target) Waretown/Pathmark Stafford Square/Shop-Rite Kohl's/Home Depot

For WARETOWN Reservations call: Ocean Town Hall (609) 693-3302, ext. 221

For BARNEGAT Reservations call: Barneget Town Hall (609) 698-0020

For information: (732) 736-8889 www.oceanic.org/Transportation

Ocean Ride

GIRL SCOUT
GOLD AWARD

You have demonstrated exceptional leadership and created a meaningful, lasting impact in the world.

Your unwavering dedication to making your communities stronger and better places has earned you Girl Scouting's most prestigious award.

Congratulations on this remarkable achievement—your passion and commitment inspire us all!

Congratulations

2026

Gold Award

Girl Scouts!

girlscouts
of the jersey shore

Save the Date

On Behalf of Carol Stillwell and Stillwell-Hansen Inc., please save the date for the United for Impact Wine Event.

Thursday, September 10, 2026 | 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Patricia's of Hobnidel
2132 NJ-35, Hobnidel, NJ 07733

For event updates and additional information, please visit uwmoc.org.

Volunteers NEEDED

STARVE POVERTY. International

"you can make a difference"

We need help with:

Parking Lot Attendants

We are looking for volunteers who can assist in our parking lot during pantry hours

Contact Us

99 Rt 72 Barneget, NJ

info@starvepoverty.org

starvepoverty.org > general forms > volunteer application

Housing

Utilities

Food

Childcare

Health

NEED HELP?
START HERE.

2-1-1

New Jersey

United Way of Monmouth and Ocean Counties

Housing

Utilities

Food

Childcare

Health

27 Million Meals and Countless Lives Changed: Fulfill & JBJ Soul Foundation Celebrate 10 Years of The B.E.A.T. Center

TOMS RIVER, NJ – Over the past ten years, The B.E.A.T. Center has helped transform the way hunger and hardship are addressed in Monmouth and Ocean Counties. Last Wednesday evening, Fulfill and JBJ Soul Foundation welcomed donors, volunteers, supporters, community partners, staff members, and Board Trustees to commemorate the center's 10th anniversary and celebrate the collective impact that has resulted in nearly 27 million meals distributed, millions of dollars in benefits secured, and thousands of families connected to life-changing resources.



• The total value of the meals, benefits, wages, and volunteer hours amounts to \$32,159,818.

“The B.E.A.T. Center represents what is possible when neighbors come together to care for one another,” said Triada Stampas, Fulfill's President and CEO. “For ten years, this space has been more than a place to access food. It has been a trusted community anchor where people find dignity, support, and pathways to a brighter future.”

Guests enjoyed food prepared and served by both JBJ Soul Kitchen and Fulfill's Culinary Kitchen while exploring the many programs housed within The B.E.A.T. Center and reflecting on ten years of community-driven impact, which includes:

- Nearly 27 million meals distributed through The B.E.A.T. Center and its affiliated programs over the past decade.
- Over 450,000 prepared meals for low-income children and the homeless via Fulfill's culinary kitchen.
- More than 90,000 meals served at JBJ Soul Kitchen's Toms River location since opening in 2016, regardless of economic barriers.
- Delivered over \$15 million in SNAP and affordable healthcare benefits through the Center's Resource Connections Team.
- Over 7.5 million pounds of food distributed through Fulfill's Toms River warehouse over the last ten years.
- Over 200,000 volunteer hours dedicated to supporting The B.E.A.T. Center.
- Approximately 150 Fulfill Culinary Arts Training graduates found steady employment.

Since its inception, The B.E.A.T. Center has evolved into a comprehensive hub of support, bringing together programs that address both immediate needs and long-term stability. Through the People's Pantry, neighbors can access nutritious food in a dignified, grocery-style setting, while Fulfill's Resource Connections Team helps individuals and families enroll in benefits such as SNAP and health insurance and connects them with critical community resources. The center is also home to JBJ Soul Kitchen, where all are welcome to enjoy a nutritious meal regardless of their ability to pay, fostering both nourishment and community connection. Through Community Impact programs, neighbors can access workforce development opportunities, housing and utility resources, and partnerships that help strengthen the overall well-being of individuals and families throughout Monmouth and Ocean Counties. Together, these programs reflect The B.E.A.T. Center's mission of addressing not only hunger, but the root causes that contribute to it.

“We never know who is going to walk through our doors, whether it's someone in need of a meal and resources or someone who has heard about the



wonderful work we do and steps by to make a donation in support of our mission,” said Joanne Gwin, Community Coordinator for JBJ Soul Kitchen Toms River. “No matter who they are, we treat each person with dignity and respect, make them feel comfortable and safe, and provide the help and assistance they need.”

Throughout the evening, attendees toured program spaces, connected with staff and volunteers, and learned how The B.E.A.T. Center continues to address both the immediate and root causes of hunger through food assistance, healthcare enrollment support, workforce development, housing and utility referrals, culinary training, and community partnerships.

