



A BIG HIT IN DEBUT

GEORGE LOMBARD JR., LEFT, KICKS OFF HIS MLB CAREER WITH A HOME RUN IN FRONT OF YANKEES FANS AT HOME IN A POSSIBLE SIGN OF WHAT'S TO COME, COLUMNIST BOB KLAPISCH WRITES. **F1**

SPECIAL REPORT

Brain-dead man not a donor, but organs sought anyway, family says

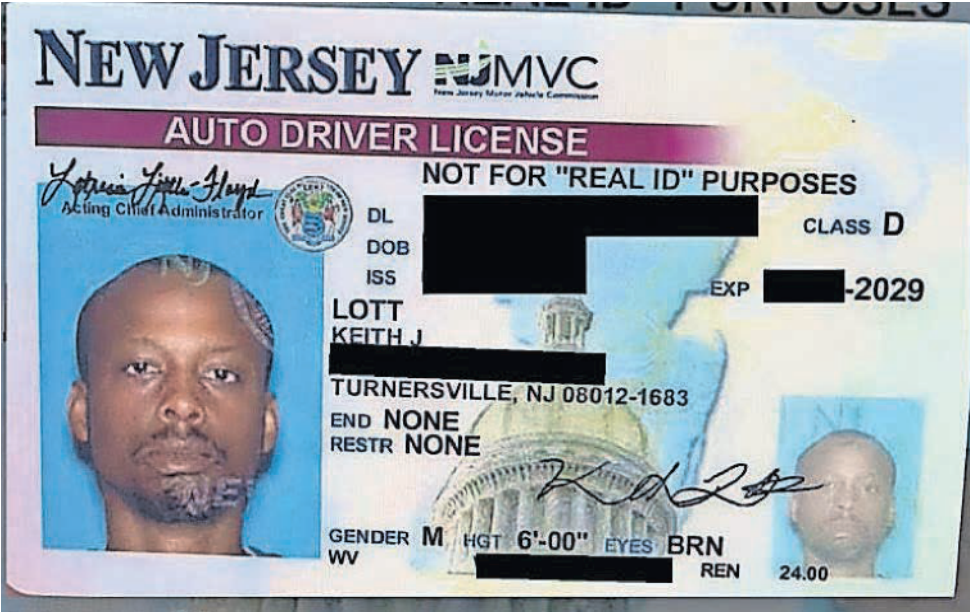


Minnie and Johnny Lott, parents of Keith Lott, hold his photo at their home in Swedesboro, Gloucester County. The family alleges an organ procurement group wanted Keith's organs even though, they said, he was no longer a donor. Joe Warner, for NJ.com

Keith Lott's driver's license said he wasn't an organ donor. That wasn't good enough for N.J.-based organ procurement group, his family says.

Karin Price Mueller NJ.com

His family gathered around his hospital bed. Machines were purring. Beeping. They were keeping Keith Lott alive. Lott, a husband, father, son and beloved uncle, was brain dead, doctors told the family after a series of tests over several days in May. "In the room, they were showing us on the monitor, the scan of his brain and everything," said Johnny Lott, Keith's father, his voice trembling slightly with fresh grief. "You could see there was no activity." Keith's family was devastated, but they understood. They braced themselves and prepared to disconnect Keith from the machines. To say goodbye. But then two strangers said no. They couldn't let Keith go. They said the family was not in charge. Instead, Keith was under their charge. And they were going to keep him alive until they could harvest his



Keith Lott's driver's license shows he was not an organ donor. Courtesy Lott Family

organs for donation. "I said, 'Hold up,'" said Keith's brother, Alex Lott. "He's Muslim. Religion trumps everything." It was the start of an agonizing two-day standoff over Keith's body parts. Representatives from NJ Sharing Network, an organ procurement group that's being investigated by a congressional committee for alleged "fraud, cover-ups, and illegal practices" after whistleblower

claims, insisted that Keith was an organ donor. What the family says happened next exposes a dark side of the organ donation system and further intensifies accusations that the organ procurement group uses aggressive, ethically-suspect and even illegal tactics to meet its mission. Or as a congressional letter to NJ Sharing Network put it late last year, alleged actions **SEE SPECIAL REPORT, A6**

NEW BRUNSWICK

Officer will not be charged in fatal shooting of woman

No indictment by grand jury. Victim had approached police with knife, authorities say.

