



PHOTO | IVANA AIRO

One of several Trenton Area Soup Kitchen patrons.

# Local Soup Kitchen Serves Up Hope

By Ivana Airo  
Senior Reporter

The latest statistics published by the U.S. Census Bureau reveal that the average percentage of persons living below the poverty line in Trenton from the years 2009 to 2013, is 26.5%. In proportion to its rate of poverty, the city harbors a high number of food insecure individuals, as does Mercer County, of which 11.9% or approximately 43,000 persons, qualify as hungry.

The Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK) has been charged with accommodating the needs of these individuals since 1982.

TASK originated in the basement of a Trenton church, with an initial clientele totaling 60 people. Today, the organization serves approximately five or six thousand meals per week. This statistic does not account for the services of nine satellite sites

located elsewhere in Hightstown, Princeton, Hamilton and Yardville, for example.

Lauren O’Keefe, a student at TCNJ and TASK volunteer, helps the community by bagging food, serving hot meals, and tutoring patrons. When asked why she works with the soup kitchen, O’Keefe said,

“TASK does not receive a lot of government funding, so they have a policy where they feed anybody who is hungry and not just people who meet certain requirements...there’s no questions and anybody who wants to come in can eat”.

The nature of TASKS aid however, is not limited to the provision of meals. States Evie Spadafora, a Resource Development Associate and Volunteer at TASK, “Our mission and focus is to meet people’s basic needs in terms of food and also in terms of making themselves self-sufficient”.

For example, Spadafora’s job responsibilities includes supplying other miscella-

neous needs these individuals might need. A full-time social worker is available to assist with more difficult requests.

The soup kitchen as-sets include a music program, art gallery, lending library and computer courses which teach basic skills like how to use the internet, write an e-mail and apply to jobs online. TASK has also organized an extensive program, led by volunteers, by which patrons can earn their GEDs. In fact, 50-75 students are currently enrolled.

In an interview with the VOICE on November 1, Sharon Horne, a 49-year resident of Trenton and GED student at TASK, said, “Education is what brought me to here”. She continued, her goal was to receive this degree to better her job options.

“TASK helped by getting me into class and to go for my goals. They would support me in anyway when I needed them... they would support my daughter if I

asked for certain things.”

This network of assistance is largely staffed by volunteers, whose numbers total in the thousands. The organization is also supported by donations. Although food is the most common contribution, it is not the only supply given to TASK. Socks, hygiene products, clothing and furniture are also gifted in great number.

“The important part is that what we don’t use we pass on to other organizations we partner with who might be able to connect it with the right person,” Spadafora later explained.

Contributions to TASK are not only made by business but also volunteers. These individuals nearly double in number during the holiday season, from roughly October to January, however quickly decrease afterwards. States Spadafora, “It’s a year round thing [however]. Volunteering and donations need to be year round..the needy do not disappear after

Christmas, they’re still here”

Spadafora also challenged the stereotype that all of TASK’s patrons are homeless. Instead, she says, the largest constituent is the working poor. Often times these individuals who might work 2 or 3 jobs, must still choose between paying an electric bill or buying food. So to satisfy the growing needs of this population, the soup kitchen is undergoing construction for a two-story addition.

Says Dexter Gren, a patron of TASK who belongs to this group of working-class individuals, “Although I’ve never been in any really hard situations...coming in and grabbing a meal is a blessing to me.”

Adds Spadafora, “TASK is much more than just a soup kitchen.”

LEARN MORE  
ABOUT HUNGER IN  
NEW JERSEY ON  
PAGES 6-7.



**TIS' THE SEASON**  
Thanksgiving Traditions and the  
start of the basketball season.  
| PG. 4



**GAMES & CARTOONS:**  
Horoscopes, Sudoku, Classic  
Peanuts | PG. 12

**INDEX:**  
Campus Events .....2  
World & Local Events.....3  
Sports.....5

Art & Entertainment.....9  
Trenton News.....10  
Letter to the Editor .....12



How to overcome stress during finals week

By Ousman Joof  
Senior Reporter

Many college students experience anxiety when at the end of each semester, they must take their finals. After all, juggling normal classwork, a job, and a social life with family and friends can already be difficult; adding a cumulative exam to the task load, one that might make or break your course grade, is enough to cause hysterics.

