An Educational and Informative Newsletter for Counties and Businesses

New Jersey Association of Counties

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Everyone Needs a Hero

by Lisa Fielding, Partnership Director for NJ Hall of Fame



©Photo by Gellman Images

The New Jersey Hall of Fame is a moving capsule of the almost 100 inductees' contributions to history. It's an endless source of pride for New Jerseyans, including Sal Campbell, a recent Arête Scholarship winner. "When I look at all the great people that are part of the New Jersey Hall of Fame and the many adversities that they overcame, I'm determined to work hard to achieve excellence in everything I do," said Campbell. "Through hard work, courage and determination, I can overcome any hardship or adversity and achieve excellence, give back to the community and reach my highest sense of self. Jackie Robinson once said, 'A life is only as important as the impact that it has on the lives of others.' Thank you to the members of the New Jersey Hall of Fame for being role models to me. I hope that I in turn can be a role model for others because 'Everyone Needs a Hero!'"

The New Jersey Hall of Fame celebrates the extraordinary accomplishments of Garden State citizens. The inductees have overcome challenges and obstacles to rise to the top of their chosen field. They offer hope to those facing their own struggles and to young people who dare to dream, despite adversity. They instill a sense of pride in New Jerseyans who identify with their "can-do" attitudes and tenacity.



Launched in 2013, the Mobile Museum, the first state hall of fame mobile in the nation. welcomed 200,000 has visitors in just over two years. Visitors discover the influence inductees have had in the areas of arts and entertainment. business. science, and sports, among others. It includes innovative, interactive learning centers as well as artifacts and memorabilia ©Photo by Gellman Images and profiles of a wide

variety of New Jersey natives, like Harriet Tubman, Thomas Edison, Jack Nicholson and Shaquille O'Neal. Their stories offer boundless hope and inspiration.

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Get to know your County Official.....

How many years have you served as Burlington County Administrator?

I have served as Burlington County Administrator for one year.

What was the first public position you held?

In 2002 I was appointed as the Administrator of the county's hospital, Buttonwood Hospital, a skilled nursing & psychiatric facility. Buttonwood was owned and operated by Burlington County for more than 100 years until it transitioned into the new ownership of Aspen Hills as it continues to serve our residents in need.

Why did you choose to apply for Administrator?

Being appointed as Burlington County's first female Administrator is an honor. For that same reason I was confident that, if given the opportunity, I would make it my mission to provide effective leadership for the departments that provide wonderful services every day for the residents of Burlington County.

What has been the most difficult decision you have had to make while serving as Administrator?

One of the things that makes Burlington County such a great place to live and work is the County's commitment to making our community affordable. Since 2008 our Freeholders have cut county property taxes by more than \$27 million, while reducing government spending by more than \$40 million. At the same time the County has improved and expanded essential services for veterans, seniors, families, and the most vulnerable. While this is tremendously important for our residents and businesses, it means that we in government face difficult budgeting decisions every day and must work hard to ensure that every tax dollar goes as far as it possibly can.

What would our readers be most surprised to learn about you?

I have three children; my oldest son is currently in his sophomore year in high school, my daughter is in middle school, and our youngest son is 4 which puts him in the high school graduating class of 2031. Needless to say I will be carpooling for many years to come! Also I know all the words to Rappers Delight, so at least I'm the cool mom.

Who is your role model?

My role model is my mother. She has always put our family first, and after treatment for breast cancer found a way to improve the lives of others. She is currently the president of the Machestic Dragons, a breast cancer survivor dragon-boating team that rows on Mercer Lake. They raise awareness of breast cancer and the benefits of dragon boat paddling to sustain good health. Together they lead by example and mentor others who are weakened by the struggle with breast cancer to show that there truly is life after this disease and to look beyond today to a future filled with hope and promise.

What do you love about Burlington County

Burlington County is the largest County in the State, spanning from our East coast to our Western border. In between we have everything from rural farming towns to vibrant waterfronts, thriving downtown districts and quiet suburban streets. All this makes for a diverse, exciting, and strong community. With many of the best school districts in the region and ideally situated near some of our nation's greatest cities, there truly is no better place to call home.



Eve A. Cullinan Administrator Burlington County



Everyone Needs a Hero (continued)

Once on location, it transforms from a 53-foot double-expandable trailer into 850 square feet of exhibition space that fits perfectly in a parking lot or open space. It's available for municipalities, schools, non-profits, corporations or private events.

The Mobile Museum gives educators a resource to help students learn about the roles that iconic New Jersey residents have had in shaping the global, social, scientific, economic, cultural and political communities. A complimentary curriculum guide for 3rd-through 12th-graders is available so students can make the most of their visit to the Mobile Museum.

A generous grant from Aetna has made it possible for us to offer 12 New Jersey Hall of Fame Mobile Museum visits to your school or community event, free of charge. To learn more about this opportunity or the Arête Scholarship please contact Lisa Fielding at Lisa@NJHallofFame.org.

"Never give up on what you really want to do. The person with big dreams is more powerful than one with all the facts." - Albert Einstein

The Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders Offer Shared Services Agreements for Hi-Speed Internet

by Patrick Alexander, Public Information Officer for Passaic County

The Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders approved the authorization of a shared services agreement with the Wanaque Board of Education and the City of Passaic, authorizing both entities to utilize the County's Private Fiber Optic Network. In 2006, partially through funding from the Department of Homeland Security, the County invested in the development of a private fiber optic network to consolidate communication services in a dark fiber network and protect Passaic County during emergencies. The private fiber optic network allows the County to offer hi-speed internet connectivity, email services, security cameras, offsite back-up and disaster recovery, and wireless hot spots at a fraction of the cost available on the private market.

"The County is offering to boards of education and municipalities the opportunity to not only tap into a private fiber optic network with hi-speed internet connectivity, but also to achieve significant savings for this service compared to what is being offered from private businesses in the open market," stated Freeholder Director Theodore "TJ" Best. "We are actively shopping this service to local governments and school districts in the hopes that more entities come on board and realize the savings and services that can be offered by opting into the County's private fiber optic network."

"This is the type of cooperation and sharing of resources across different levels of government that is so important as we all look to lower taxes and cut spending while maintaining vital public services," stated Freeholder Deputy Director John W. Bartlett. "This private fiber network is an untapped resource for local governments and school districts and I hope this opens the floodgates for more municipalities and boards of educations to sign onto this initiative."