Nicolas Fernandes NJ.com

A state grand jury has declined to charge a police officer in the fatal shooting of a woman who walked towards officers with a knife last summer. Deborah Terrell, 68, of New Brunswick, was fatally shot by New Brunswick Police Officer Josue Plaza at an apartment building on Aug. 8, 2025. Plaza fired his service weapon as Terrell advanced towards police with the knife, authorities said. Following deliberations on Monday, the grand jury concluded that Plaza will not be indicted. Authorities were initially called to the apartment building on Neilson Street around 4 a.m. for a report of a woman disturbing other residents. New Brunswick police officers tried to make contact with Terrell, but she refused to speak with officers or open her door, officials said. Police were called back to the apartment building at 7:32 a.m. A person who called 911 said Terrell was walking in and out of her apartment with large knife and threatening neighbors, according to a 911 recording released by the Attorney General's Office. She said that Terrell threatened a neighbor and tried putting the knife under his door, according to the recording. The caller said this was the second time Terrell had acted this way, having threatened a neighbor earlier the same morning. Body worn camera recordings released by the state showed Terrell answering the door with a long knife as police arrived. She quickly closed the door as police told her to put the knife down, the recordings showed. Terrell told police that another person was in the apartment with her, authorities said. For about eight minutes, officers attempted to convince Terrell to come into the hall and talk to them as she yelled from inside the apartment and periodically slid the knife back and forth under the door, recordings showed. Eventually, Terrell opened the door, holding the knife when officers deployed pepper spray and a conducted energy device, which is more commonly known by the brand name TASER, the recordings showed. She initially turned back into the apartment, but then advanced toward the officers who continued using pepper spray and a conducted energy device, the body



NEWS

New event space

American Dream mall opens performing arts center, event venue. **A7**

NEWS

Best value colleges

A ranking of New Jersey colleges compares values after tuition aid. **A8**

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

3rd person sentenced in N.J. plot to steal cancer meds

Man helped move over \$47M in medications using three doctors' licenses, prosecutors say.

Jana Cholakovska NJ.com

The box of drugs looked like any other shipment bound for a doctor's oncology practice, waiting to reach patients. But they never got to those who needed them, according to court records. Instead they were diverted — by a sign on the doctor's office door in Union — down the hall to another company, part of a scheme to resell the medication at a profit. Frank Incognito, 46, of Englishtown,

was sentenced last week to two and a half years in federal prison for his role, prosecutors announced Tuesday. As operations manager of the Sewaren, Middlesex County, drug wholesaler at the center of the scheme, he helped move more than \$47.7 million in cancer and eye medications over roughly seven years. Three New Jersey doctors let Incognito and others order the medications in their names, using their medical licenses, prosecutors said. That made it look like the drugs were headed for the doctors' own patients. In fact, they were bound for resale. The scheme ran from June 2012 through January 2019, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. Incognito worked as operations manager for VRC Medical Services and Investigational Drug Delivery, two Sewaren

corporations that distributed prescription drugs at wholesale. The drugs were mostly cold-chain biologic infusion medications, used to treat cancers, macular degeneration and autoimmune diseases. Such drugs have to be kept refrigerated at every step — from the factory to the patient. Manufacturers tightly control who can buy them, in part to keep the drugs safe and to ensure an adequate supply for cancer patients, according to court records. Only a licensed doctor purchasing for their own patients could obtain them at the lower prices. That's where the doctors — including oncologist Anise Kachadourian in Union — came in. **SEE MIDDLESEX COUNTY, A2**