



## STATE OF THE STATE

“ I will not rest until every person hurt by Sandy has their life back.

# Christie: Add to school day



Gov. Chris Christie delivers his State of the State speech Tuesday at the State House in Trenton. Staff photo by Ben Foglietto

## Bridgetate barely addressed; more shared services urged

By DEREK HARPER  
Staff Writer

**TRENTON** — Gov. Chris Christie called for a longer school day and year, continued to push for consolidation and shared services, and suggested allowing judges to withhold bail for violent offenders in a State of the State speech Tuesday that only briefly acknowledged the Bridgetate scandal.

The annual speech is designed to discuss the challenges and accomplishments of the past and coming year.

But this year's speech was freighted with additional meaning, following revelations last week that several of the governor's top staff had a hand in a politically motivated closing of local access lanes to the George Washington Bridge that snarled traffic for almost a week.

“The last week has certainly tested this administration,” Christie said as he began his speech. “We let down the people we are entrusted to serve.”

Christie, a Republican, quickly segued, touting declining unemployment and job growth that he said was the byproduct of bipartisan government with the Democratic-majority Legislature.

Christie continued his earlier push for shared services, consolidation and other changes he said are needed by local governments to control costs, saying the consolidation of the two Princetons will save taxpayers there \$3 million this year.

The governor called for reforming the disability retirement system and barring towns from charging

□ See State, A9



**See Vince Mazzeo and Sam Fiocchi join the Assembly**  
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### KEY POINTS

#### BRIDGETATE

■ Said Bridgetate ‘let down the people we are entrusted to serve.’

#### PROPERTY TAXES

■ Proposed reforming disability retirement and banning towns from substituting user fees for tax increases.

#### EDUCATION

■ Called for a longer school day and year.

#### CRIME

■ Proposed allowing state judges to withhold bail for violent offenders.

#### LEGISLATURE

■ Wants to create an ‘attitude of choice’ to reduce pension and debt costs.

## STATE OF THE CITY

“ They’re lofty goals. But if they weren’t lofty, you wouldn’t have elected me.

# Guardian: A.C. needs millions



Atlantic City Mayor Don Guardian delivers his State of the City address at the Metropolitan Business & Citizens Association luncheon at Caesars Atlantic City. Staff photo by Vernon Ogrodnek

## Mayor to ask state for aid, plans development projects

By LYNDA COHEN  
Staff Writer

**ATLANTIC CITY** — Millions in transitional aid and a long list of projects will help the city as it digs out of a \$40 million shortfall and looks to stabilize its future, Mayor Don Guardian said Tuesday as he laid out an ambitious plan for the resort.

“I move from mayor at the end of this luncheon to dentist,” Guardian said during the annual Metropolitan Business and Citizens Association luncheon that traditionally acts as an unofficial State of the City address. “You need a root canal.”

It’s going to be painful, he said, but “we can’t continue not to have a sustainable income.”

The payoffs Guardian highlighted will include a four-year college campus in the city, increased residency by building more housing, and cutting costs through shared services.

First, Guardian will ask the state for \$30 million in transitional aid — which is money intended to help cities in financial distress. State requirements to qualify for the aid would include the city cutting \$10 million in spending each year for the next three years, he explained.

“I’m not worried about this year,” he said of making that cut. “I’m going to take it a year at a time.” A hiring and promotions freeze has already begun, Business Administrator Arch Liston said.

But, Guardian said, it would not apply to necessary personnel, including Public Safety.

Police Chief Henry White already has enough on his plate, making sure the city is safe and also looking

□ See City, A7



**Watch Guardian's speech and local reactions**  
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### KEY POINTS

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT

■ Wants forgivable mortgages for police who move into the city.

#### HOUSING IN THE CITY

■ Proposed giving away vacant land under building/residency commitments.

■ Proposed building 250 housing units on the long-vacant Pauline's Prairie.

■ Promotes Hope VI plan that would bring in 90 housing units.

#### COST SAVINGS

■ Will look into shared-services agreements with county, other towns.

## Web gambling revenue short of Christie prediction

By JENNIFER BOGDAN  
Staff Writer

Gov. Chris Christie's predictions the state will reach \$1 billion in online gambling revenue this fiscal year appear increasingly unlikely in light of new data showing the industry has brought in just \$8.4 million to date.

The data left one Democratic state senator who has championed the legalization of online wagering criticizing the Republican governor for raising expectations to unreasonable levels.

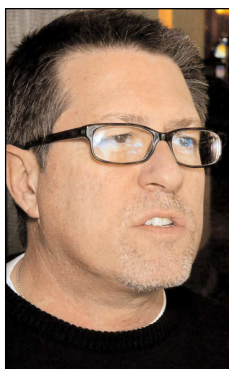
On Tuesday, state Sen. Ray Lesniak, D-Union, made statements suggesting that

## December, year-over-year casino revenue numbers Page A8

Christie, who is currently under fire for a scandal involving lane closures on the George Washington Bridge, has knowingly promoted false predictions for the industry.

“The governor ... cooked the numbers and

□ See Short, A6



**‘We wanted to make sure the platform worked and we met customer expectations. With increased marketing, I expect to see revenue increases.’**

Joe Lupo, Borgata senior vice president of operations

## Clouds

High: 51; Low: 33

At A.C. International Airport. Forecast, A2

ATS Today.....	B6
Bridge, Horoscope.....	C9
Business.....	A8
Classified.....	C6-10
Comics.....	B4-5
Crossword/TV.....	B1-6
Life.....	A10-11
Obituaries.....	C2
Opinion.....	A10-11
Region.....	C1-5
Sports.....	D1-5

## Margate's 'Red' Klotz

Owner of great team — that loses B1



## High school wrestling

Several close in on 100-win mark — D1