"Moving to the county's fiber optic network makes sense, and it saves money. It's basically free Internet when you consider that the small monthly fee is dedicated to maintain the network. The county's private network is also faster, safer, and more reliable for all our Internet communications," said City of Passaic Mayor Alex Blanco.





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AT&T Invests more than \$1.55 Billion Over 3 Year Period to Enhance Local Networks in New Jersey

by Dan Langan, Public Affairs for AT&T

At <u>AT&T</u>, we invested more than \$1.55 billion in our New Jersey wireless and wired networks during 2013 -2015. These investments drive a wide range of upgrades to reliability, coverage, speed and overall performance for residents and businesses. They also enhance critical services that support public safety and first responders.

Statewide, from 2013-2015, the company made more than 560 network upgrades.

"We're committed to providing our customers fast, reliable, highly secure connectivity. We want them to be able to access the Internet at any moment, from almost any device and anywhere," said J. Michael Schweder, Mid-Atlantic President, AT&T. "Our continued investment in New Jersey brings a host of new, innovative opportunities for residents and businesses."

In 2016, for the second year in a row, FORTUNE magazine recognized AT&T as the Most Admired Telecommunications Company in the world. We also placed #48 among the Top 50 World's Most Admired companies. This is our third year in a row on the Top 50 list – AT&T is the only communications company on the list. We ranked #1 in all 9 attributes. This included innovation, financial soundness and quality of products/services. FORTUNE's Most Admired Companies lists are among the most highly respected indicators of corporate performance and reputation.

We have big plans for 2016. We'll be giving you the ability to access and stream <u>DIRECTV</u> video services over a wired or wireless Internet connection from any provider and from virtually any device – smartphone, tablet, Smart TV, streaming media hardware or PC. We plan for each service to come with a set number of simultaneous sessions. These services will not require annual contracts, satellite dishes or set-top boxes.

We have an extensive Wi-Fi network with more than 40,000 AT&T Wi-Fi Hot Spots at popular restaurants, hotels, bookstores and retailers. We provide access to Wi-Fi at more than 1 million Hot Spots around the world. Most AT&T smartphone and home Internet customers get access to our entire national Wi-Fi network at no additional cost. Wi-Fi usage doesn't count towards customers' monthly wireless data plans.

To learn more about our coverage in New Jersey, or anywhere in the U.S., visit the <u>AT&T Coverage Viewer</u>. For updates on the AT&T wireless network, please visit the <u>AT&T network news</u> page.

About AT&T

AT&T Inc. (NYSE: <u>T</u>) helps millions around the globe connect with leading entertainment, mobile, high speed Internet and voice services. We're the world's largest provider of pay TV. We have TV customers in the U.S. and 11 Latin American countries. We offer the best global coverage of any U.S. wireless provider.* And we help businesses worldwide serve their customers better with our mobility and highly secure cloud solutions. Additional information about AT&T products and services is available at <u>http://about.att.com</u>. Follow our news on Twitter at @ATT, on Facebook at <u>http://www.facebook.com/att</u> and YouTube at <u>http://www.youtube.com/att</u>.

*Global coverage claim based on offering discounted voice and data roaming; LTE roaming; voice roaming; and world-capable smartphone and tablets in more countries than any other U.S. based carrier. International service required. Coverage not available in all areas. Coverage may vary per country and be limited/restricted in some countries.

² A Wi-Fi enabled device required. Other restrictions apply. See <u>attwifi.com</u> for details and locations.



¹ AT&T products and services are provided or offered by subsidiaries and affiliates of AT&T Inc. under the AT&T brand and not by AT&T Inc.

ACE Ready for Summer Storm and Hurricane Season

by Frank Tedesco, Media Relations Manager for Atlantic City Electric

With weather forecasts calling for a potentially active hurricane season this year, Atlantic City Electric (ACE) is making preparations to help ensure safe and reliable service for its customers.

Through its Reliability Improvement Plan and other electric distribution system investments, the company has invested more than \$716 million on new technology, system upgrades and expansions since 2011 to modernize the electric system and help protect it against extreme weather events.

Atlantic City Electric has performed reliability upgrades and system improvements on about 210 electric circuits, higher voltage lines that distribute electricity to customers. Upgraded hundreds of miles of wire, replaced hundreds of poles and installed automated switching technology on dozens of electric circuits designed to isolate outages and restore power to customers quicker. In addition, the company has upgraded four substations with new equipment, circuit breakers and transformers, and built three new substations in Atlantic, Cape May and Gloucester counties.

The company has implemented a comprehensive vegetation management plan and has spent more than \$40 million over the last three years on tree trimming and associated vegetation management work along nearly 5,200 miles of power lines to help prevent outages.

"We are prepared for whatever the summer storm and hurricane seasons bring," said Vince Maione, Atlantic City Electric region president. "It takes only one storm to cause property damage and widespread power outages. We want to assure our customers that we are committed to an emergency response system that makes safety a priority, restores power as quickly as possible and provides customers with information on how to prepare for and deal with weather-related outages."

Atlantic City Electric employees prepare for the possibility of storm-related power outages by participating in emergency drills on a regular basis. In addition, ACE maintains an adequate supply of essential equipment, such as poles, wires and transformers, and stays in contact with other utilities to quickly arrange for mutual assistance in case of a natural disaster.

"We also believe that preventive maintenance is essential in reducing the potential for service interruptions caused by stormy weather," said Maione. "We plan to continue to make investments over the next several years to upgrade and modernize our electric infrastructure. We'll also continue regular tree trimming near power lines to help avoid outages that can be caused by trees and limbs that fall during storms."

Atlantic City Electric encourages residents to assemble an emergency kit that can be used at home and, if necessary, taken with them if they're ordered to evacuate. Each kit should include a flashlight, battery-powered clock and radio, extra batteries, non-perishable food, manual can opener, bottled water and a list of important phone numbers. All items can be placed into a large cooler which is easy to grab if a person has to leave home quickly.

ACE also provides a "Weathering the Storm Fact Sheet" that can be downloaded from its website <u>atlanticcityelectric.com</u>.

For more information about Atlantic City Electric, visit <u>atlanticcityelectric.com</u>. Follow us on Facebook at <u>facebook.com/atlanticcityelectric</u> and on Twitter at <u>twitter.com/acelecconnect</u>.



