



PHILLIES LEGEND

LARRY BOWA, THE DEFENSIVE WIZARD WHO HELPED PHILLY WIN ITS FIRST WORLD SERIES IN 1980, REMAINS DEDICATED TO IMPROVING PLAYERS' SKILLS. **F1**

CAMDEN

Fallen firefighter and father hailed as mentor to peers, children



Hundreds of firefighters, police officers and public officials gathered Wednesday in Camden to honor firefighter Howard Bennett, who drowned last week after falling through ice at the Wiggins Park Marina. Bennett, 60, of Maple Shade, was a 26-year veteran and died while working on a department vessel in the Delaware River. Speakers memorialized Bennett as a steady, gifted troubleshooter who mentored younger firefighters. His wife, Fran, said he was devoted to their children and proud of the work he took up in his 30s. Gov. Mikie Sherrill ordered flags lowered to half-staff statewide, and Camden's mayor posthumously promoted him to captain, a rank he was set to receive. Authorities have ruled his death accidental as state and local investigations continue. See more on A7. *Photos by Ed Murray, for NJ.com*



SALEM COUNTY

Grieving family confronts drunk driver

Quintin Weigle was months away from his high school graduation when he was killed in the 2023 crash.

Matt Gray For NJ.com

The family of Quintin Weigle couldn't hold back their tears and anger as they stood in a Salem County courtroom Tuesday and confronted the man who admitted driving drunk in a crash that killed the 19-year-old high school senior.

"You didn't just kill our boy, you butchered him," Weigle's stepmother, Mary Ann Gannon, told Vaughn M. Chase, the 33-year-old driver.

"The funeral home wouldn't even let us see him, so we never got to say goodbye or get any closure. Now all we have left is his gravesite," she said. "But you will answer to God."

A judge sentenced Chase to 364 days in jail and five years of probation.

Chase, of the Pedricktown section of Oldmans, was driving a pickup truck on North Golfwood Avenue in Carneys Point on Feb. 26, 2023, when he collided head-on with a



Quintin Weigle, 19, was killed in a 2023 crash in Salem County. *file*

pickup driven by Weigle, of Carneys Point, police said.

Chase admitted in court Tuesday that he consumed several mixed drinks and wine the day of the crash. He also acknowledged that his blood alcohol content was higher than 0.15%, above the legal limit of 0.08%.

When given the chance to speak, Chase apologized to Weigle's family.

"There's not a day that goes by that I don't think about what happened that night," he said. "I can understand the anger and hatred that they feel towards me, but I just

want them to know how deeply sorry and remorseful I am for my role in all of this."

He was originally indicted on a second-degree vehicular homicide charge, which was dismissed after a judge found that the case was not properly presented to the grand jury.

The prosecution presented the case again and Chase was indicted in August 2024 on a third-degree charge of strict liability vehicular homicide.

Last year, Chase pleaded guilty to the third-degree charge and the prosecution agreed to recommend the 364-day sentence he received Tuesday.

Prior to sentencing, he also pleaded guilty to driving while intoxicated.

Weigle was a senior at Salem County Career and Technical High School when he died. He was remembered by loved ones as an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed fishing and loved his family and friends.

He was scheduled to graduate just months after the crash. Instead, Weigle's family accepted his diploma at graduation and founded a scholarship in his memory.

In a statement read Tuesday by Weigle's stepmother, Mary Ann, the victim's father noted that the defendant was a first responder.

Chase is a firefighter and was a past **SEE QUINTIN WEIGLE, A9**

STATEWIDE

N.J. unveils way to report ICE agents, restricts their use of state property

New portal allows residents to upload photos, videos for state AG's Office to review.

Jelani Gibson For NJ.com

Gov. Mikie Sherrill on Wednesday unveiled a statewide portal for residents to upload photos and videos of federal immigration activity, as her administration moves to more aggressively scrutinize the work of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Standing alongside acting Attorney General Jennifer Davenport, Sherrill also announced a new "know your rights" website (www.nj.gov/knowyourrights) and signed an executive order barring ICE agents from accessing non-public areas of state property without a judicial warrant.

The ban would also prevent agents from using property as staging areas for operations.

"We have seen dozens, even hundreds of videos of Donald Trump's ICE agents abusing their power, smashing cars, tear-gassing families, gunning down American citizens and violating our most basic rights," she said.

Sherrill first previewed the portal (www.njoag.gov/portal) in late January during an appearance on "The Daily Show," where she urged residents to film Immigration and Customs Enforcement operations and submit the footage to the state.

"So we see agents hiding behind masks, no insignias, constantly changing license plates, breaking the core principles of what good policing needs to be to keep people safe," Sherrill said at the Wednesday news conference.

State officials have said the database will allow residents to upload photos, videos and information about ICE activity, with the material reviewed by the Attorney General's Office.

Davenport also signaled she was willing to prosecute federal agents for violations of state law.

"While we cannot guarantee any particular action by our office in response to reports on the portal, we will review every report with care," she said.

The Sherrill administration has framed the initiative as a transparency measure meant to track federal enforcement and document potential misconduct. Similar portals have already launched in New York and California.

The governor's push comes amid heightened ICE activity in New Jersey and a series of high-profile incidents that have drawn national scrutiny. **SEE ICE, A2**

NEWS

Grim winter toll rises

The number of deaths in New Jersey following a fierce winter storm and a bitter cold snap has increased to 20, the state says. **A3**

NEWS

School funding spared

New Jersey has reached a deal with the Trump administration to prevent more than \$1B in federal education funds from being cut off, the acting AG says. **A3**

ENTERTAINMENT

TV star dies at 48

James Van Der Beek died Wednesday, his family says. The "Dawson's Creek" star who went to college in N.J. had been treated for colorectal cancer. **I2**