

# Which wrestlers moved to regions?



# O.C. boys compete for basketball title

SUNDAY

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# The Press

OF ATLANTIC CITY

\$1.50

Toms River and north: \$1.75

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REGIONAL EDITION

## Billionaires begin battle for Trump casinos

Bankruptcy court hearings that start this week will decide ownership of the three Trump casinos in Atlantic City.

By DONALD WITKOWSKI  
Staff Writer

ATLANTIC CITY — Donald Trump and Carl Icahn insist they are friends. Whether they remain friends may depend on the outcome of a battle between the brash New York billionaires for control of the three Trump casinos.

"I think we like each other. We'll have to see," Trump said in an interview last week.

"From my point of view, I hope to be friends with him," Icahn said last week.

Trump and Icahn are preparing for a bankruptcy fight this week over ownership of the Trump casinos that could cause a monumental shift in the Atlantic City gaming market. If Icahn wins, the famous Trump name — synonymous with Atlantic City's gambling business since the 1980s — could be erased from the resort's



ICAHN



TRUMP

keep the Trump moniker on the casinos. "I'm certainly not against that. But the jury's still out."

Bitterly opposed to Icahn's buyout plans, Trump has aligned himself with the bondholders of Trump Entertainment Resorts Inc. in hopes of keeping the casinos. Bondholders would give Trump up to a 10 percent stake in the company in exchange for the continued use of his name on the Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort, Trump Plaza Hotel and Casino and Trump Marina Hotel Casino.

"Everybody loves the Trump name," Trump asserted. "It's the hottest brand in the country. People want to use it."

Ultimately, this fight will be decided by U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Judith H. Wizmur in a Camden courtroom. Wizmur will preside over a trial-like hearing starting Tuesday to choose between competing plans that involve no fewer than four billionaires. The hearing could extend into next week, but Wizmur likely will not make a ruling until a few weeks

neon-splashed skyline. "That's something we have to work out," Icahn said of whether he would

See Trump, A4

## GARDEN STATE PARKWAY EXPANSION

# New lanes deliver relief

### Expansion in stages

The Garden State Parkway expansion that began last July will be done in three phases.

**Phase 1**, under way, is widening the roadway between mileposts 63 and 80. It is scheduled to be finished by December. The Barnegat toll plaza will get an Express E-ZPass lane.

**Phase 2**, which will widen the highway between mileposts 48 and 63, is set to start in July 2011 and should be finished by May 2013.

**Phase 3**, to widen the roadway between mileposts 30 and 48, is awaiting funding.



Staff photo by Bill Gross

Work on the first phase of the Garden State Parkway expansion project south of Toms River has caused delays but is expected to be complete in December.

## Project seen as investment in regional economy

A Garden State Parkway expansion plan will add a third lane of traffic in each direction between Toms River and Somers Point.

By LEE PROCIDA  
Staff Writer

Soon after breaking ground last July on a \$1.1 billion plan to widen 50 miles of the Garden State Parkway, huge machines began clearing 222 acres of dense forest, effortlessly slicing through trees and trucking them away to make room for a third lane to be built in each direction. The ongoing work to expand the parkway from South Toms River to Somers Point has already dramatically changed the landscape along the nation's busiest toll road, and there is much more work to come.

State transportation officials say more than a million motorists travel the parkway each day. More than \$40 billion in tourism dollars depend on the

road's ability to safely and quickly deliver visitors to shore points, including Atlantic City. Ensuring the parkway can handle the growing traffic demand is not just an investment in transportation but in the state's economy.

In the first few months of construction, drivers passing through the Ocean County section of the parkway, accustomed to traveling through a narrow, wooded corridor, were suddenly surrounded by hundreds of orange cones, miles of concrete barriers and wide swaths of dirt on each shoulder.

"It's kind of a pain," said Samantha Butler, 45, of Bass River Township, who stopped at the Tuckerton Wawa before heading up Route 539 to the parkway. "I don't know. It's road work. It's a fact of life."

Harold David, 62, of Stafford Township, said he can live with the roadwork, knowing that it will eliminate the traffic jams he's encountered in the

See Parkway, A8

## ACCC ready for move to a tech world

The community college invests millions in new facilities to prepare students to thrive in an economy based on new technologies.

By DIANE D'AMICO  
Education Writer

An airport is going up at Atlantic Cape Community College in Mays Landing. It won't be visible from the street, and no planes will land at the school's nearby culinary academy door.