Of this predicament, first-year nursing major Yoseline Figueroa, said “ finals are stressful because as students we are pressured to do good, so we can pass the class and show how much hard work we have put into the classes”.

When then questioned about her personal exam preparation tactics, Figueroa said, “ I normally try and keep the same routine...by blocking everyone out and concentrating on studying. If I’m feeling really stressful, I take my dog for a walk or take a jog at the park to help refresh my memory”.

Unfortunately, many student like Figueroa feel frazzled without any means of coping. In a recent survey done on the MCCC- West Windsor campus, 23 of 30 students felt

stressed about taking finals.

Luckily, MCCC offers a variety of programs with the purpose of helping students prepare for their exams, relieve stress, and receive counseling in case of emotional distress.

MCCC also offers a tutoring Learning Center upstairs behind the school store in LB 214 and the Science Learning Center is in MS 211. Walk-ins are always welcome. A variety of tutors are available, including peer tutors, in case you feel uncomfortable getting help from a older professionals. In addition, instruction is available for multiple subject areas.

On the week of Nov.30th through Dec. 2nd, Student Government Association (SGA) will be hosting a Spirit Week. The entire week will consist of different-themed days (see list on the bottom for the names and descriptions). SGA also offers yoga on Mondays and Wednesday and Zumba on Tuesday or Thursday at 12pm in the PE building, in case sweating helps relieve your anxiety.

If you still feel stress or even overwhelmed, trained and experienced counselors can be found on the second floor of the Student Center. The Counseling Center is



PHOTO | OUSMAN JOOF

MCCC students in the Learning Center located in LB 214 behind the book store.

open from Monday through Thursday 9am to 7pm and Friday 9am to 5pm. Drop-ins are welcome but appointments are recommended by calling 609-586-4800 extension 3423 or 3410.

In an interview with The VOICE, second-year education student, Ryan Prendergast, gave some advice for first year students to use during their first semester of college.

“Spreading out my studying over a week instead

of cramming the night before was every beneficial to me my first year and eating a good breakfast the morning of the exam felt even better.”

He continued, “Sleep is the most important things you can do before an exam because you don’t want to oversleep and miss your exam nor do you want to be falling asleep while you are taking your exam”.

Just stay relaxed and don’t over think about taking your exams and you’ll do

fine, said Mr. Prendergast.

More information can be found about the Learning Center on:

[http://mccc.edu/student\\_services\\_tutoring.shtml](http://mccc.edu/student_services_tutoring.shtml)

More information can be found the Counseling Center on:

[http://mccc.edu/student\\_services\\_counseling.shtml](http://mccc.edu/student_services_counseling.shtml)

New cafeteria service offers less for more money

By Max Leavitt-Shaffer  
Senior Reporter

Last summer, MCCC administration contracted Lessings Food Service to manage the college’s cafeteria operations. Since then, there have been numerous changes to the kitchen’s policies and meal options which have sparked criticism from both students and faculty.

Lessing’s offers a variety of menu options including breakfast and lunch from the grill, a salad bar, and soups. There is also a sandwich bar that offers made-to-order sandwiches. Although the new menus is different than the old cafeteria options, the quality of the food has caused complaints.

In an interview with The VOICE, David Schafer, the kitchen manager of Lessing’s cafeteria, said, “As far as the menu goes I am changing the menu all the time. I listen for people’s ideas, take their ideas, and go with it.”

The new cafeteria charges two different prices for students and faculty members. If you are a faculty member of Mercer County Community college, you are going to have to pay a higher price. This is because New Jersey law dictates that faculty members have to pay

sales tax in school cafeterias, while students do not.

In a VOICE survey of 20 students, 16 said that the food was overpriced. In that same survey 12 said that they still liked the food, but it was not worth how much it cost.

Commenting on these results, a survey participant said, “You could just go to WaWa instead”.

Indeed, Wawa is less than 2 miles from Mercer County Community College. You can get a 16oz coffee at Wawa for \$1.45, and you can get the same at Lessing’s for \$2.00. You can get a hoagie at Wawa ranging between \$3.39 for the smallest sandwich, to \$8.09 for the largest size with double meat. At Lessing’s you can get a hoagie for \$4.95.