As they look toward the future, the organizations remain committed to expanding access to nutritious food, strengthening community connections, and ensuring that every neighbor has the opportunity to thrive.

For the full press release including additional photos, contact Elisabeth Seaman at eseaman@fulfillnj.org.

Boots, Bands, and Big Impact: Shore to Rock Hunger Raises Support for Neighbors Facing Hunger

COLTS NECK, NJ – Music filled the barn, cowboy boots hit the dance floor, and hundreds of supporters gathered with one shared purpose: helping ensure local families have food on the table.



Fulfill, the food bank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, hosted its annual Shore to Rock Hunger benefit on May 7 at The Barn at Laird in Colts Neck, raising over \$270,000 and bringing together community members, business leaders, volunteers, and hunger advocates for an unforgettable evening of live music, storytelling, and philanthropy in support of Fulfill's mission to fight hunger and build food security across the region.

The country-themed event featured live entertainment from After the Reign, interactive fundraising experiences, food and drinks, and moving remarks from community leaders and honorees whose work has made a lasting impact on neighbors in need.

Throughout the evening, Fulfill recognized four individuals and organizations whose leadership and commitment exemplify the power of community collaboration in addressing hunger:

- Nourishing Neighbors Award – NJ Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin
- Collaborative Changemaker Award – Neptune Senior Center

• Mission Sustainer Award – The Citta Foundation

• Strategic Service Award – Donald Norkus

“Our community continues to show what's possible when people come together with compassion and purpose,” said Triada Stampas. “Shore to Rock Hunger is more than a fundraiser. It's a celebration of the partnerships, volunteers, advocates, and supporters who make it possible for Fulfill to serve more than 150,000 neighbors every month.”

During the program, Speaker Coughlin spoke about the importance of continuing to support organizations like Fulfill and ensuring families across New Jersey have access to nutritious food and essential resources. The evening also highlighted Fulfill's growing efforts to address hunger through expanded food distribution, community partnerships, and programs focused on long-term food security.

The event was chaired by Carol Stillwell, Owner, CEO, and President of Stillwell-Hanson and Alex Taylor, Marketing & Brand Manager of Jenkinson's Boardwalk and member of Fulfill's Board of Trustees. They welcomed guests and recognized sponsors, committee



OVER \$270,000 RAISED FOR HUNGER RELIEF!

members, volunteers, and community partners whose support helped make the evening possible.

Funds raised through Shore to Rock Hunger will directly support Fulfill's network of nearly 300 food pantries, soup kitchens, and community partners across Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

For the full press release including additional photos, contact Elisabeth Seaman at eseaman@fulfillnj.org.

Know a Senior Who Needs Food?

fulfill
MONMOUTH & OCEAN

HUNGER WON'T WIN HERE

Fulfill's SENIOR STAPLES Program May Help!

Seniors 60 years of age and over who meet income requirements receive a monthly food box of items like these:

fulfillnj.org

Household Size	MAXIMUM	
	Annual Income	Monthly Income
1	\$18,954	\$1,580
2	\$25,636	\$2,137
3	\$32,318	\$2,694
4	\$39,000	\$3,250
5	\$45,682	\$3,807
for each additional household member add	\$6,682	\$557

• **For seniors:** Interested in finding out if there's a distribution site near you? Go to fulfillnj.org/seniorstaples or call 732-918-2600.

• **For senior residences and senior-serving organizations:** Interested in bringing this program to the seniors you serve? Call **Lynette Hargrove** at 732-918-2600.

Senior Staples is a USDA program also known as the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). This institution is an equal opportunity provider. Esta institución es un proveedor de igualdad de oportunidades.

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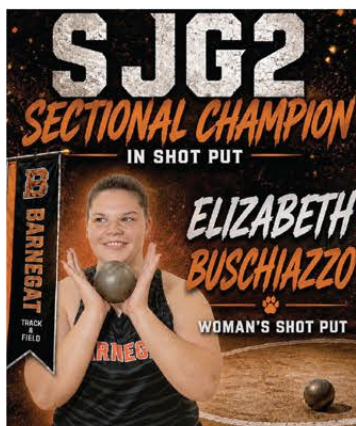
Are you or a loved one a senior citizen in need of transportation? Our partnership with EZ Ride makes it possible to get free rides for qualified Ocean County and Atlantic County seniors.

CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION
732-244-5333
EXT. 1318

WWW.OCEANIC.ORG
email: djaramillo@oceanic.org

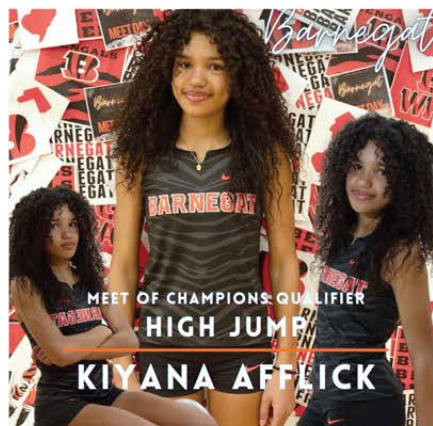


BARNEGAT SCHOOLS SPORTS BEAT



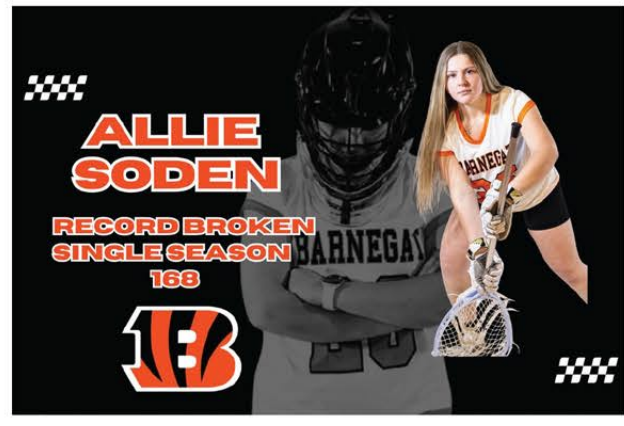
Track & Field

Congratulations Barnegat athlete Elizabeth Buschiazzo on her shot put achievements!



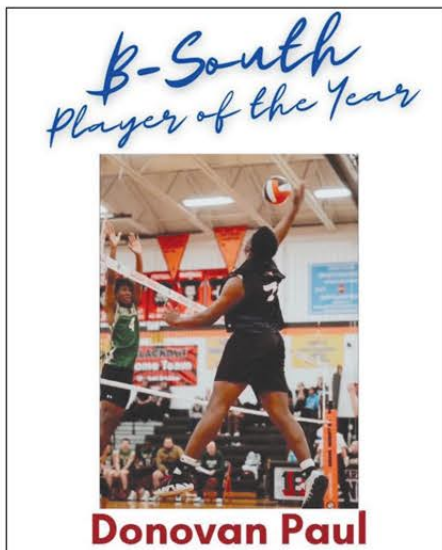
Track & Field

Congratulations Barnegat athlete Kiyana Afflick on her high jump achievement!



Lacrosse

Congratulations Barnegat athlete Allie Soden on her single season record breaking performance!



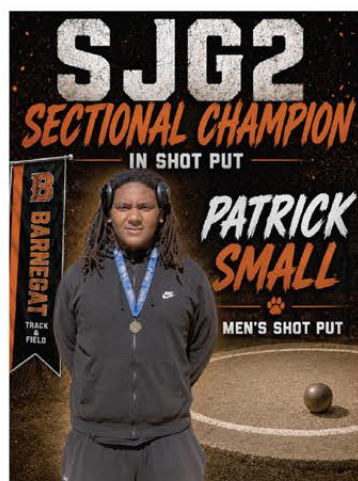
Volleyball

Congratulations Barnegat athlete Donovan Paul on being named South Volleyball Player of the Year! Photo @shorevballca.



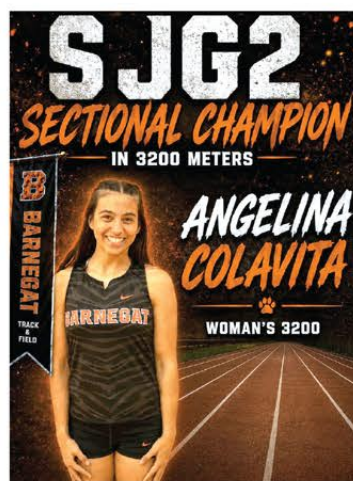
Track & Field

Congratulations Barnegat athlete Brielle Cooper on setting a new Barnegat High School record for the 100HH!



Track & Field

Congratulations Barnegat athlete Patrick Small (left) on his Sectional Championship in the men's shot put! Congratulations Barnegat athlete Angelina Colavita (right) on her Sectional Championship in the Woman's 3200



Barnegat Schools Again Recognized For Music Education

By Veronica Flesher, Patch Staff

BARNEGAT, NJ — For the seventh consecutive year, the Barnegat Township School District has been named a 2026 Best Communities for Education Award winner by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation.

The district said the recognition honors its commitment to expanding opportunities for students to learn and grow through the musical arts. The annual Best Communities for Music Education award is now in its 27th year, according to the district.

“Receiving this recognition for the seventh consecutive year is an honor,” said Maggie Reilley, the district’s Supervisor of English Language Arts, Social Studies and Visual/Performing Arts. “It speaks to the commitment of our music educators, the hard work of our students, the support of families, and the value our district places on arts education.”

The continued success of the district’s music program comes from passionate teachers, district and community support, and opportunities for students at every grade level, Reilley said. She said the program gives students ways to explore music through performance ensembles, classroom instruction and creative experiences from elementary school through high school.

