



Home News Tribune

MONDAY, MAY 25, 2026 | MYCENTRALJERSEY.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

There is no print edition of the paper today, but you can find today's puzzles, comics, national news and sports here in the eNewspaper.

Battles in Union County explored

Clashes were pivotal to Revolutionary War

Cheryl Makin

MyCentralJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

In today's world, Rev. James Caldwell's rallying cry - "Give 'em Watts" - likely would have gone viral. During the 1780 Battle of Springfield, Caldwell famously ordered Watts hymnals to be torn

up for musket wadding, a quick-thinking move that helped American forces repel the British.

The Battles of Springfield and Connecticut Farms are often overlooked in history books. Yet historians point to these June 1780 clashes as pivotal moments in New Jersey that came just before the Revolutionary War shifted to

the southern colonies, ultimately ending in 1783.

Union County will revisit that history June 24 with a program titled "The American Revolution in Union County: Using Maps, Pension Records, and Archaeological Finds to Illuminate the Battles of Connecticut Farms and Springfield."

The event begins at 6 p.m. at the Trailside Nature and Science Center Theater in the Watchung Reservation in

Mountainside.

Hosted by the Union County Board of Commissioners, the presentation will explore the battles through historic maps, pension records, archaeological findings and firsthand accounts from people who experienced the conflict.

"As we prepare to commemorate America's 250th anniversary, it is important that we continue telling the

See **BATTLES**, Page 2A

Is Rep. Tom Kean Jr. out on medical leave?

U.S. Rep. LaMonica McIver pregnant with second child

Katie Sobko

NorthJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

Elected officials in New Jersey work for the residents they represent. They are sent to Washington or Trenton or their local town hall to conduct the business of their constituents.

But when they get to those destinations, are their jobs full time? With health insurance and pensions and all the other things that people expect from their 9 to 5 career?

Those questions may be on the minds of some Garden State residents - namely voters in New Jersey's 7th Congressional District, where incumbent Republican Rep. Tom Kean Jr. has been absent from his duties in the capital for nearly three months.

For higher office, like the president and members of Congress, the answer to those questions is yes. Salaries range from about \$174,000 for lower ranking members of the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate to \$400,000 for whomever is occupying in the Oval Office.

Presidents receive around-the-clock access to health care and a pension upon leaving office. Members of Congress pay for health insurance through the Small Business Health Options Program, according to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. They also pay into a pension system known as the Federal Employees' Retirement System.

See **ABSENCE**, Page 2A



Former Gov. Tom Kean, left, with his son Tom Kean Jr., who came out for his 7th Congressional District victory speech on Nov. 5, 2024, at the Republican Election Night celebration in Bernardsville. NORTHJERSEY.COM STAFF FILE

Industrial properties sell for \$4M in hot market

Brad Wadlow

MyCentralJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

Two industrial properties in South Plainfield have sold as part of a portfolio deal totaling about \$4 million, reflecting continued demand for industrial-flex space across Central Jersey.

See **PROPERTIES**, Page 4A

Climate change imperils many global plant species

Marta Serafinko

REUTERS

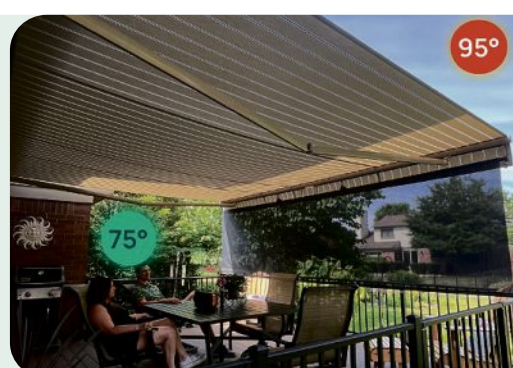
Some of the plants that make familiar landscapes recognizable may not survive by century's end as climate change becomes an increasingly important driver of species loss, according to scientists, reshaping and often shrinking suitable habitats that the plants need to survive.

Researchers modeled future ranges

See **PLANTS**, Page 4A



Summer Starts This Weekend
Custom-designed. Fast Install.



CALL TODAY FOR SPECIAL OFFER

Call or Scan QR Code to
Book your free appointment



marygrove
awnings

732-703-7062

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to mycentraljersey.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 148 | No. 80
Subscribe 800-777-3455
©2026 \$3.49



0 5 2 5 6
40901 11721 6