Instead, a \$250,000 air-traffic control tower simulator will create a computer-generated airport to train students to be air traffic managers, a job that will be needed at the Next Generation Aviation Technology and Research Park under construction near the Atlantic City International Airport in Egg Harbor Township.

With southern New Jersey unemployment hovering at 13 to 14 percent, the highest in the state, Atlantic Cape Community College is leading the effort to anticipate what and where the new jobs will be.

"We are transitioning into a tech economy," said Gordon Dahl, executive director of the South Jersey Economic Development District, which is purchasing the simulator for the college. "This will give students who are in high school now an opportunity to get good jobs without leaving the area."

See ACCC, A10

**Affordable education:** As 4-year college costs soar, community colleges grow. **A10**

**Two and out:** Colleges' 2-year programs can lead to careers. **A10**

**Need a job now:** Certificate programs provide job skills in a hurry. **A10**

## Scientist says key to saving bay is on land

A Rutgers researcher tells a Long Beach Island audience that mainland overdevelopment has led to the demise of the Barnegat Bay ecosystem.

By MICHAEL MILLER  
Staff Writer

LONG BEACH TOWNSHIP — Southern New Jersey is home to one of the most pristine natural areas on the East Coast — 115,000 acres of protected forest and marsh in Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean counties.

So why is Barnegat Bay, the estuary just north of the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, so polluted?

Melanie Reding tried to answer that question Saturday during a lecture at the Long Beach Island Foundation for the Arts & Sciences. Reding spoke on the health of the bay for the group's weekly Science Saturday program.

Reding works with the Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences at Rutgers University, which has been studying that question extensively in the past decade. To get at the

See Bay, A6

### COMING TOMORROW

#### Museums survive

A look at museums throughout the region as they struggle and sometimes thrive.

#### National power

Holy Spirit boys basketball team faces the No. 8 team in the nation, St. Patrick's.

## State fights an onslaught of natural invaders

By MICHAEL MILLER  
Staff Writer

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP — Three Bradford pear trees on the grounds around an old farmhouse here were probably planted by a former owner for their glorious white flowers. But those pear trees' days are numbered: The farmhouse and the trees are now part of the Cape May National Wildlife Refuge, which plans to chop them down to stem the spread of invasive species.

From feral pigs rooting up golf courses to foreign diseases wiping

out oysters and backyard flowers going rogue in woods across the state, New Jersey is under invasion. For years the state's wildlife managers have worked to save wild plants and animals on the verge of extinction. But more and more, they are examining new ways to cope with exotic plants and animals that are faring all too well in the Garden State.

The sprawling Cape May County refuge focused last year on eradicating English ivy, which

See Species, A7



Staff photo by Dale Gerhard

Wildlife biologist Heidi Hanlon eyes an alien plant at the Cape May National Wildlife Refuge: English ivy.

Sunny

High: 46  
Low: 30

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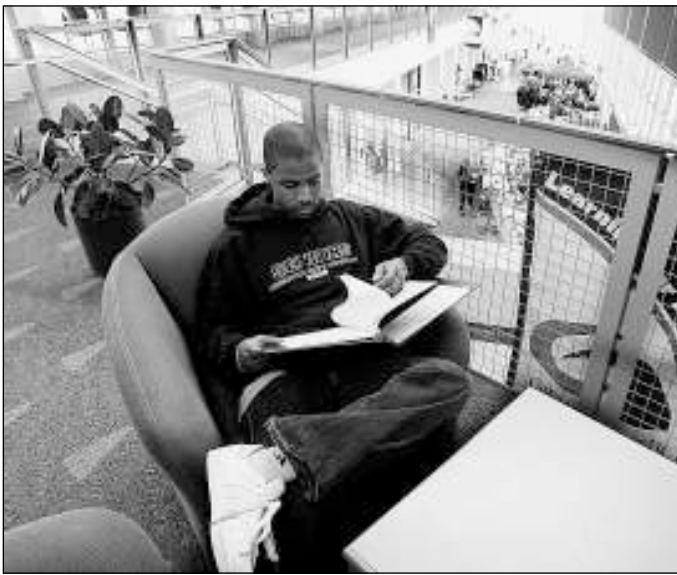
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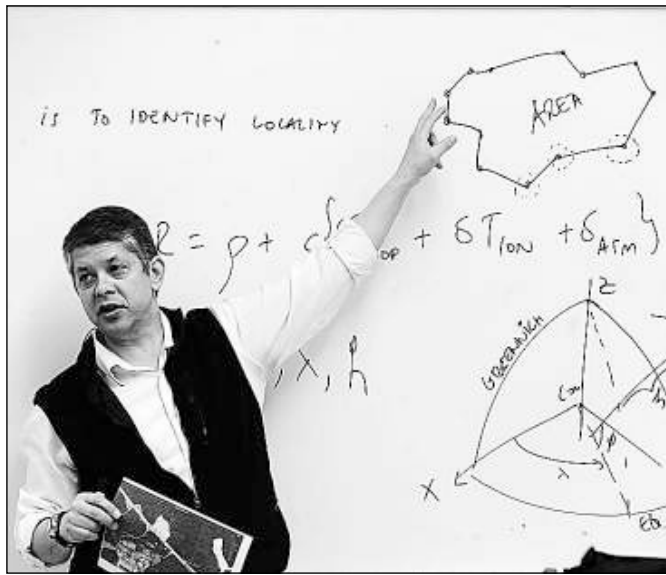
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## COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROGRAMS ADAPT TO DIVERSE NEEDS



