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New Jersey Herald

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‘A systemic problem’



Andrew Rabinowitz and Phyllis Rabinowitz sit on their couch and hold up a baby photo of their daughter Rebecca Rabinowitz while in their New Jersey home, Oct. 27, Short Hills. YANNICK PETERHANS/NORTHJERSEY.COM

Couple pushes for better ER training after infant death

Scott Fallon
NorthJersey.com | USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

When Phyllis and Andrew Rabinowitz brought their newborn daughter Rebecca to a local emergency department 20 years ago, she was diagnosed with a common cold and sent home — even though it appeared she was struggling to breathe.

Rebecca died less than 24 hours later. She was only 9 days old.

What began as a tragedy for the Essex County family has transformed into a nationwide crusade to improve emergency care for infants and young children.

The nonprofit group the Rabinowitzes formed just months after Rebecca died — the R Baby Foundation — has raised $18 million to train more than 6,500 physicians in 1,000 hospitals across the United States on procedures that may save a child’s life.

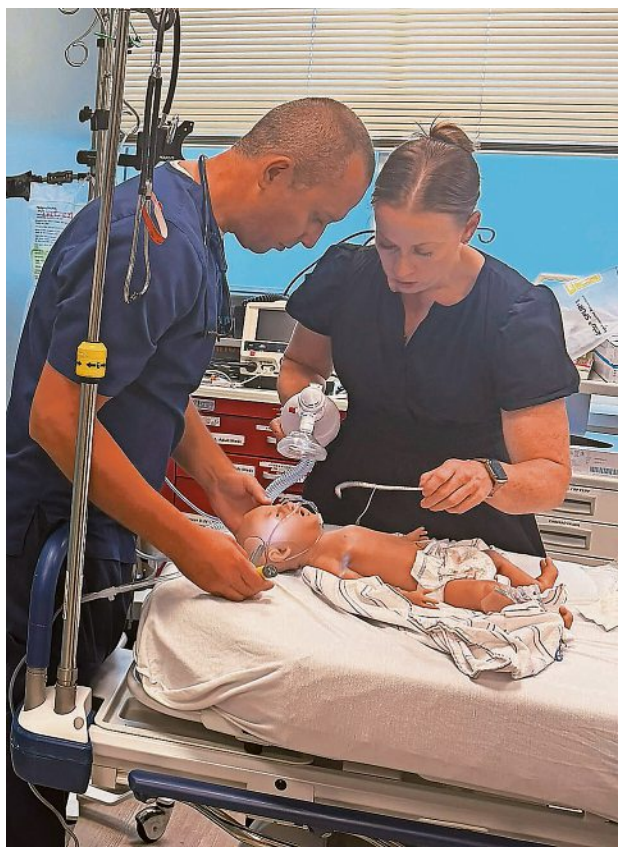
Still, fewer than 18% of emergency departments nationwide were fully prepared to handle a critically ill child, according to a 2024 study in which a group of mostly pediatricians and emergency medicine specialists across the country examined 10 years of data at 4,840 hospitals.

Making every emergency department “pediatric ready” could prevent 2,143 deaths each year at a cost of about $200 million annually, or roughly up to $12 per child, the study said.

“It’s gotten better, but the level of preparedness is just not where it should be,” Phyllis said. “That’s why this foundation exists.”

Rebecca Rabinowitz was born on July 13, 2006.

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Juan Diaz, a nurse, and Dr. Ashley Flannery, director of Pediatric Emergency Department at Morristown Medical Center, conduct training exercises on a special infant mannequin that simulates different emergency scenarios. PROVIDED BY ATLANTIC HEALTH

Sherrill reflects on first 10 months, talks NJ’s future

Katie Sobko
NorthJersey.com | USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

On a recent Thursday, Gov. Mikie Sherrill spent her time on the go. A groundbreaking for a bridge in Bayonne, an economic development meeting in Trenton with a business looking to expand in the state, a meeting with the Norwegian ambassador and the standard phone calls to candidates that won during the midterm elections.

All that on top of the regular internal meetings, but that’s kind of Sherrill’s whole shtick. Calm in the storm, no matter what the storm may be. She navigated an internal investigation and the departure of her lieutenant governor, provided some transparency on the noncitizen voter registration issues and led the state through natural disasters while crafting a budget and hosting the entire world for a soccer tournament.

She’s a lifelong public servant, first in the U.S. Navy, then in the U.S. Attorney’s Office. She served in Congress from 2019 up until being elected governor of the Garden State last year and she doesn’t intend to stop.

She hit the ground running, signing executive orders literally during her inauguration back in January. Now about 10 months into her term, Sherrill says that she plans to keep governing the way she has been during an exclusive conversation with the USA TODAY Network New Jersey.

“We had an affordability agenda that I started to implement not just on day one, but on hour one with

See SHERRILL, Page 9A

Avoid first-timer’s panic on hosting Thanksgiving

Jim Beckerman
NorthJersey.com | USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

Sure, you said, carelessly. We can host Thanksgiving.

So what if you’d never done it before? How hard could it be?

And then … the terror began.

How many plates do we have? How many chairs? How on earth will we seat 14 people? Where did we put grandma’s good silverware? Did we tell Aunt Wilma, or cousin Ron, to bring the pumpkin pie? Are four sides enough? How long do you cook a turkey?

That first, casual “yes” was your first mistake. But with luck, and with a little help from Rick Rodgers, chef, cooking instructor and author of “Thanksgiving 101,” it could be your last one.

See THANKSGIVING, Page 2A


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