

BEST OF FALL

FROM A BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN BIOPIC TO THE MOVIE VERSION OF STEPHEN KING'S "THE RUNNING MAN" AND A "WICKED" SEQUEL, HERE ARE THE MOVIES TO LOOK FORWARD TO THIS FALL. **F6**

Sunday

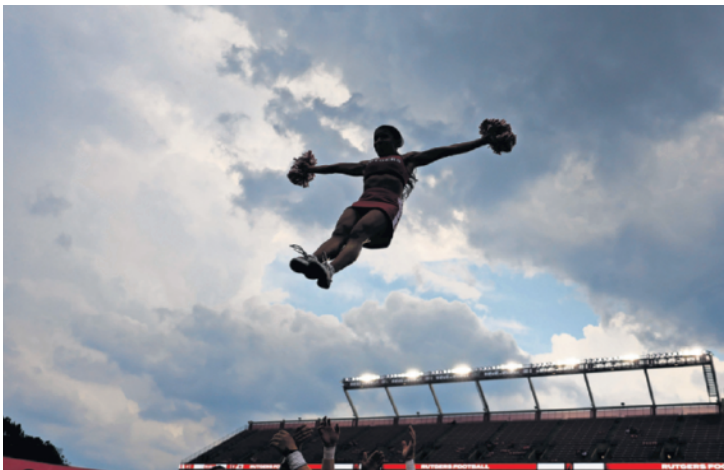
The Star-Ledger

WEATHER

Stormy skies cast a pall over a September afternoon



The stands at SHI Stadium in Piscataway are cleared as a shelter-in-place order was issued before severe thunderstorms rolled through ahead of the start of Rutgers’ football game against Miami of Ohio on Saturday. The storms uprooted trees, flooded streets and left thousands without power. After the first round, Franklin Township in Somerset County, below left, fielded more than a dozen calls regarding downed trees and wires, said Public Safety Director Quovella M. Maeweather. The storms also caused a temporary ground stop at Newark Liberty International Airport. Below, a Rutgers cheerleader flies through the air as dark clouds build during pregame warmups. Jackie Roman; photos by Chris Faytok (above, below right) and Ed Murray, for The Star-Ledger



RUTGERS

New RU leader sees a ‘Wonderful Life’ that’s endangered

Tate arrives as university president focused on funding while White House wields power of purse over colleges.

Liz Rosenberg For The Star-Ledger

As President Donald Trump continues to threaten to crack down on the nation’s universities, Rutgers University’s new president says he has no plans to publicly battle the Republican administration.

Instead, he says he will focus on how New Jersey’s state university can maintain its standing as a major research institution amid looming federal funding cuts.

“I have no idea what Donald Trump is going to do,” Rutgers President William Tate IV said as students returned to class. “It’s not anything that I would even speculate about.”

Tate, the former president of Louisiana State University, took over as Rutgers’ president in July. Though new to the state, the 64-year-old has taken the helm of one of the oldest and largest universities in the nation.

He is overseeing more than 69,000 students on the New Brunswick, Newark and Camden campuses. He is also overseeing Rutgers’ \$5 billion annual budget as the Trump administration continues to cut money to research universities.



Rutgers President William Tate IV marches into a convocation ceremony in Newark on Aug. 28. Ed Murray, for The Star-Ledger

He comes into Rutgers as its highest-paid president ever. He will make \$1.1 million in base salary in his first year, according to his contract.

That is about \$200,000 more a year than his predecessor, Jonathan Holloway, who left the Rutgers job after five years, saying it was difficult to navigate toxic politics and the effects the highly public job had on his family.

Tate’s new job also comes with several perks, including a sprawling house in Piscataway that he can share with his family. Tate and wife Kim Cash Tate have been married for over 30 years and they have two adult children, a daughter and a son.

In a wide-ranging interview on the Newark campus before the Aug. 28 convocation ceremony, Tate spoke about the challenges facing him and Rutgers as the university kicks off one of its most complex years in recent memory.

Tate used the classic Christmas film “It’s a Wonderful Life” to illustrate his mission as the university deals with Trump’s threats to continue cutting university funding.

Today’s university researchers are like the character George Bailey in “It’s a Wonderful Life” — they are facing a moment when everything they’ve built seems to be disappearing, Tate said.

University leaders need to help the public understand what would disappear without universities like Rutgers, he added.

Without Rutgers, the world would be missing 600,000 college graduates and places like the university’s vast Protein Data Bank, “which is a driver for everything we need to solve all the diseases that we currently have,” he said.

“So here we are in the moment where we have to explain to people that this is what it would look like if there’s no Rutgers,”

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STATEWIDE

Greater need, less federal aid feed N.J. hunger crisis

Food banks see rise in demand as inflation and benefit cuts push families to the brink.

Murjani Rawls and Julia Steinman For The Star-Ledger

When Mike Bruno began working at Human Needs Food Pantry 13 years ago, 60 walk-ins — families looking for meals and personal care items — was a busy day.

In 2025, the Montclair pantry sees 200 to 300 walk-ins every day. By the end of June, the organization had already served 2,000 more households than it did in all of 2024.

“Most people don’t realize the extent of the problem until they happen to come down a street where you have a place like ours, and they see that line of people,” said Bruno, the pantry’s executive director. “They never imagined that something like that was going on 10 blocks from their house.”

Two hours south it’s a similar story. The 40 Food Bank of South Jersey, a Pennsauken distribution center for 200 agencies in Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Salem, was serving 95,000 people a month in 2021. Last year, that number nearly doubled to 185,000 people a month, according to President and CEO Fred Wasiak.

Food insecurity continues to rise in New Jersey, due to numerous factors including inflation, long-term unemployment and cuts to government assistance programs. According to the Map the Meal Gap, 1.1 million New Jerseyans — about 1 in 9 residents — are considered food

SEE STATEWIDE, A4

OBITUARY

Davey Johnson, who managed ’86 Mets to a title, dies

Stephen Whyno and Noah Trister Associated Press

When the winning run scored in Game 6 of the 1986 World Series, the Mets melted into a white-and-blue swirl near home plate, celebrating their implausible comeback from the brink of defeat.

Right in the middle of all that humanity was Davey Johnson, who had arrived at the mob scene before many of his players.

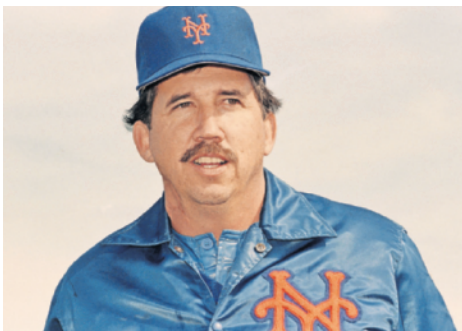
Those ’86 Mets — with all their brashness, belligerence and unapologetic brilliance — would not have been the same without their 43-year-old manager.

Johnson died Friday at age 82. Long-time Mets public relations representative Jay Horwitz said Johnson’s wife Susan informed him of his death after a long illness. Johnson was at a hospital in Sarasota, Florida.

“His ability to empower players to express themselves while maintaining

SEE OBITUARY, A2

BOB KLAPISCH: DAVEY JOHNSON WAS THE ULTIMATE '80S COWBOY. SPORTS, C1



Manager Davey Johnson, in 1987. AP/file