



CHILLING MESSAGE

AUTHORITIES SAY THE SUSPECT IN THE FATAL SHOOTING OF CHARLIE KIRK HID A NOTE BEFOREHAND SAYING HE HAD THE CHANCE TO KILL THE CONSERVATIVE ACTIVIST, 'AND I'M GOING TO TAKE IT.' C1

OBITUARY

Robert Redford, iconic actor, director and Sundance founder, dies at 89

His boyish good looks made him a star, but he became a filmmaker and the godfather of independent cinema.



Robert Redford — an actor whose beach-god looks and magnetism in films such as “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid,” “The Sting” and “The Way We Were” made him one of the biggest movie stars of all time but who forged a more profound legacy in cinema as the patron saint of American independent cinema — has died. It was Redford who launched the Sundance Institute, a showcase for indie films and lifeblood for young filmmakers. That spirit of independence often infused his own films, too. Redford was the driving force behind “All the President’s Men,” the 1976 film about Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein’s Watergate investigation. “He was one of a kind,” recalled his co-star and fellow filmmaker Barbra Streisand. *Photo: APfile*

‘The word to be underscored’ for Redford? ‘Independence.’ A8

EDUCATION

Teachers being reported for comments on Kirk’s death

Liz Rosenberg *For The Star-Ledger*

In the days after Charlie Kirk’s assassination in Utah, social media users began warning teachers in New Jersey that their comments about the conservative political activist’s death were being watched. “If you’re a teacher and posted about Charlie’s death, you may want to rethink it. NJ Project is on a rampage reporting these posts to employers. For those that don’t know, they are an offshoot of Moms for Liberty,” one warning on Reddit said. New Jersey Project, a conservative parents’ group, was among the local groups calling out social media comments allegedly from teachers who were critical of

Kirk or his views. The organization’s posts often included information for contacting the teachers’ employers to complain or call for them to be fired. The New Jersey Project, which was designated an anti-government organization by the Southern Poverty Law Center last year, publicly called out at least 15 people for their social media comments about Kirk as of Tuesday. Those targeted by the group included at least 10 who the group claimed work in New Jersey school districts or libraries. At least three New Jersey school districts — Rockaway, Little Egg Harbor and Clark — said they are reviewing education staffers’ social media posts after receiving complaints.

New Jersey Project officials did not respond to NJ Advance Media’s request to comment on the posts targeting teachers and other public workers for their Kirk comments. The group also did not provide any information about whether it has verified the identities of those featured in its posts. The posts focused on teachers follow several days of other New Jersey controversies over comments about Kirk’s death. They include a doctor who resigned after allegedly celebrating Kirk’s killing and a South Jersey restaurant owner accused of doxing several teenagers after claiming they celebrated the assassination. **SEE EDUCATION, A2**

RINGWOOD

Alarming toxin levels found in tribe living near Superfund site

Turtle Clan of the Ramapough Lenape Indian Nation still being impacted years after cleanup began, study shows.

Richard Cowen *For The Star-Ledger*

Members of the Ramapough Lenape Indian Nation gathered with environmentalists and a toxicology team from NYU Langone at the Peters Mine in Ringwood on Tuesday to warn that residents are still being sickened by toxic waste, 50 years after the Ford Motor Company stopped dumping paint sludge and the borough closed its landfill to begin a painfully slow cleanup. A recent study by NYU Langone of air and water samples taken from the 500-acre Superfund site shows alarming levels of lead, benzene, arsenic and cadmium, which are all considered potential carcinogens. Toxicologists also conducted a health survey of 140 residents who live near Peters Mine, about 90 of whom identify as members of the Turtle Clan of the Ramapough Lenape Indian Nation. They collected blood and urine samples, which showed that residents suffered from asthma, bronchitis, and a skin disorder, eczema, at much higher rates than the national average. In addition, the study determined that mercury levels in Peters Mine residents were twice as high as the national average. “Our take-home is that it is not clean,” said Dr. Judith Zelickoff, who led the NYU study. “It’s not clean enough to protect the health and well-being of the people.” Zelickoff said that some lead levels in the soil around Peters Mine were five times higher than other sections of Ringwood. Arsenic exceeded 900 parts per million — well over the standard of 19 parts per million that the state Department of Environmental Protection considers safe, she said. While identifying a direct cause of disease is problematic, Zelickoff said chronic exposure to lead, arsenic and benzene puts residents at a much greater risk of developing certain cancers. **SEE RINGWOOD, A6**



Emanuel VanDunk, a local resident, embraces Turtle Clan Chief Vincent Mann after the chief spoke at a news conference Tuesday in Ringwood. *Ed Murray, for The Star-Ledger*

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