



Ballot drop boxes open across North Jersey

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New Jersey Herald

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The Trump administration says it is cutting court backlogs, but immigration attorneys question the impact on due process



Noemi Simbron, a Paterson immigration lawyer, says accelerated court schedules and new rules have made this the most challenging period of her 10-year career. JULIAN LESHAY GUADALUPE/NORTHJERSEY.COM

Pressure to move

Hannan Adely
NorthJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

Two weeks. That is all the notice a 26-year-old asylum seeker and her lawyer got to assemble records, document trauma and prepare a complex case before an immigration judge.

It was not enough. In September, a judge in New Jersey denied her asylum claim. Today, the Monmouth County resident is detained in Texas and faces deportation to a country where her attorney said she had faced sexual abuse, persecution and violence. Her case is no longer unusual. It is the result of a sweeping transformation of

immigration courts in New Jersey and across the nation – one marked by accelerated schedules, mass hearings, tighter procedural rules and growing pressure on the judges who decide whether someone can remain in the United States.

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OCT. 7TH ANNIVERSARY

Woman put \$162K on credit cards to help Israelis

Deena Yellin
NorthJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

Adi Vaxman was in the living room of her Fair Lawn home when the desperate messages from Israel began pouring in on her phone. One was from Yifat, a longtime friend who was hiding in a safe room in Kfar Aza, a kibbutz near Israel’s southern border. “They’re here. They’re inside my house,” said the chilling text. “She told me that Hamas terrorists were in her home with weapons and were shooting,” Vaxman recalled. As the day wore on, the scale of the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas-led attack became clear. News reports indicated that thousands of terrorists had breached Israel’s border on a Jewish holiday, carrying out killings, burning homes and taking hostages. In all, they killed 1,200 people and took 251 hostages. The White House confirmed that 49 American citizens were killed during the Oct. 7 attack, with 12 others in captivity. Vaxman and her husband scrambled to reach their relatives and friends in Israel. Their son, then a student at Brandeis University, was visiting the country. Her 18-year-old stepdaughter, an Israeli soldier, was stationed at a military base that had come under attack.

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Hercules and Hess to pay \$24 million for cleanups

William Westhoven
Morristown Daily Record
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

New Jersey will receive \$24 million in compensation from two businesses responsible for discharges of hazardous substances at multiple sites, including a defunct former North Jersey munitions facility with a notorious history of fatal explosions and toxic waste dumping in the 20th century. Separate natural resource damages settlement agreements with Hess Corp. and Hercules LLC were announced on Oct. 5 by Attorney General Jennifer Davenport and Environmental Commissioner Ed Pototsnak.

The bulk of those funds – \$19.5 million – will come from the multinational energy company Hess Corp., which no longer sells gasoline in the United States but operated a petroleum refinery and storage facility in the Port Reading section of Woodbridge from 1958 to 2013. Hercules LLC will pay \$4.5 million to settle claims from a 2007 lawsuit filed by the state, which alleged the chemical and munitions manufacturer contaminated four sites: Parlin in Middlesex County; Gibbstown in Gloucester County; and Chester and the Kenvil section of Roxbury, both in Morris County.

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The former site of the Hercules munitions plant, which covers several hundred acres. A plan to develop the land fell apart in 2024. Under the agreement with the state, 235 acres at the Kenvil property will be preserved for watershed protection, habitats or aquifer recharge. NORTHJERSEY.COM STAFF FILE



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