Our mobile app is available at <u>atlanticcityelectric.com/mobileapp</u>.

Helping Kids Cope With Homesickness

by Frank Sileo, PhD of the New Jersey Psychological Association



Dear Mom and Dad,

I hate this camp! I hate the food. I miss you and I feel terrible. I want to come home. Will you come and pick me up?

-Alex

Does this sound familiar? If your child is going to sleep-away camp for the first time, they may experience feelings of homesickness, a form of separation anxiety. Ninety-five percent of all kids experience it. The good news is that homesickness is treatable and preventable.

Addressing Feelings of Homesickness



Here are a few ideas for addressing and even preventing homesickness when a child goes off to summer camp for the first time.

1. **Involve the child in the decision.** Whenever a child is involved in the decision-making process, they will have increased feelings of control about being away from home. When children feel forced, homesick feelings intensify.

2. **Teach the child that homesickness is typical.** Children often feel they are the only ones to experience these feelings. It can be a big relief for them to know this is not the case.

3. **Give the child skills and hope.** Provide them with the tools that will help them if they feel homesick while away. Encourage them not to isolate, but to stay active and be with others, and to talk it out with an adult.

4. **Organize practice times away.** These could include one-night sleepovers with friends or a trip to Grandma's. When they return, encourage them to talk about what coping strategies worked best if they became homesick.

5. **Work with them on letter writing.** Make it really easy for them to stay in touch. Supply them with paper, pens, and plenty of pre-stamped, pre-addressed envelopes.

6. **Send a letter ahead.** Mail a letter to your child before she even goes to camp. That way, when she arrives, it will be a wonderful surprise and a piece of love from home.

7. **Take "tours" of the camp.** Use websites, pamphlets, and other materials to help familiarize your child with the camp. Have them speak with camp staff or alumni. Once they have met someone from the camp, a familiar face can go a long way in helping them feel safe and comfortable.

8. **Encourage friendships.** Suggest that your child actively make new friendships and seek the support of trusted grownups.

9. Check yourself. Avoid making anxious or ambivalent statements to your child about the separation from

Helping Kids Cope With Homesickness (continued)

them. Giving children something to worry about will only increase thoughts of home. Express enthusiasm, confidence and optimism about the new experience. If YOU are anxious, your child will sense it and become anxious too. Even if you are concerned, act as if you are not!

10. Use a wall calendar. Practice perspective on the time away by marking fun activities on a large calendar.

DON'T Make the "Pick-up Deal"

Although you might be tempted, NEVER make the "Pick-up Deal," an offer to pick the child up at camp and bring them home if things don't go well. Making this deal will *dramatically* reduce the chances of your child's success at summer camp. This can convey to your child that you have little confidence in their ability to cope with a typical away-from-home feeling, and that the *only* solution is for you to rescue them. This deal can also plant the seed that your child will not like camp or that there might be something to be afraid of, suggesting that their only solution is to avoid or escape. Additionally, the "deal" undermines the surrogate caregivers (camp staff) who are trying to help your child cope with feelings of homesickness.

Just remember; when you say good-bye to your child on the camp bus, when you are sending them off with your love, support, and belief in them, they will do just fine.

And so will you!



Dr. Frank J. Sileo is a New Jersey licensed psychologist and the Executive Director of The Center for Psychological Enhancement in Ridgewood, New Jersey. In his practice he works with children, adolescents, adults, and families. He is an award winning author of five, soon to be seven, children's books including Bug Bites and Campfires: A Story for Kids about Homesickness. He is a national speaker on a variety of psychological topics and does school author visits. To learn more about Dr. Sileo, his work, and his books, please visit his website at <u>www.drfranksileo.com</u>. This article originally appeared on <u>www.playgroundtalk.com</u>.

The New Jersey Psychological Association (NJPA) is recognized as one of the strongest state psychological associations in the country. NJPA is an indispensable network of resources for the public and media, a staunch advocate

for psychologists in the state, and an influential presence helping shape mental health policies in New Jersey. Visit us at www.PsychologyNJ.org to locate a psychologist or to find the most



current news, articles, and events that may be of interest to you. Follow us on Twitter <u>@njpsychassn</u>, connect with us on <u>Linked In</u>, and subscribe to our <u>quarterly newsletter</u>! For more information, contact Executive Director, Keira Boertzel-Smith, JD or Communications Manager, Christine Gurriere at (973) 243-9800.

Do you have educational or informational articles you would like published in the <u>NJAC COUNTY BIZ</u>?

Contact Loren Wizman, Director of Business Development, at (609) 394-3467 or <u>loren@njac.org</u>.

Congratulations to the 2016 NJAC Award Recipients

On Thursday, May 19th, NJAC Executive Director John G. Donnadio, Esq. along with the NJAC Executive Officers presented the following awards to those who demonstrate dedication to NJAC and county government :

Maurice Fitzgibbons Freeholder of the Year Award - Union County Freeholder Vernell Wright

County Service Awards - Gloucester County Recycling Coordinator Monica Gismondi Ocean County Chief Financial Officer Julie Tarrant Passaic County Jail Warden Michael Tolerico



pictured left to right: Union County Vice Chairman Sergio Granados, NJAC Executive Director John Donnadio, Esq., Union County Freeholder Vernell Wright, Union County Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski, and Union County Freeholder Chairman Bruce Bergen



pictured left to right: **Atlantic County Jail** Warden Frank Mazzone (retired), Hudson County **Jail Director Oscar** Aviles (retired); Passaic **County Jail Warden** Michael Tolerico, NJCJWA President and **Gloucester County Jail** Warden Eugene **Caldwell**, Burlington **County Jail Warden** Mildred Scholtz, and **Cape May County Jail** Warden Don Lombardo



pictured left to right: Gloucester County Improvement Authority Executive Director George Strachan, Gloucester County Recycling Coordinator, Monica Gismondi, Gloucester County Solid Waste Coordinator Tom Sullivan, 1st Vice President & Gloucester County Freeholder Heather Simmons and NJAC Executive Director John G. Donnadio, Esq.



pictured left to right: Ocean County reps -CFO Julie Tarrant, Freeholder Virginia Haines, and Administrator Carl Block

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Congratulations to the 2016 NJAC Award Recipients (continued)

On Friday, May 20th, NJAC Executive Director John G. Donnadio, Esq. along with the NJAC Executive Officers presented the **Business Associate of the Year Award** to NJM Insurance Group for its dedication and support to NJAC and the communities of New Jersey.



pictured left to right: NJAC 2nd Vice President Gary J. Rich, Sr., NJAC 1st Vice President Heather Simmons, Colin Dansbury of NJM Insurance Group, NJAC President John King, and NJAC Executive Director John G. Donnadio

> photos on pages 8 and 9 are by : ©Mike Hickman, Mike Hickman Photography

Also on the last day of the NJAC Annual Celebration of County Government, eleven teams of county vocational technical schools gathered and competed in the 5th NJAC Annual County Vocational Technical Schools Cook-Off Challenge for awards in the categories of taste, creativity, and presentation. *Details can be found in the full story of the Cook-Off Challenge on page 10*.

