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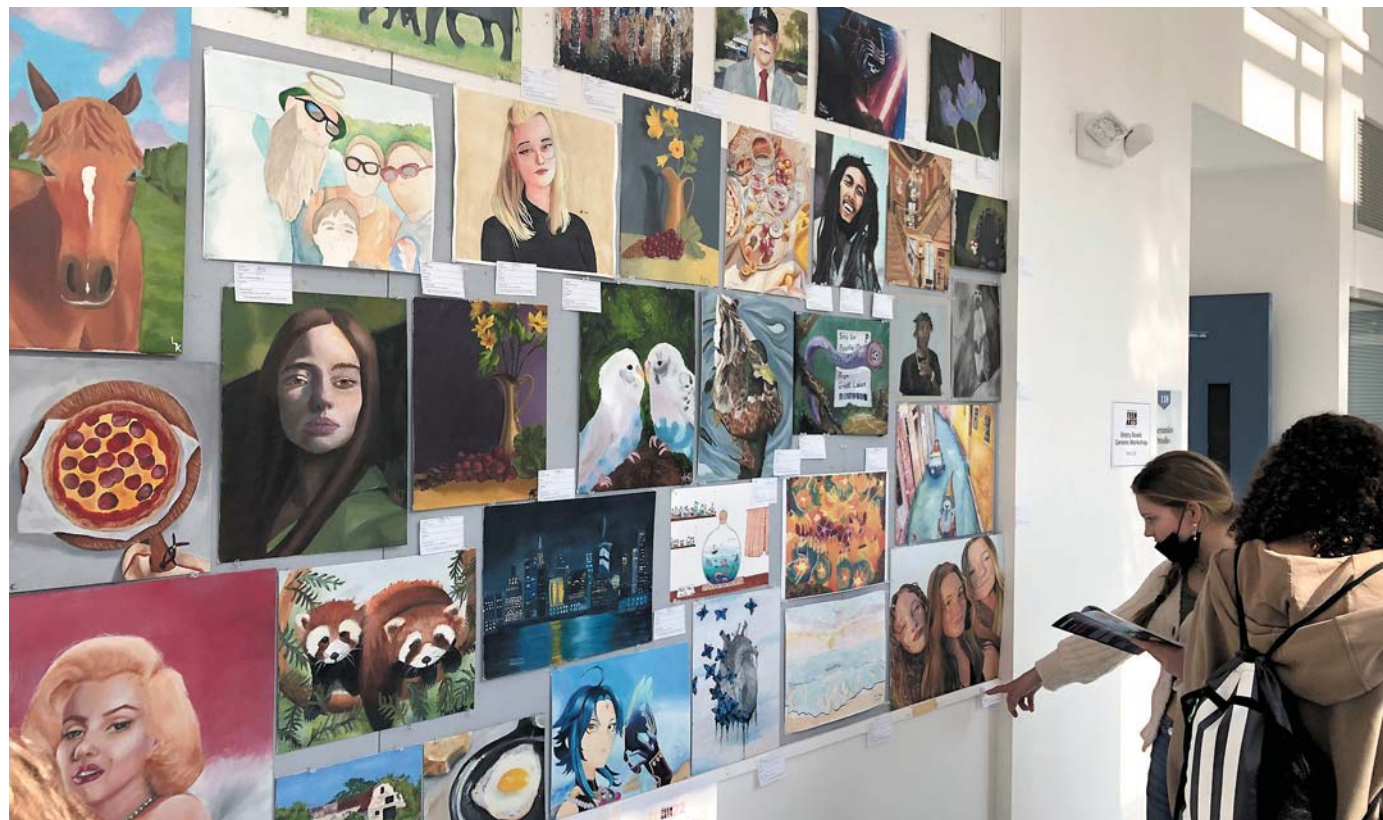
# THE TWO RIVER TIMES

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THE WEEK OF MARCH 24 - 30, 2022

ONE DOLLAR



GLORIA STRAVELLI

The Monmouth Arts Teen Arts Festival, held March 17-18 at Brookdale Community College, celebrated all genres, including art, music, acting and more. See page 16 for more photos and details.