Besides cafeteria management, the Lessings contract also requires the company cater all Mercer events. But, The VOICE has received several reports that the price of the food is extremely high and the quality poor.

One last provision of the Lessing’s contract is their commitment to do renovations to the cafeteria.

Lessing’s website says “When it comes to College Dining Programs, Lessing’s has created an environment that suits any taste... We are committed to a great relationship with the entire

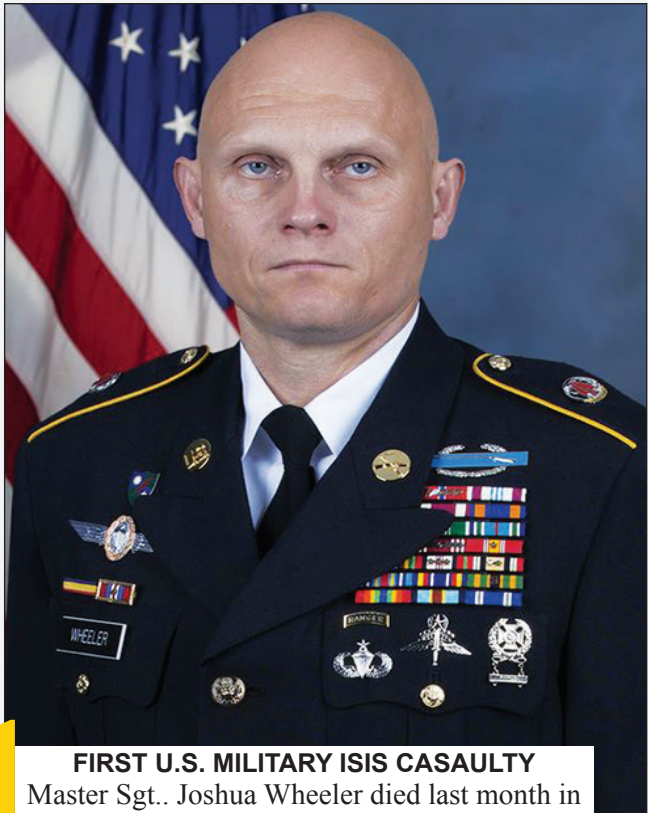
COMPARE		
		
Mercer County Community College		
Menu Item	Our Price	McDonalds
Egg, Cheese, Sausage on Muffin	\$3.25	\$3.39
1/2 lb Burger with Cheese	\$2.80	\$4.29
Fries - medium	\$1.70	\$1.89
Menu Item	Our Price	James Kerney Campus
Soup – Small	\$2.55	\$2.00
Entrée – Protein, Veg & Starch	\$5.00 - \$7.00	\$3.50 - \$7.50
Salad – Grab & Go	\$5.00 – \$5.25	\$4.00 - \$4.50
Menu Item	Our Price	Wawa
Sub Sandwich	\$4.95	\$5.09
Bagel with Cream Cheese	\$1.80	\$1.89
Menu Item	Our Price	Starbucks
Coffee - Medium	\$2.00	\$2.10
		

PHOTO | MAX LEAVITT-SHAFFER

Price comparison chart of West Windsor campus and local restaurants.

student body, faculty, creating a unique flexible the needs of everyone we and staff. This includes program and listening to serve on a daily basis.”





1

FIRST U.S. MILITARY ISIS CASUALTY

Master Sgt.. Joshua Wheeler died last month in a raid on a Islamic State-held compound. The 39-year-old was part of a Special Forces team assigned to help rescue nearly 80 prisoners. The 17-time veteran is survived by a wife and four daughters.

2



BOEHNER SAYS GOODBYE, RYAN HELLO

Former House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, shocked the American public with a surprise announcement of resignation this past October. His decision came on the heels of Pope Francis’ visit to the States. Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., has been officially elected to take his place.

By Noelle Gilman  
Layout & Graphics Editor

3



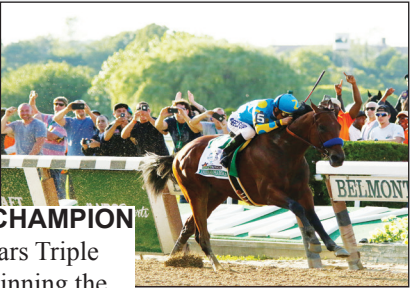
BEER INDUSTRY SET TO CONSOLIDATE

Anheuser Busch InBev and rival, SABMiller, agreed last week to a deal which would merge the two companies into a global beer giant. The deal includes a \$105 billion dollar buyout of SABMiller and \$12 billion sell-off of Coors, amid anti-trust concerns.

