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A woman walks past Duran Grocery along Broadway in Camden. The shop was closed after a raid allegedly found prescription drugs, including Viagra and Cialis, behind the cash register. JIM WALSH/COURIER-POST

Camden grocery shut down after raid

Duran accused of stocking Viagra, other prescription drugs

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

Police claim a Camden corner store offered more than milk, soda and cigarettes.

A recent raid at Duran Grocery found a stock of alleged prescription drugs, including Viagra and Cialis, behind the cash register.

Now, the store’s owner, 41-year-old Jose Nunez of Camden, is facing drug charges. City officials have suspended the man’s business license and have closed indefinitely his shop at Broadway and Chestnut Street.

The charges followed a raid Aug. 13 by Camden County police officers, Chief Gabriel Rodriguez said in a statement.

“We are keeping a close eye on how businesses are

operating, and this should be a clear and present message,” Rodriguez said. “If you want to participate in illegal activity, we will hold you accountable.”

Nunez is charged with three counts each of possessing and distributing prescription medications. An attorney for the merchant could not be reached.

The charges are only allegations. He has not been convicted in the case.

A criminal complaint alleges the offenses involved Viagra and Cialis, both used to treat erectile dysfunction, and ampicillin, an antibiotic.

See **GROCERY**, Page 2A

State judge rejects request to end lawsuit

Family of slain Deptford officer suing township under civil rights laws

Joseph P. Smith
Cherry Hill Courier-Post
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

A state judge in New Jersey has categorically rejected a request from Deptford Township officials to dismiss a civil rights lawsuit by the family of slain township police Officer Robert J. Shisler.

Gloucester County Superior Court Judge Benjamin D. Morgan issued his ruling Aug. 18. The decision means the five-month-old lawsuit moves into the pretrial evidence discovery phase.

Mullica Hill attorney Jaqueline Vigilante represents the family.

“I think the court did the right thing,” Vigilante said Aug. 20. “This is the pleading stage, and the pleading is very specific as to the intentional misconduct of the defendant. And we look forward to the litigation and being able to prove the allegations that we’ve made.”

Vigilante said current and former township employees will be called on as witnesses in the discovery phase.

The defendants are the township itself and Mayor Paul Medany. The lawsuit alleges that Shisler’s death was the result of intentional acts, not of negligence, by township officials to deprive police of staffing, equipment and other resources.

On April 15, township solicitor Albert Marmero filed a motion to have the case dismissed on multiple grounds.

The motion alleged that the lawsuit was a politically inspired attack and failed to make a claim that would be covered under the state Civil Rights Act. Deptford officials also argued that the Workers Compensation Act should bar the lawsuit.

Marmero could not be reached Aug. 20 for comment on the ruling.

Shisler, a four-year veteran, was on patrol by himself on March 10, 2023.

See **LAWSUIT**, Page 2A

Tree-planting grants awarded to South Jersey schools

Kaitlyn McCormick
Cherry Hill Courier-Post
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

Rancocas Valley Regional High School has been awarded more than \$100,000 dollars to plant trees providing shade and fresh fruit to the local community as part of Sustainable Jersey’s Trees for Schools program.

The grant, which amounts to \$104,075, is to fund a total of 249 trees. The efforts are to be split between the proposed orchard and food forest at the school’s Personalized Readiness and Education Program, aka PREP, operating out of the high school annex, and shade trees at the high school’s main campus and athletic complex, according to a press release.

Trees for Schools is administered by the Sustainability Institute at the College of New Jersey in collaboration with Sustainable Jersey and supported by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Other recipients in the area include Paulsboro Public Schools, granted \$10,000, North Wildwood School District, granted \$11,000, and Pittsgrove Township School District, granted \$59,028.

“The orchard will be a productive food source for our community, helping fight food insecurity while also creating a physical, hands-on learning environment for our students and community at large to see how to grow this fruit

See **GRANTS**, Page 2A

A map shows tree planting proposals for Rancocas Valley Regional High School’s athletic complex. The planting is funded through Sustainable Jersey’s Trees for Schools program. PROVIDED BY RANOCAS VALLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

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