## Two River Towns Combating ‘Range Anxiety’ for Electric Vehicles

By Chris Rotolo

OCEANPORT – If inflation rates, a global health crisis and the threat of a world war weren’t enough to trigger your stress levels, the idea of “range anxiety” might just do the trick if you happen to own an electric vehicle, or are mulling over the notion of acquiring one. “Range anxiety” can happen in a gas-powered vehicle, too, but the most modern connotation refers to

the fear of having an insufficient charge in an electric battery, leaving the driver unable to travel the distance to their destination. It’s a dread Gov. Phil Murphy hoped to quell in July 2021 when he signed into law a statewide electric vehicle ordinance, providing the state’s 565 municipalities a blueprint to pre-

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## Navigating Life’s Challenges With Help From Lunch Break

By Judy O’Gorman Alvarez

SHREWSBURY – Lunch Break, the Red Bank-based nonprofit, has offered a hot meal, a warm smile and maybe a fresh set of clothing to those in need for years. But what many may not realize is its Life Skills Program also offers business and life advice, guidance and emotional support.

The program, with an office on Route 35, provides an array of services from GED prep referrals, credit counseling, legal referrals and more to participants to help them secure and maintain meaningful employment. Partnering with local businesses, coaches also help identify and fill appropriate job opening to the benefit of both participant and employer.

The goal of the program, according to Eleanor Herdeen, Life Skills coordinator, is to reduce the number of people that may need to rely on Lunch Break for services.

“Our program is very different for every person that comes in,” she said. “So it’s not, you show up every Monday for five weeks



JUDY O’GORMAN ALVAREZ

From left, Eleanor Herdeen, Life Skills Program coordinator, Mary Ann LaSardo, operations manager, and Kathy Welch, Life Skills coach, help program participants find the training and skills for success in life. The program is offered through Lunch Break.

and then you get a life skills certificate. The program is really whatever you want it to be and need it to be for however long you need us.”

Some participants have been working with coaches for three years and achieving milestones and making a difference in their lives.

The Life Skills Program has over 160 participants

that come from all walks of life and a range of educational levels. Some are experiencing challenges including homelessness; many could use help in finding ways to meet their basic needs.

Even before a participant can land a job interview, there are often fundamental obstacles to overcome.

Mary Ann LaSardo, operations manager for the Life Skills Program, said help with creating a résumé is usually not the first item on a to-do list. “I tell people you need three things first: you need an address, you need child care and you need transportation.”

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## Personnel Changes Lead Fort Monmouth News

By Laura D.C. Kolnoski

FORT MONMOUTH – Tributes to the late Robert “Bob” Lucky, Ph.D., took precedence at the monthly meeting of the Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Authority (FMERA), held via teleconference March 16. Lucky, 86, the agency’s chairman, died March 10 at home.

The longtime Fair Haven resident had directed FMERA’s monthly meetings since assuming the chairman’s role in 2017, frequently explaining details of the fort’s redevelopment and the authority’s actions to voting members and the public.

Oceanport Mayor Jay Coffey, who chaired the meeting, called Lucky “incredibly bright, gracious and a great speaker who always kept his cool. He has been instrumental in guiding the growth of Fort Monmouth. He’s the type

of guy I want to be when I grow up.”

A noted engineer, inventor, author, lecturer and more, Lucky’s involvement with Fort Monmouth’s redevelopment began in 2007 when he was appointed chairman of the Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Planning Authority (FMERPA), by then Gov. Chris Christie. When FMERPA completed its planning mission and disbanded in 2010, Lucky continued serving as a board member, vice-chairman, and interim chairman with its successor, FMERA.

“Dr. Lucky’s two adult children told me how much pride and respect he had working on FMERPA and FMERA,” Bruce Steadman, FMERA executive director, said. “He appreciated his involvement until the week he passed.”

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## THE NJ VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL AND VIETNAM ERA MUSEUM

By Melissa Ziobro

HOLMDEL – March 29 is known as National Vietnam War Veterans Day because on that date in 1973, the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) disbanded and the last U.S. combat troops departed the Republic of Vietnam.

The Department of Veterans Affairs recently noted that more than 9 million Americans served in the military during the Viet-



JILLIAN DECKER

NJ Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial in Holmdel.

nam War era – from Nov. 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975. The National Archives show 58,220 U.S. military fatalities during the Vietnam War. But some 6 million of the men and women who served during this era are still living.

How do we honor those we lost? Remember those who served and were forever changed by their in-

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TEEN ARTS  
 FESTIVAL  
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