



TIME TO REGROUP

AFTER A JAW-DROPPING UPSET IN THEIR SEASON OPENER, HERE ARE 11 AREAS THE SCARLET KNIGHTS NEED TO ADDRESS TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS IN THE SEASON'S REMAINING 11 GAMES. **F2**



ESSEX COUNTY

Over 1,100 sign petition opposing warehouse in residential area



Nutley resident Bill Ronzitti stands across Washington Avenue from the site of a proposed 25,000-square-foot warehouse, where a branch and former home office of the Proponent Federal Credit Union now stand vacant and would be demolished. Ronzitti was among more than 1,100 people who signed a Change.org petition opposing the warehouse project. *Steve Strunsky, NJ.com*

Pollution, safety and noise from truck traffic among concerns with proposal in Nutley.

Steve Strunsky NJ.com

For many residents of Nutley, the hometown of global lifestyle doyen Martha Stewart, a warehouse that would draw large trucks to a residential neighborhood is not, to borrow the phrase she made famous, a good thing.

And opponents of the plan concerned about pedestrian safety, pollution, noise, glare and other problems from truck traffic include more than 1,100 signatories to

a petition calling on officials of the Essex County suburb to reject a proposal for a 25,000-square-foot facility on Washington Avenue.

“This development poses a significant threat to the fabric of our lives,” states the Change.org petition, which was posted by Lisa Goldfeder, who lives with her husband in the Cambridge Heights townhouse complex adjacent to the proposed warehouse site.

“This development would introduce incessant noise, an increase in truck traffic, and pollution filled air from the exhaust of countless vehicles,” the petition adds. “These trucks wouldn’t just affect our peace and quiet; they could also significantly impact our property values.”

Bill Ronzitti, a retired public schools

superintendent who lives on nearby Wilmington Drive, said trucks in and out of the warehouse threatened pedestrians including students at the Abundant Life Academy, a parochial school on Washington Avenue a quarter mile south of the site.

“It’s not ‘a good thing,’” Ronzitti said of the proposal, borrowing Stewart’s phrase. “People here are galvanized behind this issue in a manner that I have never seen in the 28 years that I have lived in Nutley.”

Ronzitti was among the opponents of the warehouse proposal by Bergen County developer Galaxy Invest Inc. who packed a Nutley Township Planning Board meeting Wednesday night.

The board held off on a vote on the project to give members more time to review

SEE NUTLEY, A2

BERGEN COUNTY

‘Shocking’ week for team after whistle blown on field

Ridgewood’s Stadium Field shut down after failing safety tests.

PJ Potter NJ.com

Torre Watson surveyed the equipment on Ridgewood’s team buses and made sure his team had everything it needed for a mid-week practice.

Duffel bags filled with footballs? Check. Shoulder pads? Check. Yellow scrimmage caps? Check. And, of course, 63 varsity players. Watson, Ridgewood’s head football

coach, readied his team for an indoor practice 12 minutes from the high school at Superdome Sports in Waldwick while rain fell on Wednesday night.

It was a week of uncertainty, questions and few answers since Ridgewood learned Aug. 27 that the turf at its Stadium Field was unplayable. Failed GMAX tests forced the school district to shut down the field for the rest of the fall. The football program suddenly no longer had a home for games or practices. Senior Day, Homecoming weekend and other traditions suddenly vanished.

Senior quarterback Gavin McCrone said he and his teammates were shocked.

“Everything we have gone through has helped us prepare for a football game,” Watson said. “We’ve been given opportunities to respond to something adverse. Our guys have been resilient.”

Ridgewood seemed unfazed as it dominated in a season-opening 42-7 win at Montclair on Saturday. But when the team got back home from that game, the questions on everyone’s mind came to the forefront: where was Ridgewood going to play the rest of the year? With its first home game scheduled Sept. 4 against Hackensack, where will it go?

On Monday, Watson’s team went

SEE RIDGEWOOD, A4

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Spending spree ends with crypto ring charged in \$240M theft

Man renting apartment in N.J. among 3 who targeted victim, federal prosecutors say. In total, 17 people are charged.

Michael Kunzelman Associated Press

They pulled off one of the largest cryptocurrency thefts in U.S. history, duping a stranger out of bitcoin worth over \$240 million. They tried to hide their digital fingerprints, carrying out a sophisticated scheme to launder the proceeds.

And then the party started.

The scammers — a network of young men in their late teens or early 20s — celebrated the August 2024 heist by embarking on a wild spending spree. They purchased fleets of sports cars, flew on private jets, hired security guards and rented mansions in Miami and the Hamptons. An alleged ringleader, 22-year-old Malone Lam, spent over \$569,000 in one evening at a Los Angeles night club.

Their bender lasted a month before FBI agents arrested Lam on charges that he organized a “social engineering” attack on the Washington, D.C., resident. Lam, an eighth-grade dropout from Singapore, has a plea agreement hearing set for today. His conviction would be a capstone for the government’s investigation.

The charges against Lam and 17 others are an extreme example of an increasingly common form of cybercrime. Complaints of cryptocurrency investment fraud to the FBI rose by nearly 50% in 2025, while Republican President Donald Trump’s administration largely abandoned a regulatory crackdown on the volatile industry.

Last year, the Justice Department disbanded a unit dedicated to prosecuting crypto-related crimes. Meanwhile, crypto companies that complained of unfair treatment during Democratic President Joe Biden’s presidency are enjoying the government’s hands-off approach under Trump, who took in roughly \$1.2 billion from his crypto businesses in 2025.

Cybersecurity researcher Allison Nixon, who has spent years tracking The Com, an underground subculture of young hackers united by the “insane amount of money” that crypto fraud can generate, advocates for more law enforcement resources to go after them.

“If we don’t seriously ramp up the

SEE CRYPTO, A2

NEWS

Caldwell investigated

The state Republican Party is calling for N.J.’s lieutenant governor to resign. **A3**

NEWS

Blueprint for peace

A Q&A with Mayor Ras Baraka on reducing violence in Newark. **A7**

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