“Our program emphasizes both excellence and accessibility for all

students, allowing them to explore music through performance ensembles, classroom instruction, and creative experiences beginning in elementary grades and continuing through high school,” said Reilley. “Music education benefits students academically, socially, and emotionally. Through music, students learn discipline, teamwork, creativity, and perseverance. Performing and creating music also helps students build confidence, communication skills, and a sense of community. Our goal is not only to develop strong musicians, but also thoughtful, collaborative, and well-rounded individuals.”

This year, the district highlighted music, vocal and instrumental arts through collaborative art shows and concerts, cross-curricular collaborations, school vocal and instrumental concerts, and music-education-based field trips. The district also pointed to student participation in events including the Ocean County and N.J. State Teen Arts Festival

Barnegat also hosted the Tournament of Bands New Jersey State Marching Band Championships and the local Tournament Indoor Association Indoor Color Guard & Percussion Competition.

“We are committed to keeping the music and arts program at the heart of our curriculum,” said Brian Latwis, superintendent of schools.

patch.com



Dance team

Congratulations Ava Smith on her continuing her academic and athletic career at Iona University dance team!



Flag Football

Congratulations to the Barnegat Girls Varsity Flag Football Team on their 2025 Shore Conference Tournament Champion win!



Sportsmanship

Congratulations to Barnegat High School Conference Sportsmanship Recipients Jack Haviland & Rachel Bonhard



Golf

Congratulations to Joe and David who finished 2nd at the Toms River Golf Match play!

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH AND CENTER

2026 PROGRESSIVE 50/50

DRAWING:
AUGUST 1 | 9:30 PM
AT THE FESTIVAL OF THE SEA
TICKET PRICE: \$10

AVAILABLE AT THE FRONT DESK OR RETURN FORM

This is a 50/50 cash raffle and the winner will receive 50% of the amount received for all tickets purchased. No substitutions of the offered prize. Winner need not be present. All proceeds to benefit the St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

Please make your check payable to St. Francis Parish & Indicate "Progressive 50/50" on the envelope.
2026 Progressive 50/50

Name _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

of Tickets Requested (\$10 each) _____ Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Winner need not be present. No Substitution of prize or cash in lieu of prize. Proceeds benefit St. Francis of Assisi Parish
 4700 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach Twp. 08008 | 609-494-8861 ext. 107 | No Phone Purchase or credit card!

Operation Homeplate of Ocean County

2026 Edition

Our **mission** is to assist you with determining eligibility for supplemental nutrition benefits.

Our **goal** is to ensure you have the funds to purchase healthy food for you and your family to enjoy. While \$95, the minimum benefit, may seem small, this extra money can be used to purchase essential food items and lighten any financial stress on your household. You may qualify for **NJSNAP** benefits depending on your gross monthly income as well as other deductions, such as out-of-pocket medical expenses.

An example of family size and income:

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2	\$3,261
3	\$4,109
4	\$4,957
Each Additional	+ \$848

*Figures valid October 2025 - September 2026
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Detective Wiatrowski and K-9 Venus scored 200 out of 200 and finished second after a tiebreaker on time. (Stafford Township Police Department)

Stafford K-9 Team Takes 2nd At Detector Dog Trials In Atlantic City

By Veronica Flesher, Patch Staff

STAFFORD, NJ — The Stafford Township Police Department is recognizing two of its K-9 teams after they competed in the United States Police Canine Association National Detector Dog Trials in Atlantic City.

Detective Wiatrowski and K-9 Venus, along with Officer Okinsky and K-9 Buck, represented the department in the national competition, according to the department. Stafford police reported that Wiatrowski and K-9 Venus earned a perfect score of 200 out of 200. The team completed its search in 3 minutes and 22 seconds and finished second in the nation.

According to the department, the final placement was decided by a tiebreaker based on search time. Stafford police said the team missed the top spot by only a few seconds. The department also recognized Okinsky and K-9 Buck for competing at the national level and representing Stafford Township.

The recognition highlights the role K-9 units play in law enforcement operations beyond public demonstrations and competitions. While the department's announcement focused on the results in Atlantic City, it also tied the event to the work these teams perform at home. The department presented the competition as a way to test and strengthen skills used in investigations and detection work.

The department asked the community to join in congratulating Wiatrowski, K-9 Venus, Okinsky and K-9 Buck on the achievement. patch.com.

2026 Hyundai Palisade Earns 2026 TOP SAFETY PICK+ Award from IIHS

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif., May 14, 2026 – The all-new 2026 Hyundai Palisade (built after November 2025) received the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety's top accolade—the 2026 TOP SAFETY PICK+ (TSP+) award. 2026 Palisades produced after November 2025 earned high marks in all evaluation areas, including the moderate front overlap, small front overlap, side impact, and pedestrian front crash prevention tests, as well as the updated vehicle-to-vehicle front crash prevention test introduced last year.

