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YOUR REGION, 5A

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School budget gaps may revamp funding formula

Mary Ann Koruth
NorthJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

State Education Commissioner Lily Laux and lawmakers drilled into the big question facing public schools in 2026 during an Assembly budget hearing on

April 15 — how to keep districts funded as rising costs threaten budgets across the state, jeopardizing teachers' jobs and school programs.

Laux laid out priorities in Gov. Mikie Sherrill's \$12.4 billion K-12 budget while members of the Assembly budget committee raised questions and complaints

from their constituents during the budget hearing on public schools.

Laux's solution to the thorniest issue — district budgets and costs — is to address the source of the problem, the school funding formula, using shared services to allay costs.

Every piece of the current school

funding formula will be reexamined, and a new category of "increasing costs" faced by districts could be a way to assess their financial needs realistically, she said.

New Jersey's school funding formula

See **BUDGET**, Page 6A



Robbie's Comics in Bloomingdale had a ribbon cutting on March 28 to celebrate its opening at Ward's Plaza.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY ROBERT CAMPITIELLO

Woodbrook at Randolph offers 199 rental units

Maddie McGay
NorthJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

WoodBrook at Randolph, one of the township's newest rental communities, has officially welcomed its first residents.

The 199-unit luxury rental neighborhood, located at 8000 Crescent Circle, made its debut April 15 with nearly 80% of its residences leased.

"WoodBrook at Randolph marks an exciting chapter for our township," said Randolph Township Mayor Mark H. Forstenhausler in a release. "This community will bring new energy, connections, and opportunities that enrich the lives of residents. We look forward to meeting our new neighbors and seeing WoodBrook become a lively cornerstone of Randolph."

Developed by Woodmont Properties and Canoe Brook Development, the property features a four-story building with 97 classic apartments, as well as seven additional buildings with 102 multi-story townhome-style residences.

There are a mix of one-, two- and three-bedroom layouts available, with each unit offering expansive walk-in closets, stylish kitchens with stainless steel appliances, full-size washers and dryers, private patios or balconies and keyless entry systems. Select townhome-style residences also offer attached garages.

Outside of its residences, the property was also designed with a number of lifestyle-drive amenities. This includes a coworking space, a fitness center, a resort-style pool, a sports simulator and more.

And located just off of Route 10, it is just minutes from the County College of Morris and several nearby shopping centers. It is also just several miles away from Dover Station for train service, or nearby stops for bus service, for commuting to New York City.

See **WOODBROOK**, Page 5A

Comics store holds grand opening in Bloomingdale

Stephanie Noda
NorthJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

People looking to buy, sell or trade their favorite comics have a new hub at Robbie's Comics in Bloomingdale.

The business, which is owned by 43-year-old Riverdale resident Robert Campitiello, officially opened in January but had a ribbon cutting on March 28.

Visitors coming to the 142 Main St. location at Ward's Plaza can find thousands of comics, vintage sports cards and Pokémon cards.

Campitiello, who has been collecting comics for over 15 years, ran his business at conventions since



Inside Robbie's Comics in Bloomingdale.

See **COMICS**, Page 5A

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