Staff photo by Dale Gerhard

Freshman Raymond Jefferson, who plans to transfer to Rutgers University, studies on the Cape May Court House campus of Atlantic Cape Community College.



Staff photo by Anthony Smedile

Professor Laramie Potts teaches a class in Geographic Information Systems mapping, a tool businesses use to plan efficient delivery routes.



Staff photo by Bill Gross

Sabrina Giovanni, 21, of Ventnor, is a surgical technician student at Atlantic Cape Community College's Worthington campus in Atlantic City.

## More seek low-cost start to full degrees

By DIANE D'AMICO  
Education Writer

Anthony Patrizi never thought twice about enrolling at Atlantic Cape Community College.

"Why pay more to take basically the same courses as at a (four-year) college?" the Wildwood Crest resident said after class at ACCC's Cape May Court House campus.

That's the message community college officials have been sending for decades.

The message is being heard more than ever today. Subsidized by both state and county funds, tuition and fees at ACCC this year cost \$3,405. The average cost at a public four-year college in New Jersey for the 2009-10 year is \$11,000.

Fueled by a tight economy, more frugal parents and programs such as NJ STARS, which provides free tuition and fees to the top 15 percent of high school graduates, the typical community college student has gotten younger and wants college to be a full social and academic experience.

The colleges are responding. Cumberland County College built a student center and expanded athletic teams. ACCC just spent \$3 million to renovate its library, gym and fitness center, and also plans to build a student center.

"This is a new era for us in sports and fitness," ACCC President Peter Mora told a small crowd that came out to support the men's and women's basketball teams at a pep rally to christen the new gym last month.

The women's team is only in its second year, but that doesn't bother Deborah Tanksley, of Hammonton, who played in high school and likes that she can continue in college.

The Cape May County campus may be the most like a traditional college. The students are younger, and enrollment is up 25 percent from last spring, to 1,379 students, about 92 percent of capacity.

"We've got classes starting at 8 a.m. and on Saturday," said Patricia Gentile, dean of the Cape May campus. "We're busy all day."

Freshman Raymond Jefferson, 19, of Middle Township, wants to study meteorology, but his first choice, Penn State, was just too expensive. Even Rutgers was a financial stretch. He worked hard to make the top 15 percent cut at Middle Township High School and got an NJ STARS scholarship to ACCC.

"It's free," he said. "And it's a good transition here from high school."

He plans to transfer to Rutgers University, and is matching his courses to the state school's requirements.

New Jersey's community colleges are not allowed to offer four-year degrees. But they do partner with four-year colleges. Rutgers Camden has a small site on the ACCC campus and has plans for its own building on campus.

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## Two-year programs can lead to careers

By DIANE D'AMICO  
Education Writer

Linda Vanover, of Egg Harbor City, took the Introduction to Geographic Information Systems course at ACCC last semester because GIS has become a vital tool in planning routes and tracking productivity at FedEx, where she is a manager.

"It's a planning tool, and what I want to get into," she said. ACCC has a \$1.25 million grant to develop training programs in GIS mapping. Professor Laramie Potts comes from the New Jersey Institute of Technology to ACCC on Fridays to teach, and on a recent day explained how GPS systems and satellite maps can give different views of the same thing.