CONGRATULATIONS

Monmouth County Tourism Director **Jeanne De Young** was honored by the Monmouth-Ocean **Development Council** (MODC) for her achievements in tourism.

The New Jersey County Planners Association is celebrating 60 years of Regional Planning.

Ocean County Police Academy, the 38th & 39th Special Law Enforcement Officer II Recruit Classes, successfully completed their training and graduated ready to begin their work in law enforcement.

The class of the Law and Public Safety Academy at **Camden County Technical School** graduated on June 9th.

Union County Freeholders Linda Carter and Alexander Mirabella presented resolutions and checks to **students and educators from New Providence High School and John E. Dwyer Technology Academy** in honor of the two schools winning the 2016 Union County Student Training and Enrichment Program challenge.

The W!SE (Working in Support of Education) Financial Literacy Certification Program named **Passaic County Technical Institute** (PCTI) as the top high school in the nation!

Culinary Students Wow County Officials at NJAC Cook-Off by Kathy Forsyth, Communications Director for NJ Council of County Vocational-Technical Schools



Monmouth County CEC students preparing to serve guests ©Photo by Tom Brigila, Photo Graphics



Judges lining up for Cumberland's short ribs ©Photo by Tom Brigila, Photo Graphics



BCIT - Medford Campus students plating their marinated flank steak ©Photo by Tom Brigila, Photo Graphics

Eleven teams of culinary arts students from New Jersey county vocational-technical high schools displayed their extraordinary talents and skills at the New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC) Cook-Off Challenge on May 20t^h at Caesars in Atlantic City.

The event concluded NJAC's 2016 annual meeting, attended by more than 400 freeholders, county executives and other county officials and administrators.

"This is the fifth year NJAC has hosted the cook-off challenge, which has become a feast of flavor and creativity that showcases our talented culinary students with a competition and a fun and delicious lunch for our conference attendees, vendors and other guests," said NJAC Executive Director John Donnadio.

"It's hard to believe, but this event gets better every year and is a highlight of our annual conference. The students' skills are amazing and the food they produce is incredible. Our judges always have very difficult decisions to make," Donnadio said.

Student teams were required to produce 400 samples of an appetizer or hors d'oeuvre on a budget of \$500 or less. They were also required to create a station display that reflected the food they were serving or another district-related theme.

For several of the teams, students from other career and technical education disciplines within the district – such as carpentry and art – helped plan and build the station displays.

Three panels of judges rated the entries for Gold, Silver, and Bronze awards in different categories:

NJAC Judges (representatives of NJAC affiliates and sponsors), who voted for awards in Taste and Station Display).

Professional Chef Judges, who voted for awards in Taste and Presentation (which recognized not only plating but also the students' poise and understanding of the creation and development of their teams' entries).

People's Choice Judges, which included all NJAC conference attendees, who posted combined scores for taste and station display.

NJAC Cook-Off (continued)

The districts competing in the 2016 Cook-Off and their entries were:

Atlantic County Institute of Technology – Wild Caught Grilled Shrimp with Tomato Cantaloupe Salsa and Basil Sorbet

Burlington County Institute of Technology, Medford Campus – Marinated Flank Steak

Cumberland County Technical Education Center (defending the 2015 People's Choice Gold Award title) – Black Pepper and Molasses Lacquered Short Ribs

Gloucester County Institute of Technology – Balsamic Honey Roasted Shredded Pork with Fig Chutney and Whipped Ricotta

Hudson County Schools of Technology – Sous Vide Pork Loin Arepas with BBQ Foam

Hunterdon County Polytech High School (home county of the 2016 NJAC president, Freeholder John King) – Milford Farms Pork Belly and Chicken Confit Tostada with Locally-Foraged Ramp Kimchi and Korean BBQ Sauce

Monmouth County Culinary Education Center – Asian Day Boat Scallops served with Sweet Chili Sauce

Ocean County Vocational Technical School, Brick Center – Jersey Shore Lobster Roll with Roasted Corn and Tomato

Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School – Applewood Smoked Scallops with Pears, Mangos and Roasted Poblano Relish

Union County Vocational & Technical Schools – Artisan Flatbread Taco with Applewood Smoked Duck Breast Glazed in Honey-Chipotle Sauce and Topped with Chevre, Grilled Corn-Avocado Salsa and Roasted Jalapeno and Cabbage Slaw

Warren County Technical School – Coconut-infused Risotto Pancake topped with Grilled Marinated Shrimp Surrounded by a Mango Coulis and Toasted Macadamia Nuts



GCIT preparing for the competition ©Photo by Tom Brigila, Photo Graphics



The competition is underway at Warren's station ©Photo by Tom Brigila, Photo Graphics



Union County student's preparing for the competition ©Photo by Tom Brigila, Photo Graphics

The student teams, many of whom had long rides to Atlantic City, arrived by 9:00 a.m. to set up their station displays and began the prep work for their entries.

As the 12:15 p.m. opening time approached, the tension in the room increased as the students prepared for the judging to come.

NJAC Cook-Off (continued)

"One of the things that most impressed our conference attendees this year was how much effort the students devoted to explaining their culinary selections," Donnadio said. "They didn't just serve the entries; they discussed them with everyone who stopped by their stations.

"Our voters were very full at the end of the event, but they got a clear picture of the quality of our county vocational-technical school culinary arts programs and the students who attend them," he said.

