



Another forecasting tool is scrapped

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PA man sentenced for crash

Suzanne Russell and Max Augugliaro
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

A Pennsylvania man has been sentenced to a maximum of six years in prison for a 2021 high-speed crash in which three New Jersey men were

killed, including two from Middlesex County.
Brett Knoll, 41, of Jim Thorpe, was sentenced July 10 by Carbon County Court of Common Pleas Judge Steven Serfass to minimum of three years in state prison and a maximum of six years

for the Aug. 7, 2021 Pennsylvania crash at the intersection of Route 903 and Interstate 476 that killed Nicholas Nissen, 25, of South Amboy, Joseph Riggio Jr., 30 of Parlin, and Michael Guezara,
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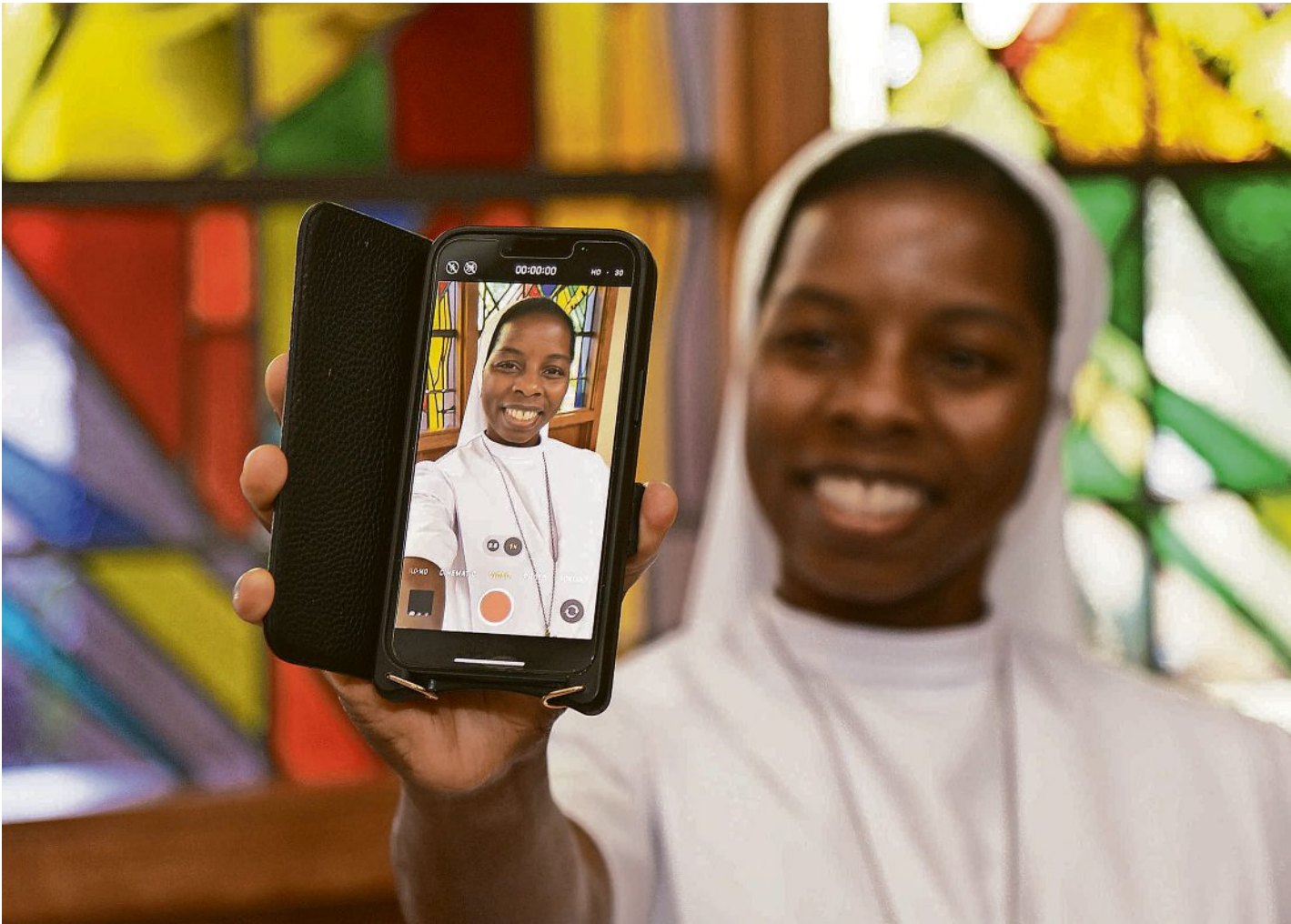
Iconic ice cream shop opening location

