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New Jersey Herald

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The Rev. Shea Maultsby of Unity of Sussex County. PROVIDED BY UNITY OF SUSSEX COUNTY

Local church leaders are addressing Christmas season

Jim Beckerman
NorthJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

It’s dark this time of year. Dark, in terms of daylight. Dark, perhaps, in other ways as well. “A time when want is keenly felt, and abundance rejoices,” as Dickens says in “A Christmas Carol.” Which is one reason Christmas sermons and homilies, delivered from the pulpit in the weeks leading up to Dec.

25, are joyful. We need it. For Christians, there is the joy of the savior’s birth, and the world’s redemption. For all of us — regardless of religion, or lack of it — there is the joy of good fellowship, of feasting and family. Of kindness, and helping the less fortunate. Of peace on earth, good will toward men. Messages that may be especially relevant to Christmas, 2025. It’s a Christmas when some of us may be worried about money, or food.

It’s a Christmas when some of us may be worried about the future of this country. Or about being sent, in handcuffs, out of it. “During tense and uncertain times like ours, it’s helpful to remember that God does not abandon us or keep us at arm’s length,” says Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, archbishop of Newark, in this year’s Christmas homily, which the archdiocese shared with us. **See CHURCH, Page 2A**

Audit raises concerns of Amtrak role in tunnel project

Colleen Wilson
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USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

Concerns about Amtrak’s role in the Hudson River rail tunnel construction project, its system of tracking thousands of project documents, and a \$104 million error were among the issues raised in an audit produced by the national passenger railroad’s inspector general this month. The 32-page report was the product of an 18-month review that included work from offices in four states, visits to construction sites, reviewing more than 650 documents and interviewing over 100 people involved in the \$16 billion project to construct a new two-tube tunnel under the Hudson River and repair the existing two-track tunnel that is over 100 years old. J.J. Marzullo, assistant inspector general of audits for Amtrak’s Office of

See TUNNEL, Page 3A

Cop rescues dog that fell through ice into lake

Kyle Morel
Newton New Jersey Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

A Sussex County police officer put his ice rescue training to use in saving a dog that fell into a frigid lake Dec. 17. The Sparta Police Department received a call at 11:20 a.m. from a concerned citizen who reported the incident on Lake Mohawk, Capt. Tom Snyder said. Officers quickly arrived at the scene near Rainbow Trail, where Patrolman Michael Poon donned rescue gear to enter the water. Body camera footage shows Poon attaching himself via a rope to another officer on shore before carefully crawling out to the area where the dog was stuck. After initially struggling to grab the dog, Poon was able to push the animal up and out onto the ice. **See RESCUE, Page 2A**

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