



## H.S. football

St. Joseph runs wild on Millville, and a two-point conversion puts Bridgeton over Atlantic City in Saturday action. **B1**

### EAGLES PREVIEW

Two of Andy Reid's disciples go head to head Sunday in Eagles coach Doug Pederson and Ravens coach John Harbaugh. **B1**

## Experts mixed on virus' effect on domestic violence

In August, Robert Declimenti, 36, was charged with murder in the death of his wife, Rachel, in their Brigantine home.



MOLLY BILINSKI / STAFF WRITER

**MOLLY BILINSKI**  
Staff Writer

**BRIGANTINE** — A purple ribbon tied around a telephone pole was all that remained Friday of a memorial for Rachel Declimenti, a 30-year-old woman officials allege was killed by her husband in August in the city home they shared.

Shortly after her death, a poster

was attached to the pole in front of her seafoam blue home in the first block of Girard Place, and flowers were placed around it. The poster read "No community is immune to domestic violence" and "Rest in peace Rachel," along with the phone number for Avanzar, formerly the Women's Center.

Neighbors described Rachel as kind and friendly, and spoke about her efforts to plant flowers

and spruce up her house during stay-at-home orders earlier this year mandated by state officials to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Even though they didn't know too much about her aside from neighborly chitchat, several said her death was a shocking tragedy.

Experts worried in the spring that instances of domestic vio-

See **DOMESTIC**, A2

## ELECTION 2020

### Electoral College has big role to play

**VINCENT JACKSON**  
Staff Writer

Most adults living in this country know divisiveness defines the current political landscape.

But this isn't the first time the various political leaders in America could not all agree on one thing.

The creation of the Electoral College, the body that votes to choose the person who will serve as president and vice president of the United States, was created via a compromise during the Constitutional Convention in 1787 in Philadelphia, said Claire Abernathy, an assistant professor of political science at Stockton University.

Fifty-five delegates from 12 of the 13 states at that time came from across the country and gathered to develop the Constitution, Abernathy said.

"Initially, they decided Congress would appoint the president, but they weren't entirely satisfied with that. It didn't have a clear separation between the branches of the government that way," Abernathy said. "So, as a compromise, they developed the Electoral College."

The Electoral College has representatives from each state, who are not members of Congress, who are appointed as electors. They cast their state's votes for president and vice president.

"That is the mechanism that determines who wins the presidency and the vice presidency," Abernathy said.

The number of electors in each state is based on the number of representatives in the House of Representatives plus two people representing the two senators, Abernathy said. A person needs 270 electoral votes to be named president.

New Jersey's 14 electors will meet during the afternoon of Dec. 14 at the State Capitol in Trenton, Abernathy said. Electors are usually party loyalists, activists, or local or state elected officials, she said.

See **ELECTORAL**, A5



Congressman Jeff Van Drew, R-2nd, and Democratic challenger Amy Kennedy debate Oct. 8 in the Fannie Lou Hamer Room at Stockton University's Atlantic City campus.

EDWARD LEA / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## All eyes on 2

### Congressional contest between Jeff Van Drew, Amy Kennedy among nation's most watched

MICHELLE BRUNETTI POST | STAFF WRITER

**F**or the first time in decades, the race for the House of Representatives in New Jersey's 2nd Congressional District is one of the nation's hottest and most closely watched.

Congressman Jeff Van Drew, R-2nd, 67, of Dennis Township, is facing Democratic challenger Amy Kennedy, 41, of Brigantine.

Kennedy is a former Northfield school teacher and mother of five who is married to Patrick J. Kennedy, the former Rhode Island congressman who is the son of the late Sen. Ted Kennedy. She has never been elected to any office.

Van Drew has held just about every office in New Jersey government, from township committeeman to freeholder, assemblyman and state senator.

Recent polls show Kennedy ahead by four to six percentage points, but Van Drew questions their accuracy, saying they oversampled Democrats and left-leaning independents.

### VOTER GUIDE 2020

#### INSIDE

A voter's guide to the U.S. Senate race, 2 local House of Representatives contests, plus who's running for county offices and more. **A6-7**

#### ONLINE

For extensive information on local races and more, visit [PressofAC.com](http://PressofAC.com).

Political experts say a House member is most vulnerable to being voted out after their freshman term.

Van Drew has been in the national eye since being elected as a moderate Democrat in 2018, and on his first day in office made it clear he would not be in lockstep with his party. He made national news for voting "no" for Nancy Pelosi to be speaker of the House of Representatives.

His independent streak continued with frequent appearances on the conservative Fox network's news

See **HOUSE**, A5



**BACKED UP FOR BAKLAVA:** An Egg Harbor Township church holds a drive-thru version of its annual Greek Festival. **A3**

### 'BAD THINGS HAPPEN IN PHILADELPHIA'

President Trump's infamous debate quote speaks to his campaign's struggles in Pennsylvania. **C1**

### BRUCE IS BACK

With "Letter to You," Springsteen once again gives his audience reason to believe. **C5**

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### FROST INLAND

**HIGH:** 66 **LOW:** 49  
See your South Jersey forecast on **C8**.