"You have to be very careful if you are a GIS provider," he told the class. "You have to know how your data was obtained or your analysis may have errors."

The GIS program is one link in the college's new technology focus. Otto Hernandez, associate dean of GIS and Technology Studies, said ACCC is developing a GIS certificate that could eventually be expanded to a full associate degree.

"Engineers and utility companies use it," he said. "There are a lot of career paths."

GIS is the future, but ACCC's traditional two-year programs are still vital.

Gale Cullinane worked in retail management, but wanted to go to culinary school.

"Food's always been my passion," she said.

The 28-year-old moved from West Paterson, Passaic County, to Ocean City and enrolled at the Academy of Culinary Arts at ACCC because it was affordable, she could qualify for financial aid and graduate with an associate degree.

"There are just so many places you can go with this," Cullinane said.

ACCC's culinary program, a casino carryover, struggled a bit when casinos faltered, but has seen enrollment jump again as a second career choice. The program prepares students to work in any food venue.

When the state Department of Education decreed that school aides have at least two years of college, the community colleges responded with paraprofessional degree programs.

The state's community colleges provide most of the registered nurses in the state, graduating 1,655 in 2008.

Jessica King, 17, of Galloway Township, is still a senior at the Atlantic County Institute of Technology's health careers academy, but she's already taking pre-nursing classes at ACCC through dual-credit programs the college offers with area high schools. King is hoping that good grades will help her get into the nursing program.

"I've wanted to be an RN since sixth grade," she said.

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## Work force courses offer quick training

By DIANE D'AMICO  
Education Writer

Sabrina Giovanni inserted the catheter into the male "patient," working carefully and confidently.

"I've always wanted to work in a medical field," the Ventnor resident said. "When my father was sick and had several surgeries, I realized there are more than just surgeons in the room."

Giovanni, 21, is studying to be a surgical technician, an 11-month program at ACCC's Worthington campus in Atlantic City. She plans to apply the 24 college credits she is now earning toward an associate degree while she works.

"I'll never stop going to school," she said.

Many community college students can't wait four or even two years to get a degree. They need jobs now. Some have been laid off, and have families to support.

Community college certificate and work force training courses provide short-term programs that can get students into jobs while also offering a pathway to a degree.

"There is a career path, and an education path," said Jean McAlister, ACCC associate dean for continuing education operations. "The non-credit career training can articulate into a credit program."

McAlister said unemployed residents now have the time to learn new skills. The college has seen an increase in residents over the age of 50 coming in to learn computer and bookkeeping skills.

"We're trying not to duplicate what technical schools do, but look for opportunities where there will be jobs," she said.

The colleges work with state Department of Labor and county Workforce Investment Boards to link training programs to job demands.

Short-term programs include workshops for tax-preparers, construction code officials and Realtors. The college has grant funding to teach English to foreign-born residents.

The allied health careers program offers multiple job options based on students' needs and qualifications. The pharmacy technician class starting in April is just 160 hours, but will provide the training needed for an entry-level position.

Bobby Royal, dean of the Worthington campus, started at ACCC himself in 1968 after leaving the Air Force. He sees the Atlantic City campus as the road to upward mobility for city residents who want an education, but often have to get it while juggling jobs and family. The new hospitality center will provide training close to home, a major factor for students with no cars and budgets so tight that even bus fare to Mays Landing is an obstacle to success.

"We deal with a lot of high, high risk students," Royal said. "This is a place for people who have academic potential, but never dreamed of going to college. This is a way out of poverty."

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## ACCC

(Continued from A1)

Herman J. Saakamp, Jr., president of Richard Stockton College in Galloway Township, and president of the board of the new Aviation Park, said he anticipates a large role for ACCC.

"(The park) is an economic driver for the region," Saakamp said. "It will be a good opportunity for them and us."

In addition to aviation training, the community college is launching several other programs to prepare local residents for new jobs:

■ ACCC will break ground this spring on a \$16 million science, technology, engineering and math building at its Mays Landing campus.

■ A \$1.25 million federal grant is funding the development of courses in Geographic Information Systems mapping.

■ In January, the college board of trustees approved an air-traffic control degree program that will begin next year.

■ A new \$10 million Hospitality Studies Center at the Atlantic City campus is designed to meet ongoing demand for culinary, housekeeping and hospitality employees.

■ The Health Professions Institute, which opened at ACCC's Worthington Campus in Atlantic City in 2008, offers training in health-care related jobs ranging from medical assistant to surgical technician.

