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Rally opposes migrant detention center at Fort Dix



A protester holds a sign calling for abolition of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, at a rally outside the main gate of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst on Sept. 21. JIM WALSH/COURIER-POST

Jim Walsh
Cherry Hill Courier-Post
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

WRIGHTSTOWN — It wasn't a big rally or a noisy one. But a group of protesters still made their point the morning of Sunday, Sept. 21 by traveling from Jersey Shore towns to the main gate of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. There, they demonstrated against plans for a potential migrant detention center at the military base.

"We strongly believe that there should be no cages on our military bases," said Lorraine Kilpatrick, co-leader of IndivisibleOCNJ, who drove more than 70 miles from Sea Isle City. "And that means we don't want to see people treated inhumanely." U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth disclosed plans for the potential center in a letter to U.S. Rep. Herb Conaway Jr., D-New Jersey. The Burlington County legislator and all other Democratic members of New Jersey's congressional

delegation have strongly opposed the plan. The detention center could hold up to 3,000 migrants awaiting deportation, according to a memo July 15 from a U.S. Department of Defense official. On Sunday, a statement from the joint base said no final decisions have been made regarding the proposed "incident support base" for the Department of Homeland Security.

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A baby was critically injured in a three-vehicle accident in Evesham on Sept. 20. JIM WALSH/COURIER-POST

Crash critically injures 1-year-old on Route 70

Jim Walsh
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USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

A baby sustained life-threatening injuries in a three-vehicle accident in Marlton, police said. The 1-year-old was in a minivan at Route 70 and Locust Avenue when the crash occurred at approximately 12:30 p.m. Sept. 20, according to Evesham police. A preliminary investigation found that a tractor-trailer went through a red light and caused a collision involving the minivan and another vehicle, a police account said. Responding officers, along with fire and EMS personnel, provided emergency aid, and the child was admitted to Cooper University Hospital, Camden, in critical condition. One person was treated at the scene for minor injuries. "All parties involved stayed at the scene and are cooperating with the investigation," the account said.

Route 70 was closed for several hours during an investigation by Evesham police and members of the New Jersey State Police Commercial Truck Unit. The investigation was ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to call Evesham police at 856-983-1116. *This story may be updated.* Jim Walsh is a senior reporter with the Courier-Post, Burlington County Times and The Daily Journal. Email: Jwalsh@cpsj.com.

Victim of South Jersey road rage shooting 'overwhelmed' by support

Kaitlyn McCormick
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A GoFundMe campaign for the victim of a road rage shooting near Stockton University's Galloway campus has reached more than \$6,000 toward an \$8,000 goal. On Sept. 11, police responded to the area of West Jimmie Leeds Road and Redwood Avenue following a victim's report that she had been shot in the face. The caller was later identified as Maritza Arias-Galva. According to the GoFundMe campaign, organized by a friend of Arias-Galva, the woman is a single mother who works two jobs to support her young children.

"The extent of her injuries is still being evaluated, and we don't yet know if she will lose vision in her eye or how long she will be out of work," organizer Yossie Rivera wrote. "In the meantime, she faces mounting medical bills, legal fees, and the everyday expenses of raising a family." In a press release following the shooting, Galloway Township Police Chief Eric B. Hendrickson said: "We wish Ms. Aria-Galva a swift recovery, and we are here to support our community following this senseless incident." In a section of the GoFundMe post titled "A message from Maritza," Arias-Galva thanked supporters. "I'm overwhelmed with gratitude for the incredible support I've received

from friends and even strangers. I was the victim of a man consumed by rage and what seems to be racism, who devalued my life simply because I am a Hispanic woman," the message read. "My face is severely injured, and I've undergone surgery on my right eye. I'm waiting to see if my vision will return. Despite everything, I'm thankful to be alive. I believe God was watching over me and spared my life." Ernest W. Heinz, 46, was arrested in relation to the incident and faces numerous charges, including criminal attempt homicide. Heinz was located and arrested Sept. 11 at a residence in the Blue Heron Pines Development in Galloway. Police executed search warrants on three Port Republic residences, a residence

in Galloway Township and two motor vehicles, authorities said. Heinz was charged with criminal attempt homicide, aggravated assault with a firearm, aggravated assault, possession of a weapon and possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose. The charges against Heinz are only allegations, as he has not been convicted in a court of law. Kaitlyn McCormick writes about trending issues and community news across South Jersey for the Courier-Post, The Daily Journal and the Burlington County Times. If you have a story she should tell, email her at kmccormick@gannett.com. And subscribe to stay up to date on the news you need.

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