Eight Hyundai vehicles have earned IIHS Top Safety awards. The other Hyundai vehicles awarded 2026 TSP+ include the 2026 IONIQ 5, IONIQ 9, Sonata, Kona, Tucson, Santa Fe, while the 2026 Elantra received a 2026 TOP SAFETY PICK (TSP). The 2026 TSP+ awards are given to vehicles that meet rigorous criteria set by IIHS, including advanced crashworthiness and occupant protection requirements.

"Hyundai remains committed to crashworthiness and occupant protection by rigorously assessing all aspects of crash scenarios and performance," stated Cole Stutz, Chief Safety Officer at Hyundai Motor North America. "The TSP+ designation awarded to six Hyundai SUVs, and a sedan, reflects a significant achievement for the company's engineering and product development teams. This recognition underscores Hyundai's ongoing dedication to upholding the highest safety standards within the automotive industry."

All 2026 Hyundai vehicles include six standard SmartSense safety features including Lane Departure Warning, Lane Keep Assist, Driver Attention Warning, Forward Collision Assist with Pedestrian Detection, Rear Occupant Alert (door logic) and High Beam Assist. The SmartSense suite of optional safety and convenience technologies help drivers look ahead, anticipate driving situations, and provide alerts to help keep drivers and passengers safe.



The Hyundai Palisade HEV

"Hyundai should be commended for improving protection for second-row passengers in the 2026 Palisade," said IIHS President David Harkey. "With the changes it made to vehicles built after November 2025, the 2026 Palisade is a TOP SAFETY PICK+ winner and has good ratings across the board."

To earn a TSP+ for 2026, IIHS now requires improved crash avoidance systems that prevent pedestrian and high-speed vehicle crashes, as well as enhanced rear seat passenger protection. Vehicles must receive a "good" rating in the moderate front overlap test, a higher standard than last year's "acceptable" requirement for the TSP award. In addition, vehicles must earn a good rating in small overlap front, side, and the pedestrian front crash prevention test, an acceptable or good rating for headlights, and an acceptable or good rating in the updated vehicle-to-vehicle 2.0 front crash prevention evaluation that was introduced last year. Additionally, qualifying front crash prevention systems must be standard for either award in 2026.

For 2026 TSP, vehicles must earn a good rating in the moderate overlap front test, small overlap front, side, while earning an acceptable or good rating for the pedestrian front crash prevention test, as well as an acceptable or good rating for headlights.

For more information on the changes to the award criteria, visit www.IIHS.org.

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Scan For New Hyundais

Stafford Swears In New Police Chief, Captains, Sergeants And Officers

By Veronica Flesher, Patch Staff

STAFFORD, NJ — Stafford Township formally marked a leadership transition in its police department, with retiring Chief James Haldenwang saying Russell Griffin will become the new chief on June 1.

During the ceremony, Haldenwang also recognized a series of promotions and new officers who were sworn into their roles.

Haldenwang said his retirement ends "a wonderful career for me."

He said Griffin's appointment was especially meaningful to him and described a long personal connection with Griffin and his family.

"It is a great honor and privilege for me to turn this police department over to him," Haldenwang said, adding that "there were many eligible candidates in this position, and they all stepped aside and said Russell's the right guy."

In his remarks, Haldenwang introduced several members of the department who were being recognized. He said John Morrin has been a member of the Stafford Township Police Department since 2004 and noted prior service in the United States Marine Corps. Haldenwang said Morrin was promoted to Patrolman in 2006, Sergeant in 2020 and Lieutenant in 2023 before being named Captain.

Haldenwang also spoke about Jason Costello, Michael Wade and Ed Kunder, describing their careers and contributions to the department. He said Wade had worked under him when Hall was a sergeant and called him "an amazing asset to this agency since the day he got here." Hall said Kunder had gone through the

testing process more than once and told him, "I'm so proud of you."

The ceremony also included recognition of new Class II officers. Hall said John Hart came to the department, took the test and went to the police academy for Stafford. He said Hart and Nicholas Sura "are exceptional officers" and said "the department has high expectations for them."

After the personnel recognitions, the group took an oath of office for their positions with the Stafford Township Police Department.

Griffin then thanked the mayor and council for approving the promotions and said the department has "a great working relationship with the town." He said, "As Chief move forward. I'll keep that going." Griffin also thanked Haldenwang for his support and recognized another retiree, Justin Pascale, for his work in traffic safety, saying he "basically ran our traffic station for years and years."

Griffin told those attending that he intends to remain rooted in the community he will serve.

