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# COURIER-POST

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026 | COURIERPOSTONLINE.COM

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## Bald eagle count falls for first time in decades



A bald eagle hunts for fish in the Hackensack River at the Oradell Reservoir in Harrington Park on Dec. 2, 2022.

TARIQ ZEHAWI/NORTHJERSEY.COM

## Festival at Bridgeport Motorsports gets 'out of hand'

**Joseph P. Smith**  
Cherry Hill Courier-Post  
USA TODAY NETWORK

LOGAN TWP. — The owners of Bridgeport Motorsports Park have issued a lengthy apology for massive traffic-related problems that developed around a car and music festival held March 29 at their Floodgate Road facility.

Logan Township police issued a statement March 30 that conditions around the "Import Export" festival got so out of hand before 11 a.m. Sunday that its mutual assistance partners across Gloucester County came in to help with traffic and crowd control.

Doug and Brittany Rose took over in 2019 as owners and operators of the park, known in the automotive racing community as the "Kingdom of Speed." They posted an apology and explanation on the park Facebook page early Monday afternoon.

"First and foremost, my wife and I would like to apologize to the community for yesterday's inconveniences," the post reads. "I do not like to make excuses, and I do not want this to sound like an excuse.

"I would like to express to our neighbors, once we realized this was not what we expected as a facility, we, along with authorities diligently began to dissolve the event without causing things to escalate," the Roses stated.

Management could not be reached by phone or email on Monday.

Logan police say Sunday's event lacked local approval. The township also did not receive notice it was happening, police say.

"The area rapidly became inundated with motorists from as far away as Massachusetts and Virginia," police stated. "The park quickly exceeded its capacity and an estimated 25,000 individuals parked wherever they chose,

See FESTIVAL, Page 2A

## Reduction in NJ linked to avian flu outbreak

**David M. Zimmer**  
NorthJersey.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — NEW JERSEY

New Jersey's bald eagle population declined in 2025 for the first time in decades, a shift state biologists link to a widespread avian flu outbreak.

State officials recorded 251 active nests in 2025, down from a record 264 the year prior, according to the annual Bald Eagle Project report released by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

The report, prepared by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife and the Conserve Wildlife Foundation, documented 298 territorial eagle pairs statewide, including 47 that maintained nests but did not lay eggs.

Of the 234 nests with known outcomes, 167 successfully produced young, a 71% success rate. Those nests produced 271 fledglings, or about 1.16 young per active nest. The rate is just slightly above the level needed to sustain the population, according to biologists.

The failure rate also rose in 2025.

About 29% of documented nests did not produce any young, compared with a 10-year average of 20%, according to the report.

"This slight decline in active nests reminds us that we must remain steadfast in our efforts to protect bald eagles for future generations to admire," said acting DEP Commissioner Ed Potosnak.

State officials linked the decline to avian influenza, which spread widely

See EAGLE, Page 2A

## NJ lawmakers want to hike sales tax during World Cup

**Katie Sobko and Colleen Wilson**  
NorthJersey.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — NEW JERSEY

Dear 2026 FIFA World Cup visitors: very little in the Garden State is certain except taxes and surcharges.

State Sen. Paul Sarlo has introduced legislation that proposes tax increases, surcharges and fees during a more than five-week period this summer that, if approved, would help the state recoup some of the hundreds of millions of dollars it invested to host, secure and accommodate the world's biggest sports spectacle.

The bill would increase the sales tax within the Meadowlands District — an area defined by state statute that includes Carlstadt, East Rutherford, Little Ferry, Lyndhurst, Moonachie, North Arlington, Ridgefield, Rutherford, South Hackensack and Teterboro in Bergen County and Jersey City, Kearny, North

Bergen and Secaucus in Hudson County — during the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Chris Eilert, who serves as chief of staff for Sarlo, said in a statement that the state is "incurring significant costs for public safety and security for hosting the World Cup games in the Meadowlands."

"If the state can recoup those costs by assessing fees on the entities sponsoring and producing the games, and on the people attending the games, then that should be something the administration pursues," Eilert said.

The bill includes a hotel and motel occupancy surcharge of 2.5% from June 12 to July 21 for hotels outside of Atlantic, Monmouth, Ocean and Cape May counties, a 3% increase to New Jersey's state sales tax for "tangible personal property," prepared food, soft drinks and alcohol and admission to a "place of

See WORLD CUP, Page 2A



The World Cup trophy sits on a podium during the FIFA World Cup 2026 Final Draw on Dec. 5, 2025. AMBER SEARLS/IMAGN IMAGES

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