



DEAL TO DISARM

HAMAS SAID FRIDAY THAT IT WILL BEGIN DISARMING AS PART OF A DEAL ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT TRUMP THAT ALSO REQUIRES ISRAEL TO END STRIKES AND WITHDRAW FROM GAZA. **C1**

BRADLEY BEACH

The warm glow of a summer’s day



People enjoy the pleasant summer weather in Bradley Beach on Friday. New Jersey residents can expect dry weather for most of the weekend before a slow-moving storm system brings heavy rain and thunderstorms starting Sunday night. “Saturday is the pick of the weekend,” the National Weather Service said early Friday. Highs on Saturday will be in the 80s with partly sunny skies. Most of Sunday will also be dry, with highs in the 80s, before a storm system arrives at night. Widespread showers and thunderstorms are expected Monday. The storm system is expected to move slowly and could linger across the region, bringing the potential for heavy rain and flash flooding. *Matt Dowling and the Advance Local Express Desk. (The Advance Local Express Desk uses AI tools to assist in producing content, which is reviewed and edited by staff.) Photos by Patti Sapone, NJ.com*



HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

How a star runner returned to the track after tragedy

South Jersey teen battled back from a near-death experience. Then he said final goodbye to his father.

Corey Annan NJ.com

Benjamin Andrus dug his spikes into the track at Franklin Field, preparing to run a mile against the best runners in the country. It was the Penn Relays in Philadelphia, one of the most important races of his career. But Andrus wasn’t sure he wanted to run in it. He’d been through so much already. The tragedy he barely survived. The sorrow he couldn’t avoid. His focus was waning seconds before the starting gun popped. Then, his gaze caught the inscription on his right cleat. It was a date, 4/14/26, that he’d drawn on the pink sole of his shoe a few days earlier with a black marker. A heart was sketched next to it. On his left shoe, there was another heart and two words: For Dad.

Ten days earlier, Andrus, a senior runner at Haddonfield High School, lost his father, Jeffrey, after a seven-year battle with brain cancer. Jeffrey was 51. This was Andrus’ first race without his father, who attended as many meets as he could, even as he became confined to a wheelchair and lost most of his vision. Jeffrey loved to watch his son run. Andrus knew his father would have wanted him to compete at the Penn Relays, a historic track event that has featured runners from across the world since 1895. Andrus had to compete on April 24, but if he was going to run, he wanted to honor Jeffrey’s memory. “The whole point of the message was to always carry him with me,” said Andrus. “A lot of people wear cross chains to carry Jesus with them. It’s kind of like that. If I’m always stepping with him, I’ll be reminded before a race why I’m doing it, and it’ll make me run with emotion.” Andrus crossed the finish line that day with a time of 4:16.84 — a personal record — and earned a medal with a fifth-place finish. “Running with a heavy heart is just different,” said Andrus. His choice of words seemed deliberate, considering Andrus himself nearly died



Benjamin Andrus, of Haddonfield High School, competes during the NJSIAA Meet of Champions in Holmdel last November. NJ.com file

nine months earlier from a cardiac blockage. He’d been rushed to the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), only a six-minute walk from Franklin Field. His return to Philadelphia was supposed to be a celebration of how far he’d come. **SEE ANDRUS, A5**

KEYPORT

Town releases more test results near site of feared cancer cluster

Residents are now awaiting results from the DEP.

Karin Price Mueller NJ.com

Residents searching for answers about whether they are living in the middle of a cancer cluster now have another piece of data to work into their complex, multifaceted puzzle. The new, limited environmental testing of the industrial portion of the Aeromarine landfill was commissioned by Keyport borough officials. It found fewer toxins than were revealed during the last comprehensive testing of the Aeromarine property in 2010. The results, released Friday afternoon, also found some that were present at higher levels than the state’s acceptable standards. The new report, which only looked at shallow groundwater at the industrial part of the site plus soil in an undeveloped area, and not the shuttered landfill, says pollution levels were not high enough to warrant further action in these areas of the site.

It follows the release of test results covering of the whole Aeromarine property by Pacer Partners, the buyer of the site, reported exclusively by NJ.com earlier this week. The Department of Environmental Protection hasn’t released its own results or analysis yet, but it said on its website Tuesday that its review of “existing and new data does not indicate a pathway for human exposure to contamination.” A “pathway” would show if poisons from the site could have migrated, or could have found a path, to homes in the area. Excel Environmental, the Department of Environmental Protection and Keyport Mayor Rose Araneo did not respond to requests for comment. Wide testing of the area took place after an NJ.com special report in April reported 41 cancer cases — and 28 on just one street — near the landfill. Residents, who to date have reported more than 415 cancer cases in their families, worry about whether contamination from Aeromarine could be the cause.

More testing is needed to know whether their cancer cases can be definitively tied to the old dump. The borough’s new testing was conducted by Excel Environmental Resources of Somerset, the same firm hired by Keyport for the site’s last comprehensive testing in 2010. The new research focused on the industrial portion, or the southern part of the site, and an undeveloped piece of land — and not the shuttered landfill, the report said. The results announced by the town are more like a side dish because they don’t give a full look at the current environmental health of the property. The main meal — the DEP analysis — hasn’t yet been served. Concerned residents in the area have been anxiously anticipating that analysis, which will include the data obtained by both the town’s engineers and Pacer’s **SEE RESULTS, A2**

NATION & WORLD

60K cross into Spain

About 60,000 migrants crossed from Morocco into Spain in the past 24 hours, an official said Friday. At least 57 migrants died on the journey. **C2**

SPORTS

Volpe on the bubble

The Yankees would be doing Jersey-born shortstop Anthony Volpe a favor by sending him to a new team, writes columnist Bob Klapisch. **F1**