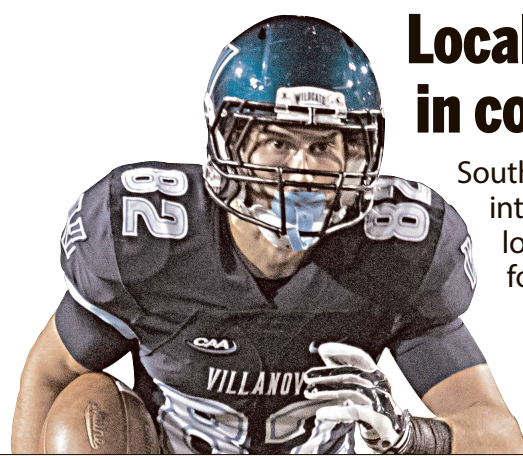


THE PRESS OF ATLANTIC CITY



Local athletes in college football

South Jersey players lead the Villanova Wildcats into their season opener Saturday. Plus a look at where other locals play Division I football. **B1**

CHILD NEARLY DROWNS

A young boy is rescued from a tidal pool in Cape May that has been a concern for the city since it formed last year. **A3**

Friday, September 2, 2016 // Serving Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland & southern Ocean counties // PressofAtlanticCity.com // Vol. MMXVI, No. 246, ©2016 Atlantic County Edition // \$1

Zac Brown draws crowd, but not as big as expected



EDWARD LEA / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Zac Brown Band performs in Atlantic City on Thursday. About 20,000 tickets were sold or given out, according to Live Nation, which has a contract with the city for at least six shows.

NICHOLAS HUBA & ERIN SERPICO
Staff Writers

ATLANTIC CITY — The first of three concerts over Labor Day weekend in the resort rallied Zac Brown Band fans despite rain and a dreary weather forecast, but concert attendance likely did not meet the expectation of 30,000 people. “It feels amazing being here by the beach,” Brown told the

COMING SUNDAY

Atlantic City has work to do if it wants to fulfill Mayor Don Guardian’s vision of being a three-season town.

ONLINE

See videos and more photos from the concert at **PressofAC.com**.

crowd Thursday night from a stage on the sand.

The shows are part of a three-year, \$6 mil-

lion agreement with the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority that requires Live Nation to bring at least six beach concerts or events that attract 30,000 attendees or more to Atlantic City during this and the next two summers.

Live Nation said about 20,000 tickets to the show were sold or given out.

Lauren Palladino, 21, of Howell, Monmouth

County, believed the weather, in addition to the lack of tailgating facilities, may have kept some people away.

“I’m surprised there are not more people here,” Palladino said.

Fans cheered as the headlining band took to the stage shortly after 5:30 p.m. and opened with “Jump Right In.”

Pam Kops and Joe

See **BROWN**, A2

Hermine effects here still uncertain

DAN SKELDON
Staff Writer

Hurricane Hermine is still looking to play Labor Day weekend spoiler for the shore.

The storm, which became a hurricane Thursday afternoon just before making landfall in Florida, will have a significant impact on our weekend weather regardless of the track and strength of the system by the time it is off the Mid-Atlantic coast.

But that track and strength will determine the intensity of its effects, such as tidal flooding, beach erosion, winds and rain. And unfortunately, the exact track is still unclear.

Hermine will be a subtropical storm by the time it reaches South Jersey. Coastal residents should prepare for multiple rounds of tidal flooding that get successively higher Saturday night into Sunday.

Rain will be the most uncertain aspect of this storm. There will be lots of it, but will the heaviest stay just offshore, just on the coast, or spread over all of South Jersey. Later Saturday afternoon to Sunday is the window for rain, but it’s still not a definite.

The wind will also be a factor this weekend, regardless of the exact track the storm takes. The intensity of the winds depends on the

See **HERMINE**, A2

INSIDE

Florida prepares for the impact of Hurricane Hermine. **D3**

Tense moments after killing

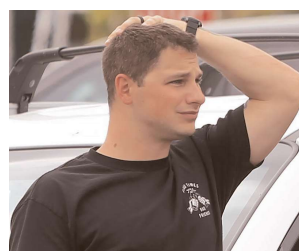


VIVIANA PERNOT / PRESS PHOTO

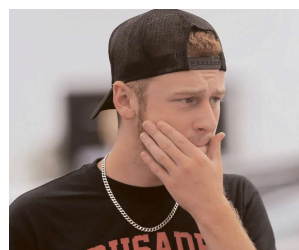


“This is not related to any other issue, gangs or terrorism. ... This was ... domestic violence.”

MAYOR DON GUARDIAN



This kind of activity in this area is uncommon, says Sam Koch, 28, of Medford.



Eddie Valerio, 17, was caught in the lockdown, heard of the shooting after.



KRISTIAN GONYEA / FOR THE PRESS

An officer confronts off-duty police Sgt. Christopher Cummings, of the Bellmawr department, who is holding a gun he found near a man slumped inside White House-Black Market after another man was found dead Thursday at the Zumiez store. The suspected gunman ran from Zumiez and shot himself, though not fatally, police said.

Police: Suspect shoots self, survives after domestic incident

ERIN SERPICO
Staff Writer

ATLANTIC CITY — A Zumiez store manager was fatally shot Thursday by a man who then shot himself, in what police described as a domestic-related incident that erupted at Tanger Outlets The Walk.

Christopher Romero, 26, of Absecon, was killed by Lewis Maisonet, 55, of Somers Point, the Atlantic County Prosecutor’s Office said. Maisonet later shot himself and was hospitalized in critical condition, a release said.

Just before noon, shoppers and passers-by ran from the scene shouting, some while holding children in their arms. Others stood in groups, videotaping the scene.

ONLINE: See video and a gallery of photos from the area of the shooting with this story at **PressofAC.com**.



KRISHNA MATHIAS / PRESS GRAPHIC

Dozens of police cars were scattered along Arkansas Avenue, which runs through the outlet — located in the heart of the city’s Tourism District and a shopping destination for visitors at the entrance of the Atlantic City Expressway.

“They (police) said to get out of the way and take cover,” said Annie Beaudoin, who was visiting Atlantic City from Montreal and was

shopping at the Nike store with her family.

The shooting sent some stores into lockdown for about an hour and detoured motorists trying to leave by the expressway.

Press of Atlantic City freelance photographer Kristian Gonyea said he was leaving an assignment at Wingcraft Kitchen & Beer Bar when someone yelled someone was

shooting. He saw shoppers running out of the back of the stores so he ran to the front, where he saw a slumped figure in the front window of White House-Black Market. An off-duty police officer, Sgt. Christopher Cummings of the Bellmawr department, came out of the store holding his badge in one hand and the apparent murder weapon in the other.

“The officer asked me to get the other officers’ attention. I ran across the street to wave down the cops and tell them there was a body across the street,” he said.

Responding officers saw the off-duty officer and ordered him to drop the handgun and get on the ground, and he complied.

See **SHOOTING**, A6



SUNNY, COMFORTABLE

MAINLAND HIGH: 80
SHORE HIGH: 77
See Dan Skeldon’s weather forecast, **D6**

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See Our Insert Inside