4

AMERICAN PHAROAH RETIRES A CHAMPION

The thoroughbred, and first-in-37 years Triple Crown Winner, ended his career after winning the 2015 Breeder’s Cup at record pace. This result represents the first “Grand Slam” in horse racing history. He is now listed as a nominee of the Sport’s Illustrated Athlete of the Year competition.



❄️ DECEMBER EVENTS ❄️						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 movie “Ghosts of Rwanda” - noon, Holocaust Resource Center (LB 2nd floor)	2 Yoga class [free!] - noon, PE Gym	3 Men’s Basketball home game vs. Monroe (Bronx) - 6 p.m.	4 “’Twas The Night Before Christmas...” - 7 p.m., Kelsey Theatre (TH)	5 Men’s and Women’s Basketball vs. Harcum, home
6	7 Yoga class [free!] - 5:30 p.m., PE225	8 MCCC Chorus Winter Concert (free - public invited) - 7:30 p.m., Kelsey Theatre (TH)	9 MCCC Jazz Band Winter Concert (free - public invited) - 8 p.m., Kelsey Theatre (TH)	10	11	12 Men’s and Women’s Basketball vs. CCBC-Catonsville, home
13	14	15 Men’s and Women’s Basketball vs. Morris, home	16 Mercer County Symphonic Band Winter Concert (free - public invited) - 7:30 p.m., Kelsey Theatre (TH)	17	18 ”The Nutcracker” - 7 p.m., Kelsey Theatre (TH)	19 AAWAC Holiday Extravaganza - 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., PE Gym
20 “The Nutcracker” - 1 & 4 p.m., Kelsey Theatre (TH)	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



# Tis the Season

## International perspectives on Thanksgiving Traditions

By Pablo Araya-Chacon  
Reporter

Although Thanksgiving is a nationwide holiday, arguably familiar to all, the facts of its history and the ways in which Americans celebrated the day are particular to each family.

Many picture the first Thanksgiving, as a joined gathering of Pilgrims and Native Americans to celebrate the first successful harvest. However, it wasn't until 1863, when President Lincoln declared a day of "healing the wounds of the nation" that the historic events became holiday. The specific date was eventually moved to the fourth Thursday by President Roosevelt in order to boost the economy. Hence, Turkey Day is often considered the start of the holiday shopping season.

The VOICE reached out to students around campus to gather their thoughts on the holiday and see if their families celebrate any other holidays other than Thanksgiving. For first-year Liberal Arts student Gwyneth Curbishley, Thanksgiving convenient reminder of what we have and who we have in our lives. She continued, "We celebrated the holiday, but

we consider it more of a giant dinner than a holiday."

Curbishley told The VOICE that her family uses the holiday more as an excuse to get everyone together from both parents sides for one family dinner. But her family also has an important tradition the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

"We open our house to friends and family to enjoy some pumpkin pie made by my father and his friends. This tradition can date as back as my father's time in college or high school. This tradition isn't a [national] holiday, but for my family it certainly is."

First-year Business Administration student Jennifer Eng loves Thanksgiving because it means getting together with family and friends to spend time together and be thankful. Says Eng, "Good food, good entertainment, and good company" is the family motto for Thanksgiving.

"We enjoy the gathering of friends and family together... everyone pitches in to make the time enjoyable."

Eng's family is from China, and the family also celebrates the Lunar New Year and the Mid-Autumn Festival. Each event can range up to several days and

generally entail getting the extended family together to celebrate. During these holidays, traditional Chinese dishes are served. In addition to these holidays, they also celebrate a day to honor their ancestors. Eng said that during this time they visit past relatives and sweeps their graves, pull weeds, and bring flowers and certain foods that hold special symbolism.

First-year Communication student Christine Villafuerte also spoke to The VOICE, saying several things about the controversial origin of Thanksgiving. "Even though the origins of Thanksgiving is not what we thought it was, we as a nation have taken the positive parts of it. Thanksgiving is a celebration that you spend with family and loved ones. Many take it as an opportunity to express their gratitude for who and what they have."