Businesses provide jobs, but good jobs require training.

"The balance is jobs versus training," said Richard Pernicario, Dean of Facilities, Planning and Research for ACCC. "Do we create the industry, or respond to it? The biggest problem is training for jobs that aren't there yet."

Existing businesses need workers, too, said Rhonda Lowery, executive director of the Cape/Atlantic Workforce Investment Board, or WIB. She said the tourism and gaming

### Blueprint 2020

	Cost in millions
STEM building	\$16
Academic complex	\$6
Student center	\$8
A.C. Hospitality Wing	\$10
Roadway improvements	\$4
TOTAL	\$44



Atlantic Cape Community College image

An artist's depiction shows the proposed Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, or STEM, building at Atlantic Cape Community College in Mays Landing.

industry must reinvent itself to compete with neighboring states.

"Gaming is everywhere now," she said. "You have to have the extra something — entertainment, retail shopping, family activities."

With three campuses in two counties, ACCC will invest \$44 million on its plan to meet the education needs of every resident.

That means training Sabrina Giovanni, 21, of Ventnor, and Esteshly Torres, 21, of Vineland, to become surgical technicians in just 11 months.

It means helping Raymond Jefferson, 19, of Middle Township, get an affordable start to a career in meteorology.

It means giving Gale Cullinane, 28, of Ocean City, the chance to get out of retail and into her real passion, food.

"Private college was expensive," said Torres, who attended a four-year college as a pre-med major, and plans to go back, but right now needs to work.

"I've always been fascinated by the ER," she said. "This will let me get my feet wet working in a hospital."

Lowery said the WIB depends on the college to help prepare the workforce of the future.

Pernicario said students want a hands-on education that prepares them for real jobs, and the new buildings reflect that. Programs include internships at local businesses, which partner with the college.

"(Students) really want it to be more like a job site than a classroom," he said. "We've talked to the

FAA, hospitals, casinos, to see what jobs there will be and what training is needed."

New Jersey's community colleges began in the 1960s, and quickly diversified to meet the needs of their local economies. Subsidized by both state and county governments, they promise job training or a pathway to a four-year degree for every resident.

"Our mission is to provide an affordable education," said Nicholas Tallvacchia, chairman of the ACCC board of trustees.

When casinos arrived in Atlantic City, ACCC developed the Casino Career Institute and Academy of Culinary Arts, training thousands of workers for jobs that had not existed before. Now the college is moving to the next generation of careers.

"We are the community's college," said ACCC president Peter Mora, a phrase he uses often to explain how the college can both serve the local economy, and drive it.

Pernicario said if the county wants to remain economically vital, it must meet the education needs of all its residents.

"Students are looking for alternatives," he said. "If they don't find them here, they may not stay."

Fueled by an increase in young high school graduates and newly unemployed workers, enrollment in the state's 19 community colleges has exploded.



Staff photo by Anthony Smedile

Students walk the campus at Atlantic Cape Community College in Mays Landing earlier this month. ACCC is investing \$44 million to meet the education needs of every resident.

In fall 2009, 175,765 students were enrolled in the state's two-year colleges, 53,000 more than a decade before. Forty thousand more students attend community college than are enrolled in all of the state's public four-year colleges combined.

In addition, tens of thousands of people take non-credit certificate or single continuing education courses as part of workforce training programs.

In 1999, almost 60 percent of students attended part-time. This year more than half are full-time students, putting added pressure on college facilities and programs.

"We are a victim of our success," said Larry Nespoli, executive director of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges, who has warned the colleges to prepare for tough financial times.

Gov. Chris Christie took the first step this month, cutting \$8.5 million in aid to the county colleges.

President Barack Obama has called on the community colleges to be a cornerstone in creating a new 21st-century economy. He pledged

\$12 billion over the next decade to fund new programs.

Mora is using what he calls "mosaic funding" to fund ACCC's expansion, cobbling together money from various sources to avoid pushing the cost onto students. The state has allocated just \$40 million this year for community college construction, about \$2 million per college.

ACCC also banked last year's funds for its expansion. The college got a \$4 million federal grant for the new STEM building, and \$5 million is promised from the Casino Reinvestment and Development Authority for the hospitality center. ACCC has also begun its first ever capital campaign to raise private funds. Atlantic County government has promised to match up to \$18 million.

"The college is an integral player in the future of the county," county executive Dennis Levinson said. "It's affordable, and we want to keep it that way."

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