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Heavy snow set to fall early Sunday



MATTHEW STRABUK, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plow trucks stand ready in a municipal lot in Ocean City on Saturday as the region waits for upcoming winter storm.

South Jersey could see up to 10 inches

JOHN RUSSO
Staff Writer

Expected snow totals decreased slightly as state officials prepared New Jersey for a snowstorm set to arrive early Sunday.

South Jersey could see 6-10 inches, with the coast looking at 4-6 inches, Gov. Mikie Sherrill said during a 3 p.m. briefing Saturday in Newark.

New Jersey entered a state of emergency at 5 p.m. Saturday until further notice. Central Jersey is also looking at 6-10 inches of snow, with the heavier total of

8-14 inches expected in North Jersey, Sherrill said.

“We are expecting a storm the likes we haven’t seen in years,” Sherrill said Saturday. “It’s going to present very dangerous conditions for travel.”

The National Weather Service on Saturday morning said snow would begin to fall shortly after midnight.

Heavy snowfall is expected to begin at 7 a.m. Sunday in South Jersey. At noon, it’s expected to turn over to a wintry mix, Sherrill said.

“This is not great news, given that that could present a really icy condition with more danger for travelers,” Sherrill said.

A transition to all rain will occur

near the coast and over much of Delmarva Peninsula by Sunday afternoon, the National Weather Service said at 4:30 p.m. Saturday. Some additional light precipitation is possible through Monday morning.

“We recommend staying put on Sunday. Be prepared for dangerous travel conditions and some impassible roads if you must travel,” the service posted on social media. “Bitterly cold conditions will persist through at least next weekend.”

A commercial truck ban on interstate highways, with exceptions for emergency and utility vehicles, was to take effect at midnight.

Please see **STORM**, Page A2

Family IDs man killed in Minneapolis

MICHAEL BIESECKER, TIM SULLIVAN
AND JIM MUSTIAN
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Family members say the man killed by a U.S. Border Patrol officer in Minneapolis on Saturday was an intensive care nurse at a Department of Veterans Affairs hospital who cared deeply about people and was upset by President Donald Trump’s immigration crackdown in his city.

Alex Jeffrey Pretti, 37, was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed getting in adventures with Joule, his beloved Catahoula Leopard dog who also recently died. He participated in protests after a U.S. Immigration and Customs officer killed 37-year-old mother of three Renee Good on Jan. 7.

“He cared about people deeply and he was very upset with what was happening in Minneapolis and throughout the United States with ICE, as millions of other people are upset,” said Michael Pretti, Alex’s father. “He thought it was terrible, you know, kidnapping children, just grabbing people off the street. He cared about those people, and he knew it was wrong, so he did participate in protests.”

Pretti was a U.S. citizen, born in Illinois. Like Good, court records showed he had no criminal record and his family said he never had any interactions with law enforcement beyond a handful of traffic tickets.

In a recent conversation with their son, his parents, who live in Colorado, told him to be careful when protesting.

“We had this discussion with him two weeks ago or so, you know, that go ahead and protest, but do not engage, do not do anything stupid, basically,” Michael Pretti said. “And he said he knows that. He knew that.”

The Department of Homeland Security said the man was shot after he “approached” Border Patrol officers with a 9 mm semiautomatic handgun. Officials did not specify if Pretti brandished the gun. In bystander videos of the shooting that emerged soon after, Pretti is seen with a phone in his hand but none appears to show him with a visible weapon.

Family members said Pretti owned a handgun and had a permit to carry a concealed handgun in Minnesota. They said they had never known him to carry it.

The family first learned of the shooting when they were called by an AP reporter. They watched the video and said the man killed appeared to be their son. They then tried reaching out to officials in Minnesota.

“I can’t get any information from anybody,” Michael Pretti said Saturday. “The police, they said call Border Patrol, Border Patrol’s closed, the hospitals won’t answer any questions.”

Eventually, the family called the Hennepin County Medical Examiner, who they said confirmed had a body matching the name and description of their son.

Alex Pretti grew up in Green Bay, Wisconsin, where he played football, baseball and ran track for Preble High School. He was a Boy Scout and sang in the Green Bay Boy Choir.

After graduation, he went to the University of Minnesota, graduating in 2011 with a bachelor’s degree in biology, society and the environment,

Please see **ICE**, Page A3

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP

NEW LIFE FOR PARK



BILL BARLOW, STAFF WRITER

Vacant for decades, a former amusement park near Wildwood could see new life under a plan discussed by Middle Township Committee this week.

Former go-kart track near Wildwood could house 400-unit project

BILL BARLOW
Staff Writer

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP — In turn home to a landfill, a fish company, and a go-kart and amusement park, a disused stretch of land near the foot of the George Redding Bridge on Wildwood Boulevard could next become a 400-unit high-end residential development, to include a private marina.

The site includes about 30 acres in the southeast corner of the township. As envisioned, the residential properties would rely on Wildwood for water and Lower Township for sewer service.

“And Middle Township gets the ratables. What’s not to like?” said Mayor Christopher Leusner as plans were presented at a workshop meeting of the Township Committee on Wednesday.

Attorney Jack Plackter, representing owner Michael Karp, and

project engineer LeeAnn Beebe presented the proposal to committee members, including outlining the extensive steps between the design concept and the start of construction. He said after the meeting that the owner would look to an experienced developer to build the project, likely working with a nationally named firm.

Across Wildwood Boulevard, also known as Route 47, stands the Shawcrest section of Lower Township.

The area is contiguous with the rest of Lower Township but is accessible by road only through Middle Township.

The site has been designated an area in need of redevelopment, a process Middle Township has used in several areas with the aim of drawing new projects to difficult sites. Eventually, the Township Committee would need to approve a redevelopment plan and appoint a

developer for the project, which will also undergo Planning Board review.

The state will also have a say.

The project will require approvals under New Jersey’s Coastal Area Facility Review Act. Plackter told committee members the project has already applied for those permits, in hopes of getting it in ahead of new flood zone restrictions approved this week at the close of Gov. Phil Murphy’s term.

Cape May County plans to appeal those new rules. With an application already submitted, the project can be evaluated under the previous state requirements.

Plans call for parking on the ground level, Beebe told the Township Committee, which will mean the first habitable floor will already be elevated and meet flood standards.

Please see **PARK**, Page A2

WRESTLING

‘Unfinished business’ for senior

Southern’s Mason has come close to a state title twice

PATRICK MULRANEN
Staff Writer

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — One of only three seniors on the Southern Regional High School wrestling team, Anthony Mason has some unfinished business before he graduates.

After losing in the state final as a

sophomore, Mason took a step back and placed fourth last season.

The three-time state qualifier is well on his way to another run in the state tournament, held at Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City. If successful, Mason could be the Rams’ fourth straight state champion.

“I have been the highest you can get on the podium, except first place, right? So

Please see **MASON**, Page A4



MATTHEW STRABUK, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Southern Regional’s Anthony Mason, top, tries to hold down Middle Township’s Michael Layer during their 126-pound bout Friday in Cape May Court House.