"I can honestly tell you that I tell them that I want to be here, my town is my home," Griffin said.

patch.com



Retiring Chief James Haldenwang announces that Russell Griffin will become the new chief on June 1. (Stafford Township New Jersey Facebook Page)

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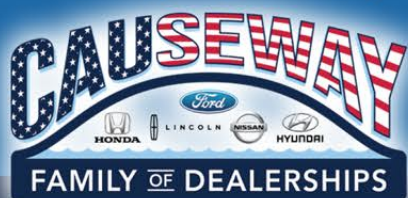
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Kevin Williams

Spent 40+ years as a morning fixture on 92.7 WOBN (Ocean County) talking sports and more. His daily feature, "The Hometown View" won several awards and still airs weekly. He was also the Director of the Shore Sports Network which was an online site that covered high school sports. He recently stepped down after 40 years as the founder and director of the WOBN Christmas Classic, one of the largest high school basketball tournaments in NJ. Kevin is a member of several Hall of Fames including the prestigious New Jersey Broadcasters Association. In semi-retirement Kevin spends as much time as possible on the beach and being frustrated by the teams he roots for.

Alex Williams



Is a graduate of Penn State University and currently a Vice President at M Booth an award-winning digital PR and creative communications agency in New York City. She lives in Battery Park, and her interests include working out, listening to Taylor Swift, trying new restaurants, and trying to get her father to leave her alone with questions about his computer, phone and more.



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I tried making decoupage shell art

By Danielle Natale -
Causeway Honda Sales Consultant



I'm going to start this article by asking: who has a collection of shells from countless walks along the beach? If you're anything like me, you probably have a bucket of shells tucked away somewhere in your house, just waiting for a purpose.

I follow a few craft pages on Instagram and Facebook, and I kept coming across beautiful decoupage shell art. After seeing so many creative designs, I decided I wanted to give it a try myself! The result was a fun and easy craft that can be made in countless ways.

Supplies You'll Need

- Mod Podge
- A couple of paint brushes
- A paper plate to protect your work surface
- Decorative paper napkins in a design of your choosing
- Shells of any kind
- A gold or silver paint marker (or any color you prefer)

I've broken down the steps in the photos, but here's a quick how-to:

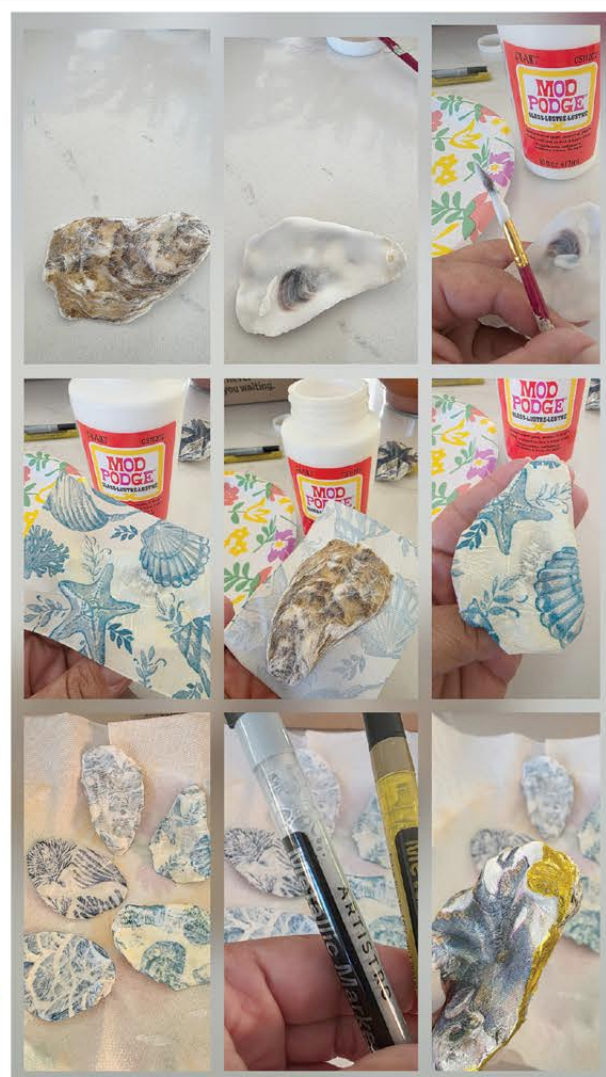
Start by applying a thin layer of Mod Podge to the smooth side of the shell. Cut the napkin to fit the shell, making sure the design you want is centered. Carefully place the napkin onto the Mod Podge-covered shell and gently press it into the shell's natural curves and crevices.

Trim away any excess napkin, then use your brush to apply another thin coat of Mod Podge over the surface. Be sure to smooth the edges down as you go. Once everything is dry, use your paint marker to outline the edges of the shell for a finished look.

My daughter and I have decided to use our finished shells as ornaments for a coastal Christmas tree this year! You'll have to check out my November issue to see the final look.

Happy crafting!

Keep an eye out! A painted shell will be hidden outside Causeway Honda. If you find it, be sure to share your discovery and tag "walking in the garden barefoot" on Facebook at @daniellelovesnature.