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WOODBIDGE – Nasto’s, featuring Italian specialty desserts and ice cream, is coming to town.
This fall Nasto’s Old World Desserts, a Newark-based business, is slated to open a second shop in Woodbridge, according to its Instagram and Facebook pages which also celebrated the July 2025 observance of National Ice Cream month.
The post, with the words “exciting news” featured a short TikTok video of the upcoming Woodbridge shop’s empty interior space.

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Sister acts From influencers to Brazilian beatboxers, how nuns took over pop culture



Salesian Sister Guerline Joseph in the chapel at Mary Help of Christians Academy in North Haledon. She helps create content for her order’s social media page, posting photos and videos of her fellow sisters on Instagram. CHRIS PEDOTA/NORTHJERSEY.COM

Deena Yellin NorthJersey.com | USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

It was the beatbox heard round the world. ● In May, a pair of Brazilian nuns were on a local Catholic TV show discussing a vocational retreat when it happened. Suddenly, the duo — in matching powder-blue skirts and white habits — broke into a joyous beatbox and dance routine. ● Sister Marizele Cassiano provided the drumbeat soundtrack on her microphone as Sister Marisa Paula de Neves strutted for the camera. The viral video racked up hundreds of thousands of views.

They’re not the only nuns turning heads and raising eyebrows lately. A swath of TikTok sisters, known collectively as #NunTok, have earned celebrity for entertaining and enlightening videos about convent life. The “nunfluencers” include Sister Monica Clare, an Episcopal sister superior in Mendham whose videos on everything from celibacy to skincare have earned her more than 222,000 followers and 2.3 million likes.
Also in the news in recent years was Sister Susan Francois. The Bergen County nun tweeted a prayer a day at Donald Trump during his first term, despite her vehement policy differences with the president.
If that’s not enough of a change

from the usually staid stereotype of nuns, consider Sister Lisa Maurer. The Benedictine nun gained fame over the past decade as an assistant football coach for the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota.
While vows of celibacy, poverty and obedience remain at the center of these women’s experience, the image of the nun has undergone a sea change in recent years, in part thanks to social media. Women in religious orders have become less cloistered and more integrated into the broader world via their virtual megaphones. Their overall numbers may be shrinking, but nuns are no longer invisible in the popular
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Sister Guerline Joseph, shown posting on Instagram, said social media is a good place to evangelize. CHRIS PEDOTA/NORTHJERSEY.COM

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Foreclosures on the rise in Central Jersey

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Somerset County saw the sharpest rise in first-time foreclosures in the 12 New Jersey counties in the metropolitan New York City area during the second quarter of 2025, according to a study by Property Shark.
The number of first-time foreclosures in Somerset County grew by 54% in a year-over-year rise.
However, Somerset had the third smallest number of foreclosures in the study, 37.
Overall, the study found the number of first-time foreclosures in the 12 northern, central and shore New Jersey counties in the metropolitan area totaled 804. That was a 23% year-over-year increase after nine quarters of nearly consecutive declines.
Only two counties, Union and Passaic, showed declines.
Middlesex showed the smallest increases in cases, 6%. In Hunterdon, there were only two additional cases, the smallest number in the study.
Though Hunterdon had the lowest number of first-time foreclosures, 21, that was a three-year high, according to the study.

NJ foreclosures in NYC metro area

- Essex: 139, 28%.
 - Ocean: 118, 13%.
 - Bergen: 109, 30%
 - Monmouth: 82, 44%.
 - Union: 58, -8%.
 - Middlesex: 55, 6%.
 - Morris: 54, 50%.
 - Hudson: 52, 49%.
 - Passaic: 46, -2%.
 - Somerset: 37, 54%
 - Sussex: 41, 37%.
 - Hunterdon: 21, 11%.
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