

MUSICAL ABOUT HADDONFIELD IN COLONIAL TIMES GETS RARE STAGING, IN SOUTH JERSEY

# STILL THE 1

TOP-RANKED EASTERN REPELS NO. 2 BISHOP EUSTACE, **IN SPORTS**



# COURIER-POST

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Tuesday, October 1, 2013

# Deadline passes with no deal

Senate rejects House bid to delay Obamacare

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government was on the brink of a partial shutdown Monday after the Democratic-led Senate and Republican-controlled House both refused to back down in a clash over scaling back President Barack Obama's landmark health care law as the price for

essential federal funding.

On a long day and night in the Capitol, the Senate torpedoed one Republican attempt to tie government financing to changes in the law known as "Obamacare." House Republicans countered with a second bill despite unmistakable signs their unity was fraying — and Senate Democrats stood by to reject it.

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» N.J. GOP members defend their stance.  
» What will, won't change with shutdown.

» Budget fights and past shutdowns, avoided and real.

"We're at the brink," said Sen. Barbara Mikulski, a Democrat, as House Republican leaders calculated their next move.

The stock market dropped on fears that political gridlock between the White

House and House Republicans would prevail, though analysts suggested significant damage to the national economy was unlikely unless a shutdown lasted more than a few days.

Still, a shutdown would send hundreds of thousands of workers home and inconvenience millions of people who rely on federal services or are drawn to the nation's parks and other attractions.

See SHUTDOWN, Page 5A

BLACKWOOD LAKE DRAINED TO FIND DAM LEAK

# STUCK IN MUCK



Gary Alles of Gloucester Township stands on his back deck that overlooks Blackwood Lake, which was drained so that the lake's dam could be repaired. CHRIS LACHALL/COURIER-POST

The water  
is 'toxic,'  
one  
resident  
said

By William Sokolic  
Courier-Post

GLoucester Twp. — You wouldn't know it from the view off the back deck of Gary Alles' house, but Blackwood Lake once teemed with fish, boaters and kayakers.

Kids would reel in sunnies and carp.

Today, Alles looks out at pockets of water scattered amid islands of sediment, scum and algae. Broken tree limbs are imbedded in muck. Yet minnows still flit to and fro and ducks frolic in what water remains.

"It used to be eight feet deep," said Alles, 71.

On orders from the state Department of Environmental Protection, Gloucester Township drained most of the lake in an effort to safely locate and repair a leak in a dam.

See LAKE, Page 6A

# Suit puts Mt. Laurel Walmart on hold

Easement is at issue through motel property

By Carol Comegno  
Courier-Post Staff

MOUNT HOLLY — A lawsuit is delaying development of a Walmart Supercenter on Route 73 in Mount Laurel.

FMW RRI II LLC, a real estate owner-ship company, is suing the township planning board and the Walmart developer over property easements for access to the Walmart site through land occu-

pied by the Red Roof Inn at 603 Fellowship Road.

FMW attorney James Maley Jr. is seeking to nullify approval for the Walmart because the Red Roof property is owned by his client and not by Red Roof Inn.

He said while Red Roof Inn Inc. may have agreed to easements and other conditions with the developer, Mount Laurel Development LLC, his client never agreed to or signed any document.

According to a 2010 letter, Red Roof agreed to receive \$200,000 for roadway easements to the Walmart store.

Maley also said subsequent variance changes made to the approval in 2012 for Walmart overflow parking and trash enclosures at the Red Roof Inn were made without his client's consent.

"Red Roof Inn is not the same company as my clients and they are not the property owner," he told Superior Court Judge Karen Suter on Monday.

Stephen Tatonetti, the developer's lawyer, said both Red Roof and FMW seem to have some of the same principals and addresses.

See WALMART, Page 6A

# Appel Farm drops its festival

Arts center to focus on eliminating deficit

By Joseph P. Smith  
Daily Journal

ELMER — Appel Farm Arts & Music Center, hit by the loss of about \$1 million in recent years, has put its long-running summer arts and music festival "on hiatus."

The Salem County nonprofit also has stepped away as manager of the Landis Theater in Vineland, a departure that could cause the 740-seat performance hall to go dark.

The changes will claim the jobs of about five full- and part-time workers, including a few hired to help at the Landis Theater, said the center's executive director, Loren Thomas.

Appel Farm's tax returns show mounting deficits in recent years.

Expenses exceeded revenues by about \$271,000 in 2009, followed by deficits of \$343,000 in 2010 and \$427,000 in 2011, tax records show. The center's 2012 tax return was unavailable.

Records also show the center's former longtime leader, Mark Packer, took a pay cut of more than \$5,000 — to \$126,000 in 2011 — before being succeeded by Thomas.

Without the time-consuming festival, the center can concentrate on two profit-making programs, said board president Denise Hayman-Loa. She cited Appel Farm's summer camp, which this year drew more than 400 children to the 176-acre complex, and a business that provides music and arts courses on a contract basis to public schools.

Hayman-Loa said the decision to cancel the summer festival has not yet been officially announced.

See FESTIVAL, Page 6A



Variety performer Jerry Brown and his monkey, Django, perform at Appel Farm. COURIER-POST FILE

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