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McIlroy holds on at British Open, B1

Trenton Post ends 20-year drought in districts, B1

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Breaking the cycle of violence



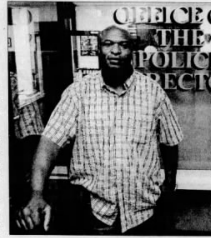
PHOTOS BY MARTIN GRIFF/THE TIMES
From left, The College of New Jersey Professor Sandy Gibson, Trenton Police Detective Alexis Durlacher and Rutgers University-Camden Professor Louis Tubitt talk to a reporter about the Trenton Violence Reduction Strategy at Trenton Police Headquarters on July 15.

Program trades the law's fist for a helping hand

By Keith Brown
STAFF WRITER

TRENTON — Like many little boys growing up in his north Trenton neighborhood in the late 1980s, 8-year-old Kyle wanted to be a drug dealer when he grew up.
Dealers had money. Dealers had nice cars. Dealers had, in an 8-year-old's mind, everything.
"They were the ones you went to when you needed a couple of dollars for the store, or go to the movies," said Kyle, now 33. "That was what was in front of you. That's what was out there. I didn't know there was anything else."
Kyle, who declined to give his last name, fulfilled his childhood dream. But he found out the hard way it wasn't

all that glamorous. He has an arm's-length rap sheet and spent seven years in prison for conspiracy to commit murder. He's been shot five times.
Today, Kyle is an apprentice electrician, holds a steady job and dreams of opening his own business. He credits a new, state-funded social-services program for his success and his new outlook.
The Trenton Violence Reduction Strategy program is the \$1.1 million carrot in a multiagency focus on reducing gun violence. But unlike two other punishment-centric initiatives started by the State Police and the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office, the TVRS program is a helping hand to those with the drive



SEE VIOLENCE, PAGE A10
Abdul Muhammad, a reformed convict, is outreach coordinator for the Trenton Violence Reduction Strategy. He is seen here at Trenton Police Headquarters on July 15.



PHOTO ABOVE BY ALEX HINDASH/STAR LEADER
Campy's Amusements runs the annual Galton Fireman's Carnival on July 2. Inset: Keith Campanello, owner of Campy's Amusements, notes that lingering economic woes have been good for his business. "We're coming to people's backyards. ... It's like the highlight of the summer," he said. Below, Rob Vivona, co-owner of Amusements of America — one of the country's largest mobile entertainment companies — at the state fair in the Meadowlands July 3.
PHOTO BELOW BY SAIED HINDASH/STAR LEADER

By Lisa Rose | STAR LEADER

Wearing an orange prison jumpsuit and a clown mask, Steven Occhipinti of Cliffside Park looks a bit like Hannibal Lecter-meets-Ronald McDonald. He's sitting in a cage, nodding his head to hip-hop and cackling with wicked glee into a

Weary of stereotypes, midway operators have made their business a family affair

microphone.
Occhipinti is the star of a touring carnival game called Drown the Clown. It's essentially a dunk tank, challenging fairgoers to throw a ball at a target to knock Occhipinti off his perch while he insults them.
"Hey, Biggie Smalls," he shouts at an overweight man prepping to throw.
The man hurls the ball and it smacks the bulls-eye, sending Occhipinti plummeting into the water.
Instead of returning to his seat, Occhipinti swivels his head, clutches the bars of the cage and channels Gene Kelly.
SEE CARNIVAL, PAGE A07



Politics abhors a nonpartisan district map

In a Legislature that has shown little interest in improving the way New Jersey's government is elected, organized and funded, it's news when a leader of either major political party proposes a major change in one of those areas.
Last week, Assembly Minority Leader Jon Bramnick (R-Union) did just that, calling for a constitutional amendment to require that when the legislative map is redrawn, the mapmakers create as many competitive districts as possible.
It's safe to bet that nothing will change as a result — and the reason, basically, lies in the way New Jersey's government is elected, organized and funded. Nevertheless, Bramnick has identified an area that definitely needs improvement.
The GOP lawmaker justified his proposal by claiming that the Legislature's Democratic majority has gone overboard with its investigation of the Christie administration's Bridgegate scandal and should return to pursuing a true "reform agenda." Whatever the truth of that partisan allegation might be, he's right that more Election Day competition would be a good thing.
"Gov. (Tom) Keane once said that most people want you



AP FILE PHOTO
James Garner dies
The actor, who had TV hits with "Maverick" and "The Rockford Files" and an Oscar nomination for "Murphy's Romance," was 90. Page A6.

Restoration back on track for a piece of city's history

Council sets aside \$15,600 for Delaware Inn project

By Jenna Pizzi
STAFF WRITER
TRENTON — On Lambertson Street, an agot brick building with peeling paint sits surrounded by well-manicured lawns and a sea of condominiums. But the old building may be closer to having new life, thanks to an effort by the city of Trenton.
The City Council passed a resolution approving more than \$15,600 toward an ongoing restoration project for the historic Delaware Inn, which began in 2007.
The work was temporarily derailed in 2011 due to a lack of funding from the

city. The plan is to eventually restore the building so that it can be home to a museum and visitors center.
Two phases of the project already have been completed and the third phase, expected to take about eight months, will secure the building's third floor and repair damage caused by a small electrical fire, said Melanie Rodbart, a principal of J&M Preservation Studios, the firm contracting with the city on the project.
Rodbart said the building has come a long way since the city embarked on the restoration.
"It was a disaster," Rodbart said.
SEE RESTORE, PAGE A07



AP PHOTO
The historic Delaware Inn, built in the late 1700s, was a centerpiece of the riverfront port in Lambertson, now a part of Trenton's South Ward.