



## Takeaways from Vinny Curry Shore 7-on-7 tournament

SPORTS, 1B

THURSDAY 07.09.26

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# Storms and record heat disrupting commutes

Conditions left NJ Transit crews struggling to restore full service

Colleen Wilson

NorthJersey.com | USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

The list of commuting problems for NJ Transit customers was relentless for the past week.

NJ Transit commuters are accustomed to summers of hell because of aging, failing infrastructure, but the past week was particularly bad because of the combi-

nation of heat and powerful storms that targeted New Jersey. There were 545 canceled trains and 633 delayed trains from June 29 to July 5, of which 733 were weather-related and 64 caused by Amtrak, said NJ Transit.

While NJ Transit crews put in a valiant effort to quickly repair infrastructure, clear debris and get service back up amid difficult conditions, it took days, in some cases, to return service to normal levels.

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# Auditor says school vendors were overpaid

Lakewood district slow to take action on getting \$1.1M returned

Joe Strupp

Asbury Park Press | USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

LAKEWOOD - The township's Board of Education overpaid two educational companies \$1.1 million, according to a state auditor's report.

And he directed the board to get the money back almost two years ago.

But school district officials, who are in the middle of a string of financial problems - ranging from a \$231 million loan debt to a hostile state takeover - have been slow to even talk about it, let alone take action.

In addition, the school board ignored press requests for information on the overpayment for nearly two months. Then a week ago, board attorney Joshua Forsman acknowledged that the school district was reviewing the situation. But it has yet to take any action to recoup the money.

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A collapsed portion of the roof at the BJ's in Ocean Township is shown Monday afternoon, July 6. Heavy rains had swept through the area and caused numerous incidents of flooding and downed trees.

THOMAS P. COSTELLO/ASBURY PARK PRESS

# Surveying damage

Sherrill visits site of roof collapse after Monday storms batter region

Dan Radel

Asbury Park Press | USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

OCEAN - The partial roof collapse at BJ's Wholesale on Route 35 here was arguably one of the more real-life dramatic events that unfolded during the deluge that was July 6.

The township was one of the hardest hit by the rainfall, with 5.6 inches falling over 72 hours, according to the National Weather Service. An independent report had the total higher, at 7 inches. Most of that rain fell on Monday in quick bursts.

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New Jersey Gov. Mikie Sherrill meets with first responders before a press conference at BJ's Wholesale Club in Ocean Township after the store's roof collapsed following heavy rainfall on Tuesday, July 7. BRIAN JOHNSTON/ASBURY PARK PRESS

# NJ lawmakers leave 70 bills for governor to sign or veto

Katie Sobko

NorthJersey.com | USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

The New Jersey Legislature is in recess - presumably until the leaves start to change in the fall. As lawmakers departed Trenton for a prolonged absence, they left 70 pieces of legislation for Gov. Mikie Sherrill to sign - or veto.

As tradition dictates, both chambers held sessions on the afternoon of June 30 and handed a fiscal year 2027 state budget over to Gov. Mikie Sherrill for consideration just hours before the deadline for her to sign it and avoid a state government shutdown.

She signed that - as well as a supplemental budget bill adding north of \$358 million to the fiscal year 2026 as it was set to end.

Sherrill also signed 13 other bills that will do things such as increase the child tax credit for the next three years, establish a fee on certain employers with staffers who receive health benefits coverage through the state Medicaid program, and regulate the information that data brokers and collectors can share.

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