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H-P88374
\$23,789*



2023 Honda HR-V LX
HPM749800
\$23,895*



2023 Honda Civic Sport
HPH549340
\$23,989*



2022 Nissan Murano SL
NNC107777
\$24,012*



2025 Hyundai Sonata SEL
Y-P88347-L
\$24,069*



2016 Dodge Challenger R/T
FGH290454
\$24,290*



2025 Hyundai Sonata SEL
Y-P88358-L
\$24,357*



2022 Ford Escape SEL
FNUB39582
\$24,450*



2022 Nissan Altima 2.0 SR
NNN330291
\$24,481*



2024 Honda HR-V LX
NRM706877
\$24,576*



2023 Honda Civic Sport
HPH552115
\$24,589*



2025 Honda Civic Sport
HSH522628
\$24,784*



Scan For Preowned



2024 Honda Accord EX
HRA016305
\$24,908*



2020 Lincoln Nautilus Reserve
FLBL02261
\$24,911*



2023 Hyundai Tucson SEL
YPH263720
\$25,345*



2022 Ford Escape SEL
FNUB42393
\$25,421*



2021 Ford Edge ST
HMB37415
\$25,509*



2024 Honda HR-V Sport
HRM724114
\$26,726*



2019 GMC Canyon SLT
NK1110147
\$26,892*



2023 Ford Escape Platinum
HPUA04601
\$27,114*



2023 Ford Edge SEL
FPBA49558
\$27,250*



2018 Honda Ridgeline RTL-T
HJB011607
\$28,413*



2023 Ford Edge SEL
FPBA48058
\$28,532*



2022 Honda CR-V Hybrid Touring
HNL011256
\$29,008*



2024 Ford Bronco Sport Free Wheeling
F-P88323-L
\$29,378*



2022 Lincoln Corsair Standard
F-P88323-L
\$29,989*



2023 Honda Pilot LX
HPB056418
\$30,270*



2022 Ford Explorer Timberline
FNGC29339
\$30,635*



2023 Honda CR-V EX-L
FPL005518
\$30,932*



2023 Honda Ridgeline RTL
HPBA68925
\$30,950*



2022 Honda Passport TrailSport
YNB028340
\$31,103*



2023 Honda Odyssey EX
YPB066384
\$31,989*



2023 Honda CR-V Hybrid Sport Touring
HPE024986
\$32,487*



2023 Honda Passport EX-L
NPB020062
\$32,911*



2023 Lincoln Nautilus Standard
FPBL23875
\$32,987*



2023 Jeep Gladiator High Altitude
HPL544432
\$32,988*



2023 Ford Edge ST
FPBA53747
\$32,989*



2023 Honda CR-V Hybrid Sport Touring
HPE005990
\$33,333*



2024 Kia Telluride S
YRG429861
\$34,764*



2024 Ford Maverick Lariat
FRRB47823
\$34,985*



2023 Cadillac XT4 Luxury
FPF213559
\$34,987*



2023 Honda Passport TrailSport
H-P88381
\$35,214*



2023 Nissan Frontier SV
NPN651547
\$35,446*



2023 Ford Ranger XLT
F-P88340
\$35,503*



2024 Honda Odyssey EX-L
HRB056433
\$36,450*



2025 Honda CR-V Hybrid Sport-L
HSL032602
\$36,600*



2023 Lincoln Corsair Reserve
FPUL13345
\$36,844*



2021 Ford F-150 XLT
F-P88361
\$37,787*



2023 Ford Bronco Big Bend
FPLB86325
\$40,990*



2023 Ford Explorer ST
FPGB02548
\$42,989*

*Pricing is plus tax, tags, doc fees, bank fee. Stock images are for illustration only. See dealer for complete details.

KIDS COLORING CONTEST!



Win One of Three \$25 Target® Gift Cards!

Have your child color the page, fill out the form, and either stop in to any Causeway location to drop off or mail to the address below.

Entry Deadline: July 7th

Congratulations to Last Month's Winners!