Here are the awards recipients from the 2016 NJAC Cook-Off:

NJAC JUDGES – Taste

Gold: Cumberland County Technical Education Center *Silver*: Hunterdon County Polytech High School *Bronze*: Hudson County Schools of Technology

NJAC JUDGES – Station Display

Gold: Warren County Technical School *Silver*: Union County Vocational & Technical Schools *Bronze*: Hudson County Schools of Technology

PROFESSIONAL CHEFS JUDGES – Taste

Gold: Cumberland County Technical Education CenterSilver: Atlantic County Institute of TechnologyBronze: Tie: Burlington County Institute of Technology and Hunterdon County Polytech High School

PROFESSIONAL CHEFS JUDGES – Presentation

 Gold: Cumberland County Technical Education Center
Silver: Tie: Hunterdon County Polytech High School and Union County Vocational & Technical Schools
Bronze: Burlington County Institute of Technology



Cumberland County TEC receiving the People's Choice Award ©*Photo by Mike Hickman, Mike Hickman Photography*

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS (*combined score for taste and station display***)**

Gold: Cumberland County Technical Education Center *Silver*: Hunterdon County Polytech High School

Bronze: Ocean County Vocational Technical School



ACIT's Wild Caught Grilled Shrimp ©Photo by Mike Hickman, Mike Hickman Photography



Hunterdon County's Pork Belly ©Photo by Mike Hickman, Mike Hickman Photography



Ocean County students serving up Lobster Roll at their food truck station display ©Photo by Mike Hickman, Mike Hickman Photography

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NJAC Cook-Off (continued)

"The New Jersey Council of County Vocational-Technical Schools is very grateful to NJAC for initiating this competition and continuing to sponsor it every year as part of the NJAC annual conference," said NJCCVTS executive director Judy Savage.

"It's a great opportunity for our county officials, who provide so much support for our schools, to see the professional quality programs our schools provide and outstanding students who succeed through them," she said.

In the 2017 competition, two counties will have automatic entries:

Cumberland, the winner of the 2016 People's Choice Gold Award, and Gloucester, the home county of the expected 2017 NJAC president, Freeholder Heather Simmons.

The other nine participating districts will be determined by a lottery held at the NJAC annual reorganization meeting in late January, 2017.



Hudson County students prepping their Sous Vide Pork Loin Arepas ©Photo by Tom Brigila, Photo Graphics

NJCCVTS would like to thank the dedicated staff members at NJAC and Caesars, whose work throughout the year makes this competition such a great experience for our students and our schools.

About NJCCVTS

The New Jersey Council of County Vocational-Technical Schools (NJCCVTS) is a non-profit association, created by state law, which represents the vocational-technical school districts in New Jersey's 21 counties.





NJ county vocational-technical school teams of the 2016 NJAC Cook-Off ©Photo by Mike Hickman, Mike Hickman Photography





Your Surplus Near and Far

by Angela Jones, Marketing Communications Specialist for GovDeals

Every state, county and local government has items lying around that are unused or have become obsolete. The question then becomes what do you do with it all? The answer is easy – sell it on GovDeals.com. <u>GovDeals.com</u> is an online government surplus auction site created specifically for state, county, and local government agencies. Over 8,800 government agencies have adopted the GovDeals solution for selling their surplus assets online.

GovDeals began its partnership with the New Jersey Association of Counties in 2008, and is happy to say it has been a fruitful partnership for both parties. Since 2008, county governments in the state of New Jersey have sold over \$5.9 million worth of assets. Some have initiated accounts on their own, while others have utilized the contract between GovDeals and the State of New Jersey. The New Jersey State Contract is available for all government entities in the state of New Jersey. The contract # is A83453 and the T# is T2581.

GovDeals, Inc. has managed and streamlined its auction process to be as successful as possible. This has helped GovDeals' clients recover more than \$1 billion that can then be reinvested back into their communities.

One of the main reasons GovDeals' clients have adopted its auction solution is the ongoing customer support and training offered to them. With over 31 regional sales and client service representatives, and a dedicated support staff in Alabama and Tennessee, GovDeals is able to provide prompt and exceptional customer service. GovDeals' marketing department's sole responsibility is to market client assets through print and online advertising, as well as through direct notifications via email to registered bidders in order to increase the exposure to your auctions. A transparent and easy to use accounting system, along with several financial options available, help simplify the payment and record keeping processes.

Clients of GovDeals have expressed the increased exposure to their assets as a strong factor in their decision to use GovDeals. Local auctions attract local bidders, while national online auctions attract bidders from all over the world. For example, Cape May County, NJ had a 1983 Hiller helicopter they needed to sell. While you would expect many of the bids to come from local bidders, the winning bidder was actually from Ridge Spring, SC. The county also sold a 2002 boom mower tractor to a bidder from Atlanta, GA. Opening these auctions to bidders outside of the local area increased the ending bid amount on these auctions and recouped over \$181,000 for the county.

There are so many success stories like this it would be impossible to list them all. But you can become your own

success story! If you would like to discuss the many benefits to selling on GovDeals.com and how your county can get started selling online, please contact Mike Baker, Northeast Representative at 609-713-7888 or by email at <u>mbaker@govdeals.com</u>.



BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

Learn about the benefits of being a part of NJAC and how you can join by contacting Loren Wizman, Business Development Director, at (609) 394-3467 or loren@njac.org.

Nationwide Economics Weekly Economic Review & Outlook for June 6, 2016

by Michael Groom, Financial Markets Economist of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company and Ben Ayers, Staff Economist of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company

Weekly Review

Job growth was much weaker in May than even the most dour of estimates at just 38,000 for the month (although 36,000 jobs were lost in the temporary Verizon strike and will be added back next month). This was the slowest gain since 2010 and reduced the average monthly increase for this year to 150,000 - a sharp decline from the pace set in 2015. Even adjusting for the Verizon strike, weakness showed across a broad range of sectors.

Wage gains were a bit disappointing as well, with average hourly earnings up by 0.2 percent in May. The 12-month growth rate in wages remains tepid at 2.5 percent. Average weekly hours were flat too, suggesting stagnant growth in total hours worked.

Even the sharp decline in unemployment rate to an expansion low of 4.7 percent was not really a positive sign for the labor market. A large reduction in the size of the labor force accounted for much of the decline in unemployment, rather than stronger jobs.

The weakness in the employment report was so far away from other job data that it is reasonable to conclude that it was a fluke and a month from now job growth will rebound strongly. But that remains to be seen.

