



Cardinals oust Phillies 1-0, B1

Hun rolls past Lawrenceville in football, B3

The Times

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FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY



PHOTOS BY MARTIN GRIFF / THE TIMES

The Princeton-based Coalition for Peace Action marked the 10th anniversary of the beginning of the Afghanistan war with a rally on the steps of the Statehouse in Trenton yesterday. At top, one protester bows his head as others hold signs calling for troops to be brought home from Iraq and Afghanistan. At left, "Occupy Wall Street" demonstrators, who have been stationed across from the Statehouse since Thursday calling for economic justice, walk across West State Street to join the peace activists. Above, Jeremy Sypniewski of Trenton uses a laptop computer to stream live video of 2-year-old Maple Lin of Freehold as she holds up her own tiny protest sign.

TRENTON TRANSITIONAL AID

2010 \$27 million | **2011** \$22 million

Trenton gets \$22M from state

Transitional aid down \$5 million — but is enough, with cuts, to fill gap

By Alex Zdan
STAFF WRITER

TRENTON — The city has been awarded \$22 million in state transitional aid to help balance its budget, but the full funding comes with strings attached, including a three-member committee that will oversee hiring decisions by Mayor Tony Mack, the state Department of Community Affairs said yesterday.

Though several million dollars less than the city requested, the money, combined with \$2 million in pension cost savings, will close Trenton's budget gap, chief financial consultant David Rousseau said last night.

The award depends on the Legislature releasing aid money restored by Gov. Chris Christie this summer.

And Mack chafed at the idea of an oversight committee that would have veto power over his hiring decisions, especially when one of the members will be picked by city council.

"It is illegal for city council to have a say in executive functions," he said. "You can't do that," he added. "It would be equivalent to me approving the budget. I can't do it."

His administration will express its displeasure to the

DCA, Mack said.

"We don't agree with that, so we have to come up with another plan," he said.

Trenton will share \$117 million in transitional aid with Camden, Paterson, Union and Lawnside, the DCA said.

The long-anticipated transitional aid award, which the city applied for Sept. 2, is less than the \$25.6 million requested. But savings from pension reforms enacted this summer combined with the aid is enough to balance the city's books, Rousseau said.

"The combination of the \$22 million in transitional aid plus the little more than \$2 million of pension aid that wasn't anticipated on Sept. 1 will make us whole," he said.

In a letter to Mack announcing the aid award, Tom Neff, director of DCA's Division of Local Government Services, said acceptance of the full \$22 million is contingent on acceptance of the committee, which would seek a permanent business administrator "and experienced department leaders" for the city. Fifteen months into his term, Mack has never had a full cabinet, and many of the directors and acting directors have left or

SEE TRENTON, PAGE A07

Former Assembly speaker Doria quietly cleared of corruption

Once-powerful Dem saw career crumble with '09 Dwek sweep

By Ted Sherman and Matt Friedman
STAR-LEDGER



JOSEPH V. DORIA JR.

More than two years after he awoke to an FBI search warrant in connection with a sweeping corruption investigation, Joseph Doria — who was forced to step down as head of the state Department of Community Affairs — has quietly been cleared of any wrongdoing.

In a rare letter from the U.S. Attorney's Office, federal prosecutors said they have closed their investigation of the matter.

"Based on the evidence of which we are currently aware, no charges will be brought by this office regarding the circumstances that led to the search," Assistant U.S. Attorney James Nobile said in the Sept. 7 letter to Doria's attorney, John Azzarello of Chatham.

A spokeswoman for U.S.

Attorney Paul Fishman would not discuss the matter or the letter, which was obtained by The Star-Ledger.

"We do not comment on private communications to counsel," Rebekah Carmichael said.

Doria declined comment.

A former Democratic Assembly speaker and longtime mayor of Bayonne, Doria was a member of Gov. Jon Corzine's cabinet when his home was raided in the early-morning hours on July 23, 2009, by

SEE DORIA, PAGE A07

New Jersey roads see safest year in decades

State observes a day stressing driver care, while auto groups cite fewer miles driven

By Christopher Baxter
STATEHOUSE BUREAU
and Alex Zdan
STAFF WRITER

EWING — The violent crash that ended Kenneth Herbst's life came at 12:40 p.m., on Friday, Oct. 15 of last year.

Herbst made an abrupt left turn from Rockleigh Drive onto Pennington Road, into the path of a Senior Star bus. According to the police report of the collision, the left front of the bus slammed into the driver's side of the station wagon driven by the 64-year-old Ewing resident, sending the vehicle skidding across the southbound lanes of Pennington and off the roadway. The bus spun around and ended up angled across Charles Ewing Boulevard, where it had flipped onto its right side.

The driver of the empty bus had to be cut out by firefighters and spent three days in the hospital. Herbst died from what authorities said was massive head and facial trauma.

Herbst is one of 556 people who died while driving in New

FATALITY FACTS

New Jersey roads saw their lowest number of fatalities since the 1940s — a fifth straight year of decline.

Most dangerous month: July
Most dangerous hour: 3-4 p.m. on a Friday
Most dangerous weather: Heavy rain

2010 TRAFFIC DEATHS
556 total people killed

Drunken drivers: 102
Motorcycle riders: 72
Pedestrians hit: 141

SOURCE: N.J. STATE POLICE



PHOTOS BY MARTIN GRIFF/THE TIMES

Traffic travels along Route 31 at the Rockleigh Drive/Charles Ewing Boulevard intersection in Ewing yesterday. The intersection was the scene of a deadly crash a year ago, below.



Jersey during the last year, 20 of them in Mercer County. They are the reason the state will again observe the national "Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day" this Monday, a day of

awareness that encourages motorists to observe traffic laws, drive safely and buckle up to keep roads fatality free, even if just for one day.

"Clearly, this effort will go

a long way in our continuing efforts to stem the tide of tragedies that occur every day on New Jersey's roadways," New Jersey Attorney General Paul

SEE FATALITIES, PAGE A07