



76ers throttle LeBron, Lakers

Joel Embiid scores 37 points in 143-120 win over L.A. **B1**

MAN FATALLY SHOT IN A.C.

A youth football coach, Demond Tally, was found Sunday morning. **A3**

A.C. casino employment up 20 percent at end of 2018

DAVID DANZIS
Staff Writer

ATLANTIC CITY — With the addition of two reopened properties, casino employment at the end of 2018 was up more than 20 percent compared to the same

time the year before, according to data from state gaming regulators.

The nine Atlantic City casinos reported total employment of 27,927 in December, an increase of 5,749 jobs over the number recorded in the final month of 2017

when seven properties were open, based on self-reported figures with the state Division of Gaming Enforcement.

The double-digit percentage increase in casino jobs can be directly attributed to the June 27 openings of Hard Rock

Hotel & Casino Atlantic City and Ocean Resort Casino, experts said.

Rummy Pandit, executive director of the Lloyd D. Levenson Institute of Gaming, Hospitality and Tourism at Stockton University, said the most-recent casino

employment figures were “definitely encouraging.”

“Employment appears to be stable and is growing,” Pandit said. “The fact that we added two new properties and (more than) 6,000 new jobs, that’s a huge posi-

tive and continues to drive the market.”

The two newest casino hotels accounted for 6,927 jobs, or nearly 25 percent of the total industry, in December 2018. The two operators

See **CASINOS**, A4

STATE HIGH SCHOOL TEAM WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

Mixed day on the mat

Southern wins N.J. title, St. Augustine falls



VERNON OGRODNEK / FOR THE PRESS

St. Augustine Prep's Brandon Jones wrestles Bergen Catholic's John High in the 285-pound weight class at the state Non-Public A championship Sunday at the RWJBarnabas Health Arena on the campus of Toms River North High School on Sunday. Jones was pinned in 56 seconds to end the match for the Hermits, who lost 65-11. Later Sunday, Southern Regional defeated Hunterdon Central 34-27 to win the state Group V championship. Read more on **B1**, plus view more photos from the St. Augustine Match at **HSLive.me**.

Republicans who are black say diversity in politics vital

MICHELE BRUNETTI POST
Staff Writer

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP — Melanie Collette knows racism is real, and said she has sometimes been treated unfairly by police.

“But more cops are helping than hurting,” she said.

For Collette, a pro-life Christian and conservative Republican, the liberal agenda — which she said assigns victimhood to people — isn't the answer.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

INSIDE

A list of upcoming Black History Month events on **A2**.

“They are not speaking freedom, they are speaking bondage,” she said of those who encourage black Americans to believe they need the Democratic Party and government programs to survive.

And that puts her at odds with many people in the black community. According to the Pew Research Center, black voters remain overwhelmingly Democratic, with 84 percent identifying with or leaning toward the Democratic Party. Just 8 percent of black voters identify in some way with the Republican Party.

“To say the color of my skin is the single thing that determines my political beliefs is ridiculous and racist,” said Collette. “It

See **REPUBLICAN**, A2

“To say the color of my skin is the single thing that determines my political beliefs is ridiculous and racist.”

MELANIE COLLETTE
Republican who lives in Cape May Court House



EDWARD LEA / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Melanie Collette, of Cape May Court House, says she's been a conservative her entire life. Only 8 percent of black voters identify with the Republican Party, according to data by the Pew Research Center.

N.J. farmers acknowledge climate change affecting crops

A.C. convention features global warming experts for first time

AVALON ZOPPO
Staff Writer

The predicted effects of a warming planet on Garden State farmers are grim: crop failures, plant diseases and an influx of pests.

The topic was front and center at Harrah's Resort Atlantic City last week, where hundreds of growers from the state's billion-dollar farming industry gathered for New Jersey's

104th State Agricultural Convention.

“There were people for years that denied there was climate change. ... Now I think there's more acceptance because they can see it on their farms and fields,” said Douglas Fisher, secretary of the Department of Agriculture.

For the first time, Fisher said, the event featured talks from experts on global warming, including cli-

matologist and Rutgers professor Dr. David Robinson.

Robinson used maps and statistics to get his point across to a room packed with farmers: Climate change is happening in New Jersey, and it will affect the agricultural industry through extreme weather events, flooding and warming temperatures.

Six of the seven warmest years on record in New

Jersey have occurred since 2006.

Warmer temperatures benefit insects and diseases, meaning farmers may have to change their pesticide use.

Nights are getting warmer too, Robinson said, not giving plants enough time to cool off before the sun rises again.

Last year was also the wettest since 1895, he

See **FARMERS**, A2



Rob Swanekamp Sr. of Kubepak Growers of Fine Garden Plants sets up his display at the 104th State Agricultural Convention on Tuesday at Harrah's Resort Atlantic City.

EDWARD LEA / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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