Cole



Lily

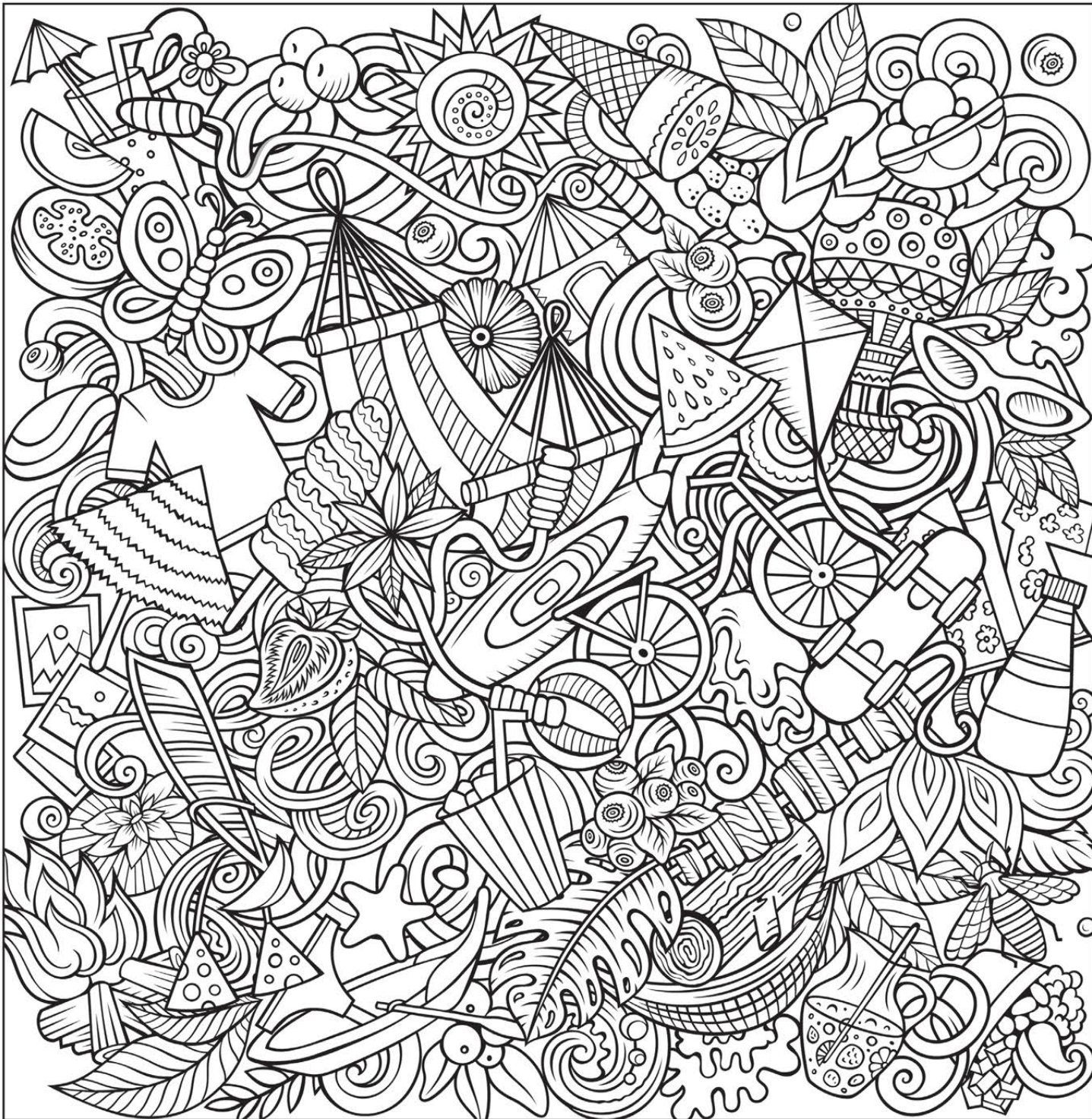


Melanie



Mail to: Causeway Coloring Contest • PO Box 547, Manahawkin, NJ 08050

Child's First Name _____
 Age _____
 School _____
 Parent's Name and Phone _____



ADULT COLORING CONTEST!



You Could Win a \$50 Dollar Gift Certificate to East Bay Italian Grille in Barnegat!

Congratulations to Last Month's Winner!



Edmund

Must be 18 years or older. Simply color the above picture, fill out the form, and either stop in to any Causeway location to drop off or mail to the address below.

Entry Deadline: July 7th

You could win a \$50 Gift certificate to East Bay Italian Grille!

**Mail to: Causeway Coloring Contest
 PO Box 547, Manahawkin, NJ 08050**

First Name _____
 Last Name _____
 Phone number _____
 Residence _____

NOW SERVING HAPPY HOUR!
 12PM TO 6PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY AND
 12PM TO 5PM SAT & SUN
 EXCLUDES HOLIDAYS

DRINK SPECIALS
 +\$3.50 DOMESTIC DRAFTS OR ++ BOTTLES
 +\$5 IMPORTED OR CRAFT DRAFTS OR ++ IMPORTED BOTTLES
\$5 DRINKS
 ALL WELL DRINKS | SUKESIDE | WHITE CLAW
 OUR SIGNATURE SANDRIA (RED OR WHITE)
 HOUSE RED OR WHITE WINE (MONTEPULCIANO OR PINOT ORIGINO)

\$8 FOOD SPECIALS
 AT THE BAR

WE NOW SERVE YOUR FAVORITE WINE, BEER & COCKTAILS!

RESERVE EARLY FOR GRADUATION CELEBRATIONS

2 LARGE PIES (TOPPINGS EXTRA) \$24.99
 THIN CRUST OR TRADITIONAL HAND-TOSSED
 Valid Sunday to Thursday
 One coupon per visit. Not valid on holidays. Coupon may not be combined with any other offer. With coupon only. Expires 7/15/26, Shore Savings.

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