On a brighter note, consumer spending data has been very strong thus far in the second quarter-lead by a 1.0 percent surge in monthly personal consumption expenditures (PCE) in April. Real PCE (adjusted for inflation) is up by 3.0 percent over the past year - a solid pace near its long-term average.

Light vehicle sales edged higher in May to an annualized pace of 17.4 million units. While still below the torrid pace of the second half of 2015, sales in the second quarter should post a solid improvement from the first. If sustained, the positive trends in consumer activity should help to boost real GDP growth up to around 2.5-3.0 percent - a big improvement from the first quarter's 0.8 percent gain.

Business sector surveys were mixed last week. The ISM manufacturing survey, which was projected to fall to near the 50 expansion-contraction line, rose to 51.3 in May as new orders and production activity remained upbeat. Meanwhile, the nonmanufacturing index slowed to the lowest level since early 2014 - but at 52.9 in May, it remains well above the 50 expansion –contraction line.

Weekly Outlook

Date releases will be lighter this week, as they are every month in the week after the payroll employment report.

Productivity increases have been extremely slow over the past five years, as a result of modest real GDP growth combined with solid job gains. With a slight upward revision to first quarter real GDP growth, we expect first quarter productivity in the nonfarm business sector to be revised a bit higher, although still to a decline of 0.7 percent.

As with productivity growth, unit labor costs should be affected by the slight upward revision to first quarter

Nationwide Economics (continued)

how social security income fits into your employees' overall retirement plan.

local Nationwide retirement specialist or Emanuel Mahand, Program Director of DE/NJ/PA, at (609) 923-8859 or mahande@nationwide.com.

Federal Grants

Smart Reentry: Focus on Evidence-Based Strategies for Successful Reentry from Incarceration to Community

Deadline: June 19, 2016 Available: Maximum of \$1,000,000 Number of Awards: Up to 5

https://www.bja.gov/Funding/SmartReentry16.pdf

Reducing Reliance on Confinement and Improving Community-Based Responses for Girls At Risk of Entering the Juvenile Justice Systems

Deadline: June 20, 2016 Available: Maximum of \$250.000 Number of Awards: Approximately 5

http://www.ojjdp.gov/grants/solicitations/FY2016/GirlsAtRisk.pdf



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real GDP growth. We forecast that unit labor costs will be revised modestly lower to an increase of 3.9 percent for the first quarter, given the expected upward revision in productivity.

Jobless claims, which are based on applications for unemployment insurance, are near the lowest levels seen since the mid-1970s. When adjusted for changes in the size of the labor force (more people are of working age today than ever before), claims as a percentage of the labor force are the lowest in history. We project that jobless claims will remain low at 264,000 for the week of June 4, a further sign of tight labor markets.

For further information please contact Emanuel Mahand, Program Director Of DE/NJ/PA, at MAHANDE@nationwide.com, or Bina Kumar, Managing Director - East Region, at <u>kumarb1@nationwide.com</u>.

Social Security Workshops by Emanuel Mahand, CRC, CBC, Program Director of DE/NJ/PA for Nationwide

On June 6, 2016 Bergen County Board of Social Services hosted a Social Security workshop for their employees. During the workshop, individuals gained a better understanding regarding Social Security's lifetime retirement income, payments indexed for inflation, certain spousal and survival benefits, and preferential tax treatment. Making a sound decision about social security benefits is critical for ensuring your

employees' financial security in retirement. It also requires a greater understanding of









Connected Traffic Signals: Do you Care? You Should

by Dave Bullock, Managing Director, ITS for Miovision

Miovision has been conducting an <u>annual peer survey</u> on the state of traffic signals across North America for several years now. Most recently, traffic signal connectivity was the #1 five-year goal of respondents. While 48% of intersections were reported to be connected, respondents had a desired connectivity level of 81%.



It's clear that cities care about traffic signal connectivity. But why? What are the forces driving this need, and what are the benefits?

Why You Should Care

Your city is demanding smart traffic signals, and your operating budget is demanding cost saving and efficiencies. Urban populations are growing, infrastructure is aging, and you are being asked to do more with less. To keep up with the demands of modern urban populations, cities need to integrate new solutions into old ways of doing things.

Traffic signals can't deliver the valuable data they collect if they aren't connected to the Internet as part of a network. Signal connectivity enables cities to acquire the data needed to make better operational decisions, maintain the signal network remotely, and ensure traffic and goods are moving.

Here are four ways remote connectivity helps cities, citizens and traffic engineers:

Reason #1: Minimizes Downtime

According to the <u>2012 National Traffic Signal Report Card</u>, delays at traffic signals contribute to an estimated 5 to 10 percent of all traffic delay, or **295 million vehicle-hours of delay annually**. Connected traffic signals help reduce traffic congestion and delays by communicating problems when they arise, so **issues can be dealt with before they escalate**.

Reason #2: Reduces Maintenance Costs

Connected traffic signals simplify signal retiming and automate monitoring of equipment failure so maintenance resources can work smarter. <u>USDOT ITS for Traffic Signal Control</u> notes that communications networks allow almost instantaneous notification of traffic signal equipment failure, without which some **failures may go unnoticed for months**.

Reason #3: Provides Traffic Insights

What gets measured gets done. Real-time traffic system data allows for evaluation of traffic flow and performance, enabling immediate signal timing adjustments, long-term planning strategies and communication of route planning information to the traveling public.



Reason #4: Improves the Citizen Experience

Perhaps the biggest driving force is the fact that connectivity improves the citizen experience. Citizens like nothing better than a smooth drive with proper, uninterrupted and predictable flow from their starting point to their destination. According the <u>2015 Urban Mobility Scorecard</u>, the **average urban commuter spent an extra 42 hours of travel time on roads** than if the travel was done in low-volume conditions and used 19 extra gallons of fuel, which amounted to an average **cost of \$960 per commuter**.

Connected Traffic Signals (continued)

The benefits of connected traffic lights provide motorists with recognizable improvements in travel time, lower vehicle operating costs, and reduced vehicle emissions. This translates into **less stress for citizens** (an actual measure in the <u>2015 Urban Mobility Scorecard</u>).

Learn More About Connecting Traffic Signals

If these benefits sound like big enough reasons to explore traffic signal connectivity, learn more about <u>Miovision's Spectrum</u>. It's the fastest, easiest and least expensive way to connect and understand your traffic signals.



