Schiano to return as Rutgers football coach in 2027. SPORTS, A4

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THE PRESS OF ATLANTIC CITY

Wednesday, November 11, 2026 • A Lee Enterprises, Incorporated Newspaper – Majority shareholder, David Hoffmann, Hoffmann Media Group • PressofAtlanticCity.com

ELECTION 2026

VAN DREW: 2028 RUN IS POSSIBLE



MATTHEW STRABUK, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"I'm not declaring it, I haven't 100% made a decision, but this is almost like an exploratory (committee) where if you know you're running for president or governor or U.S. Senate or some other office, sometimes you start out two years early," said U.S. Rep. Jeff Van Drew, shown on Election Day at a gun range in Rio Grande.

Congressman mulls next move after loss to Mullock

WAYNE PARRY
Staff Writer

DENNIS TOWNSHIP – Swept out of office by the historic Democratic electoral tidal wave last week, U.S. Rep. Jeff Van Drew is already thinking about a comeback.

The four-term Republican, who lost to Cape May Mayor Zack Mullock for New Jersey's 2nd Congressional District seat, says he is keeping his office and his political operation open for the next two years as he travels the district, meets with voters and decides whether to seek a rematch with Mullock in two years.

POLL: *Should Van Drew run again in 2028? Point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link to take our poll.* NEWSVU

In an interview Tuesday with The Press of Atlantic City, Van Drew said he has not decided whether to run again, but sounded like he was leaning that way.

"I am seriously looking at it," he said. "I'm not declaring it, I haven't 100% made a decision, but this is almost like an exploratory (committee) where if you know you're running for president or governor or U.S. Senate or some other office, sometimes you start out two years early.

"You raise money, you get out there, you talk to people, you visit a lot of different areas, and I think that's going to be a good thing that I'm going to enjoy a lot," Van Drew said.

Mullock, making his first run for Congress, got 50.8% of the vote to 48.1% for Van Drew in a race widely seen as a referendum on President Donald Trump, with whom Van Drew closely allied himself.

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HIGH SCHOOL FIELD HOCKEY

St. Joseph reaches third straight final

PATRICK MULRANEN
Staff Writer

HAMMONTON – Nina Aponte, Jaylani Cooper and the St. Joseph Academy field hockey team are back in a familiar spot.

This time the goal is to finish the job. Six different players scored a goal to lead the second-seeded Wildcats to a 6-0 win over sixth-seeded Bishop Eustace in the South Jersey Non-Public B semifinal.

The victory sends St. Joseph to the sectional final for the third straight season. The Wildcats lost to top-seeded Camden Catholic in the final each of the past two seasons, but they will get a rematch with the Irish in the sectional final Wednesday.

The Wildcats (18-1) are No. 5 in The Press Elite 11. Camden Catholic (19-3), the top-ranked team in the Elite 11, is one of the state's top powers and has captured six straight South Jersey titles. The Irish also defeated the Wildcats in the 2022 final.

VIEW: *For more photos from the game, point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link.* NEWSVU

"It was very important for our team to get together a win," Aponte said. "We knew what we needed to do. We started from the preseason, and we started to formulate what we needed to do."

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PATRICK MULRANEN, STAFF WRITER

St. Joseph's Jaylani Cooper controls the ball Monday against Bishop Eustace in a South Jersey Non-Public B field hockey semifinal.

Testa seeks answers on Vineland data center

NICHOLAS HUBA
Staff Writer

VINELAND – State Sen. Michael Testa has sent a letter to the Department of Environmental Protection seeking answers on the status of the 62 gas generators that were installed at the DataOne data center site without state approvals.



Testa

In September, the state fined DataOne $1.07 million for violating the Air Pollution Control Act for installing and operating 62 large natural-gas power generators without the requisite permits. In New Jersey, environmental permits are required for any generator with a capacity of 37 kilowatts or more.

"Economic development and private investment are important to South Jersey's future, but those investments must be accompanied by responsible development, transparency, and full compliance with state law," Testa, R-Cape May, Cumberland, Atlantic, wrote in the letter to DEP Commissioner Ed Potosnak dated Nov. 9. "Protecting public health and supporting economic growth should never be mutually exclusive."

DataOne and the DEP did not immediately respond to requests for comment Tuesday.

A DataOne spokesperson previously said the temporary generators were needed until the company can transition to "low-emission, quiet fuel cells as part of the site's permanent power solution," for which they have approval.

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Meadowlands slam AC as 'irrelevant'

WAYNE PARRY
Staff Writer

ATLANTIC CITY – Accusing Atlantic City of "an obscene sense of entitlement," backers of a proposed $4 billion convention center in the North Jersey Meadowlands said that facility would not compete with one in the resort, and said Atlantic City's only solution is to "give us more money."

"Atlantic City has not lost its relevance as a result of its decay," Ron Simoncini, a spokesman for the Meadowlands Chamber of Commerce, said Tuesday. "Its decay is a result of its irrelevance.

"Atlantic City has decayed due to its lack of marketplace appeal," Simoncini said. "It simply cannot maintain or sustain the facilities it has with the revenue it generates, and that is never coming back. Atlantic City is approaching its third decade of redevelopment concepts, but it has never launched a redevelopment program: it has simply sought state subsidies."

Deep into planning for a massive new convention center just outside New York City, business groups in North Jersey are asking the state to oversee and pay for a final study of whether the project should be built.

The Meadowlands chamber and the Meadowlands 2040 Foundation have asked Gov. Mikie Sherrill's office for $2.7 million to $3.8 million for a study on whether to proceed with the center at the Meadowlands sports complex in East Rutherford.

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