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BOARDWALK BET A WINNER?

Revisiting NJ’s gamble on casinos to resurrect Atlantic City



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

Celebrants of the nation’s 250th Independence Day watched fireworks and partied earlier this month in a city that looks and operates quite differently from the way it did during the 1976 bicentennial. ● A walk along and near the Atlantic City Boardwalk illustrates the point: Casino hotels that began appearing just two years after the bicentennial now dominate the skyline and, more importantly, the economy of Atlantic City.

Atlantic City is built on Absecon Island, a desirable Jersey Shore summertime destination since the mid-1800s and since before the city adopted its current name.

Railroads were expanding in South Jersey, and they were the most advantageous way to move large numbers of people to and from Shore points. A Camden to Atlantic City route opened to the public on July 4, 1854.

Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson, a former history teacher, said rooming houses and hotels and other amenities opened shortly thereafter.

And there was something affordable to the working-class visitor as well as to the middle class and the wealthy, he said. “You had the small rooming houses ... with bathrooms down the hall and one shower for a whole floor,” Levinson

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Gov. Brendan Byrne is shown after signing the Casino Control Act into law in front of Atlantic City’s Boardwalk Hall on June 2, 1977. Assemblyman Steven Perskie, who wrote the law, stands to the left of the governor. PROVIDED BY ATLANTIC CITY FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

TOP: Resorts Casino Hotel, left, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, center, Showboat Resort, center right, and Ocean Casino Resort, far right, are viewed from the Atlantic City Boardwalk on July 2.

CHRIS LACHALL/USA TODAY NETWORK

Glitch cited for voter registration mistakes

Flaw happened between June ’23 and June ’24

Katie Sobko
NorthJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

As many as 6,600 non-U.S. citizens registered to vote in New Jersey in 2023 and 2024 because of a software flaw, Gov. Mikie Sherrill said on Tuesday, July 21.

At a Statehouse press event, Sherrill said she found out last week about the flaw, which occurred between June 2023 and June 2024, years before she took office.

The governor said fewer than 400 of those people actually voted and that they were registered as Democrats,



Sherrill

See GLITCH, Page 7A

Kim proposes expanding Medicaid to include all kids

Scott Fallon
NorthJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

All children and young adults in the U.S. regardless of their citizenship status would be eligible for free government health insurance from birth to 26 years of age under a federal bill introduced Tuesday, July 21, by Sen. Andy Kim, D-NJ.

Dubbed the “Medi-Kids Act,” the measure would automatically enroll children in a state’s Medicaid plan – government insurance for low-income residents – regardless of a family’s income.

But MediKids has an uphill battle. It comes at a time when the Republican-led Congress has made major

See MEDICAID, Page 7A



Kim

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