To learn more about Miovision please contact Andrew Fonseca, Account Executive via e-mail at <u>afonseca@miovision.com</u>.

New Specialty Vehicles Contract

by Kelly Boggs, Marketing Specialist for NACo

Specialty Vehicle Solutions at the Best Government Pricing

We are excited to announce that Farber Specialty Vehicles has been awarded a multi-year contract to provide Specialty Vehicles, Equipment and Accessories and any Related Equipment, Supplies and Services. The contract was awarded through a competitive solicitation process conducted by lead public agency, Port of Portland, Oregon. The contract term is for three (3) years with a start date of June 1, 2016, with the option to extend the contract for two (2) additional periods of one year each.

To learn more about this new contract, register for a **<u>complimentary one-hour webinar</u>**.

Through this contract, agencies will have access to top-notch engineering, talented construction personnel and an elite service department dedicated to world-class service that provides:

- Mobile Police & Fire Command Centers, Crime Scene, SWAT, HAZMAT, Bomb Units, DUI-BAT
- Mobile Medical, Dental Screening, Mammography Screening, Audiology
- Mobile Classrooms, STEM Labs, Laboratories, Computer Labs
- Book Mobiles
- Custom Design

Date: Wednesday, June 22, 2016	Date: Thursday, June 23, 2016	
Time: 8:00 a.m. PDT/11:00 a.m. EDT	Time: 10:00 a.m. PDT/1:00 p.m. EDT	
REGISTER	REGISTER	

Don't miss one of our informational webinars. If you are unable to attend one of the webinar dates, <u>contact us</u> for additional information.



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Upcoming NACo Webinars

Saving Lives through Local Road Safety Planning

June 30, 3016 2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Contact Jenna Moran (202) 942-4224 jmoran@naco.org

Register for this interactive webinar to learn about Local Road Safety Plans (LRSPs), and how your county can benefit from the development and implementation of one. Federal, state, and local transportation experts will discuss the recognized positive impacts LRSPs have on local road safety through collaboration with safety stakeholders, building awareness and correlation with the State Strategic Highway Safety Plans (SHSP). LRSPs are designed to build on the foundation established by the SHSP. They can also provide the basis for systemic implementation of safety measures across the entire jurisdiction. This presentation will provide an overview of LRSP with a focus on (1) the "why" of developing Local Road Safety Plans; (2) the benefits realized and (3) different approaches to the development and implementation of the plans. This webinar is being presented with support from the sponsors of the <u>NACo Community and Economic Development program</u>.

SLLC Supreme Court Review for State and Local Government

July 19, 2016 1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Contact Akera Gamble (202) 942-4225 agamble@naco.org









Wastewater Division Manager

NJAC COUNTY BIZ

The **Middlesex County Utilities Authority (MCUA)** is seeking a candidate for the Wastewater Division Manager. The MCUA is a large public utility serving over 850,000 residents in a tri-county region. The Authority operates wastewater treatment and solid waste divisions with budgets of \$226 million and \$40 million, respectively. The Wastewater Division Manager reports directly to the Executive Director and is responsible for the overall operations of the wastewater division inclusive of system design, planning, engineering and contract administration, budgeting and personnel, physical plant and energy cogeneration facilities, trunks, mains and pumping stations, and regulatory compliance. The wastewater division employs approximately 150 employees across several departments and work units: the Central Treatment Plant, Sayreville pumping station, solids processing facility, environmental quality laboratory, lines and meters, and plant maintenance.



The position requires a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree with major coursework in Sanitary, Civil, Environmental, Mechanical or Chemical Engineering; ten (10) years of related experience and/or training of which five (5) must be in executive or senior management capacities; or equivalent combination of education and experience.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Note: a Master's degree may be substituted for one year of related, non-managerial experience. The position requires extensive knowledge of industrial or public wastewater treatment systems and dewatering operations, the NJ Water Pollution Control Act, NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection regulations at NJAC Title 7 (relevant provisions of Chapters 14, 14A, 15 and 18), and the ability to manage multiple projects, staff and operations, and relationships with consulting or project engineers, construction contractors, suppliers and vendors. Preferred qualifications include a Professional Engineer's license and an S-2 (or higher) wastewater treatment systems operator license.

The candidate selected must reside in the State of New Jersey or establish residency within a year from the date of appointment. Salary will be based upon qualifications and experience.

Submit a resume, cover letter, copies of licenses, and salary history to:

Middlesex County Utilities Authority c/o Human Resources Manager 2571 Main Street P.O. Box 159 Sayreville, NJ 08872-0159

or by email to: <u>DHornick@mcua.com</u>

Closing Date: July 8, 2016

The MCUA is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer.

DOL Announces New Overtime Pay Rules

by Jennifer Dowd, Marketing Director for Kronos Incorporated



On May 18th, 2016, the Department of Labor (DOL) announced an update to existing Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) regulations. The final ruling will increase the minimum salary level for exempt "white collar" employees from \$455/week (\$23,660/year) to \$913/week (\$47,476/year). The FLSA changes will reclassify a portion of the workforce to become eligible for overtime pay, and the Department of Labor expects 4 MILLION employees to be impacted.¹

If you look at how the Fair Labor Standards Act has impacted organizations over the past couple of decades, you can see why this increase has employers scrambling to comply.

- FLSA suits increased 400% in the last 15 years.⁴
- Over \$1.6 billion in back wages has been recovered by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) wage and hour division since 2009.³
- Violations were found in 79% of agency-initiated investigations.⁵

New regulations leave big questions. Public Sector organizations are faced with some difficult decisions about their workforce that will need to be resolved by the December 1st deadline.

Here's some things to consider:

- Should your county require approvals for overtime?
- Is working from home considered "work"?
- Do counties need to update their timekeeping and scheduling systems?
- How can counties ensure they are paying people for the hours they work?
- How will counties track time so they know when to pay employees overtime?
- What is the impact on morale and engagement?
- Can counties automate some of the work their current staff is doing?
- How will counties reallocate workload?

As HR and Finance groups tackle these questions, an automated time & attendance system can aid in creating more centralization around processes to comply with labor laws like FLSA. Establishing an audit trail with robust reporting prior to the deadline provides peace of mind to employers who want to be ahead of the game.

