



Communities grapple with data centers

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Courier News

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2026 | MYCENTRALJERSEY.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Tax records: Junk for Joy gave no money to charity



Cars lined up in the lot at Modern Day Recycling on Route 72 in Barnegat on Feb. 16, 2025. This site is one of the locations that takes the donated cars to Kars4Kids and sells them for scrap metal. THOMAS P. COSTELLO/ASBURY PARK PRESS

Texas-based affiliate of Kars4Kids spends most revenue on internet advertising, administrative costs, legal fees

Joe Strupp
Asbury Park Press
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

LAKEWOOD – A Texas-based affiliate of Kars4Kids, which offers a similar car donation pick up service for charitable donations, has not distributed any of its millions of dollars to charity since it began in 2020, according to tax records.

In fact, the lion’s share of its revenue has been spent on internet advertising for itself, administrative costs and legal expenses.

Junk for Joy, listed in federal documents as based in Plano, Texas, north of Dallas, labels itself as a nonprofit aimed at “turn(ing) unused cars into funds for a good cause.”

It does not detail what that “good cause” is, although it mentions in records and on its website “supporting” Oorah, a multi-mil-

lion-dollar Jewish charity in Lakewood that’s also under control of Kars4Kids and receives a majority of Kars4Kids funds.

Kars4Kids itself has come under severe scrutiny in the past, a recent Asbury Park Press Investigation has found, mostly for misleading would-be donors. In that story, it was revealed that Kars4Kids distributed about \$2.5 million to Junk for Joy, through Oorah, as part of its disbursement of charitable money it took in from car donations.

Last month, a California judge found Kars4Kids guilty of deceptive advertising and barred it from using its infamous jingle in that state for the foreseeable future. Shortly after, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Canada’s largest public broadcast network, announced it was pulling all

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A review of Junk for Joy’s records since forming six years ago reveals that while it has taken in more than \$4.4 million in contributions – most of it from donated vehicles – no money was given to any charity, a practice nonprofit experts said constitutes a form of “fraud.”

Air travel from Newark Liberty should be smoother, United Airlines CEO says

Colleen Wilson
NorthJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

NEWARK – Despite historic snowstorms, recent headline-grabbing problems stemming from air traffic controller issues, failures of antiquated technology and rising fuel costs as a result of the war with Iran, United Airlines CEO Scott Kirby is optimistic about the future at its flagship hub in the Brick City.

United flights out of Newark Liberty

International Airport recorded their best on-time performance for the months of April and May in the carrier’s history, with the airport itself surpassing its main competitors, LaGuardia and JFK, in reliability, Kirby said.

“Our team has done a great job, and thank you to the [Federal Aviation Administration] for finally finally, finally doing what we’ve asked them to do, to cap the number of flights at what the airport can handle,” said Kirby, who sat down with reporters at Terminal C on

June 2. “By fixing that, it allowed the team here at United to deliver the best results in history.”

But what precipitated the capping of flights at Newark wasn’t ideal.

In April 2025, a perfect storm of problems occurred: On April 28, the air traffic control tower for Newark’s airspace lost radar and telecommunications connection with aircraft for 60 to 90 seconds due to failures of outdated

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NJ school spring breaks could align under bill

MyCentralJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

A bill aimed at bringing more consistency to spring break schedules across New Jersey school districts is moving forward in the Legislature.

The Senate Education Committee has advanced legislation sponsored by Sen. Patrick Diegnan, D-Middlesex, and Senate Majority Leader M. Teresa Ruiz, D-Essex/Hudson, that would require the state’s education commissioner to recommend annual spring break dates for districts to consider.

Supporters say the proposal is designed to help families and educators who often deal with conflicting school calendars across neighboring districts.

“In a state with hundreds of school districts, we often see nearby districts scheduling spring break at very different times,” Diegnan said. “That can make it difficult for families to plan trips or arrange childcare.”

Under the bill, school districts would still set their own calendars but would be required to consider the state’s recommendation when scheduling spring break.

Lawmakers say mismatched schedules can be especially challenging for households with children in multiple districts or for teachers who live in one town but work in another.

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Dermatology office opens in Basking Ridge area

Jack Salaki
MyCentralJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

BERNARDS – A new dermatology practice has opened in Basking Ridge, bringing medical, surgical and cosmetic skin treatments to the community.

“We are committed to delivering the highest standard of comprehensive dermatologic care to adult and pediatric patients in the Basking Ridge community and beyond,” said Dr. Robert Nossa, founder of Contemporary Dermatology.

The practice marked its opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony May 20 in partnership with the Bernards Township Regional Chamber of Commerce. More than 40 chamber members attended. The office is located at 100 Marketplace, 25 Mountainview Blvd., Unit 206-B, in a retail plaza near local shops and restaurants.

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Volume 143 | No. 4
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