To learn more about Kronos, please contact Wesley Witherington, Kronos Sales Executive State of New Jersey, Public Sector and Education, at <u>wesley.witherington@kronos.com</u> or via telephone at (973) 331-5465.



Sources:

¹ Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Overtime, United States Department of Labor (March 20, 2016), found at <u>https://www.dol.gov/whd/overtime/final2016/</u>

^{3,5} Working for a Fair Day's Pay, United States Department of Labor (May 13, 2016), found at <u>https://www.dol.gov/whd/statistics/</u>

⁴ Seyfarth Shaw LLP, FLSA Cases (2014); <u>http://www.seyfarth.com/news/FLSA-Suits-Skyrocket</u>

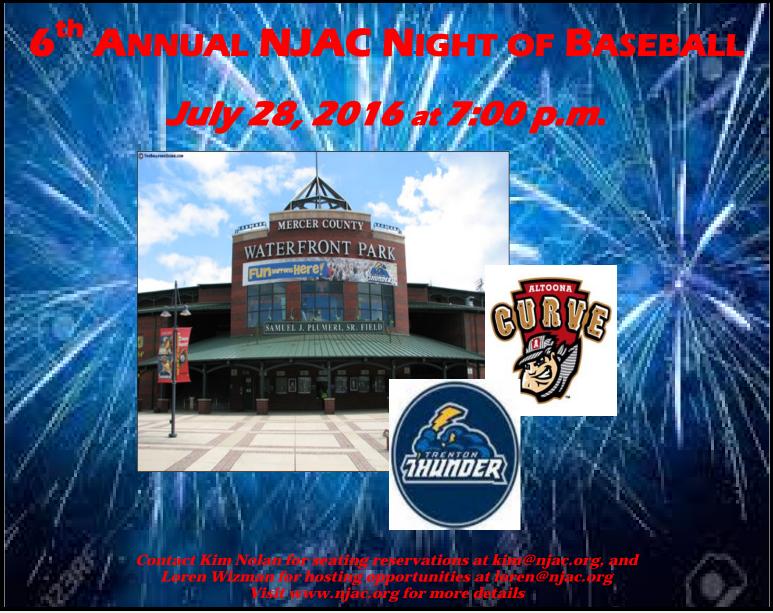
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NJAC Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, June 24th 9:30 a.m.

State House Annex Building - Trenton Committee Room 6





John G. Donnadio, Esq.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thank you for joining us at NJAC's 66th annual celebration of county government that included representation from all 21 counties, 80 vendors, and well over 500 registered guests. This year's convention was a tremendous success as all of our main events took place in the central exhibit hall designed to provide you with maximum opportunities to share resources and ideas with county and business leaders from across the State.

Congratulations to Union County Freeholder Vernell Wright for winning the Maurice Fitzgibbons Freeholder of the Year Award, and to NJM Insurance Group for earning NJAC's Business Associate of the Year Award. We were also pleased to present county service awards to Gloucester County Recycling Coordinator

Monica Gismondi, Passaic County Jail Warden Mike Tolerico, and Ocean County Finance Officer Julie Tarrant for their hard work and commitment to county government. Once again, the 5th Annual County Vocational-Technical School Cook-Off Challenge stole the show as culinary art students from Atlantic, Burlington, Cumberland, Gloucester, Hudson, Hunterdon, Monmouth, Ocean, Somerset, Union, and Warren counties competed for titles in taste, creativity, and food presentation. Cumberland County captured the coveted People's Choice Award with a black pepper & molasses-lacquered short-rib, while Hunterdon County earned silver with a Milford Farms pork belly and chicken confit tostada with locally foraged ramp kimchi and Korean barbecue sauce, and Ocean County bronze with a Jersey shore lobster roll served with roasted corn and tomato on a freshly-baked bun.

As equally impressive were the talented students who joined us for the First Annual County College A cappella Sing-Off. Led by instructor Robyn McCullough, Atlantic-Cape Community College students sung beautiful renditions of: *And so it Goes* by Billy Joel; *Over the Rainbow* by Israel Kamakawiwo'ole; and *Tshotsholoza*, a South African Folk Song. Led by instructor Zulema Cheek, Union County College students followed with inspiring versions of: *Sweet Dreams* by the Eurythmics; *Flashlight* by Jessie J; and *Applause* by Lady Gaga. My two favorites were a moving "Over the Rainbow" and an old school Philly soul "Sweet Dreams." Although we hoped you enjoyed this year's event as much as we did, we've already begun planning on how to make next year's celebration even better.



Atlantic-Cape Community College A cappella group singing before the 2016 NJAC Annual Conference guests during the Exhibitors' Reception ©Photo by Mike Hickman, Mike Hickman Photography



Union County College A cappella group performing at the Exhibitors' Reception on May 20, 2016 ©Photo by Mike Hickman, Mike Hickman Photography



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«JUNE 2016»						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			15 Movies Under the Stars - Joy 9 p.m. Pier A Park Hoboken Hudson County	Thursday, June 16 th 0 7.05 th Rindgewater Manazar (Canado	17	18 The Dance Connection 12 p.m. Investors Bank Performing Arts Ctr. Sewell <i>Gloucester County</i>
Happy" Fathers Day	20	21	22	23	DAVE MATTHEWS BAND 7.p.m. BBBC Pasifur Caladar Cause	25 Complexions Contemporary Ballet 8 p.m. McCarter Theatre Center Princeton <i>Mercer County</i>
	RITA COOLDIGE 8 p.m. Convention Hat Cape May Cape May	28 Spring/Summer 2016 Exhibit 8:30 a.m 4:30 p.m. Atrium Gallery Cty. Admin. Bldg. Morristown Morris County	29 Dave Fields 7 p.m. The Stanhope House Stanhope Sussex County	30		
	«JULY 2016»					
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
SUN	MON				FRI 1 Celtic Woman 7:30 p.m. County Basie Theatre Red Bank Monmouth County	2 Jeremy Camp Celebration Concert Six Flags Plymouth Rock Assurance Arena Jackson Ocean County
SUN SUN 8p.m. Claridge Hotel Atlantic City Atlantic County	MON Happy 4th				1 Celtic Woman 7:30 p.m. County Basie Theatre Red Bank	2 Jeremy Camp Celebration Concert Six Flags Plymouth Rock Assurance Arena Jackson