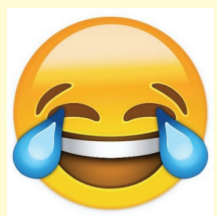
In Villafuertes family, they have a potluck dinner, although a dish is assigned to every family member. The family's traditions also include traditions from their Philippine origin such as All Souls' Day, a Catholic holiday where they pray for souls that have departed earth.

Regardless of what



holidays celebrated, many take time during this season to embrace cheer, remember family, and be thankful for what they have in life.

Oxford Dictionary's  
Word of the Year



## MCCC basketball team seeks nationals this season

By Brittany Lashley  
Reporter

The Fall 2015 Basketball Season officially began on November 7th in a game against opponents, Valley Forge. The final score of the season opener resulted in a loss for the Vikings, as have many of their following matches.

With such an opening record, the prospects of ending their season similarly to last year's record of only four losses seems difficult. However, Sophomore Daquan Hargrow, the team's starting center, believes it can be done. However, there are a few things he thought the team could change.

"We need to accept failing... because when we lose, the team has a tendency to just shut down," he told The VOICE.

Hargrow also said that the team lacks discipline needed to have a winning season. He hopes this can be changed during their long, five day-a-week practice session.

Hope still remains when the players reflect on the results of last year's season, and how the team was able to improve enough to make it to the Region 19 Championship. The record's four lost games were lost by an average 14.25 points, but winning games were won by an average 12.5 points.

In an interview with The Voice, MCCC Head Coach Howard Levy said, "Our biggest

competition, like every year, is ourselves." He continued, that Essex County College, who has consecutively won three GSAC Championships from 2012 to 2014, is probably the strongest team in the league and that the Vikings have played up with them.

Commenting on last year's surprising success, Levy said, "we had a lot of experienced guys that were very good and we were good from the very beginning... I think we have a chance to be good but it might take a little time. Last year we were good from the first day."

Only four members of the 2014 squad remain on this years team. They include: Ezren Bell, Dean Blank, Daquan Hargrove, and Kenyatta Long.

Even still, the players and fans hold on to hope. Local fan Mike Coe told The VOICE "We've already had a rough start, but I'm hoping they'll get better."

When asked if nationals this year were a possibility, alumni Jaylen Pickett said that the team can probably make the playoffs but nationals is a longshot. He stated,

"Last years starters were older and they had a lot more experience... but they should be a decent team because of the coaching." Coach Levy said, "I think its possible every year (to make nationals)... I feel like we have a chance to win every single game."

In the same spirit, when asked his expectations for the season, Hargrove stated, "Go to nationals."



PHOTO | BRITTANY LASHLEY

Kenyatta Long (5) passes the ball to Brandon Winston (13) for an opening shot.



First home game ended 56-77 with Manor taking the lead.

PHOTO | BRITTANY LASHLEY



## Assistant coaches score in leadership for women's soccer

### Sparano and Segal take over coaching duties after first game of the season

By Savannah Dziepak  
Reporter

MCCC's Women's Soccer assistant coaches, Lauren Sparano and Marissa Segal, have assumed primary roles of player instruction following the sudden departure of then head coach, Michelle Ogborn, back in September. The two females have since lead their team to a winning season.

"Marissa and I stepped up as coaches and did what we had to do. We knew, especially going into the playoffs, that we needed to keep the team positive and that's exactly what we did," said Sparano.

Segal added, "It was easy for me to take charge and push the girls a little bit more."

Under the leadership of Segal and Sparano, the focus of training shifted and practices became more intense. According to sophomore and midfielder Samantha Barlow, the coaches often focused on tactics which improved player organization and overall game strategy.

This new approach garnered approval from John Si-

mon, the Athletic Director, saying, "They're really good soccer tacticians...I think they taught a lot of comradery on the team, team concept. I think that was why we made it to the finals and the playoffs."

He also added that the way the two worked together changed his opinion of co-coaching and its ability to be effective.

"It's really based on the personality of the individuals willing to share and do what's good for the team and not for themselves. In both cases, they did that, which I really respect."

Because both Segal and Sparano are returning for the Spring and Fall 2016 seasons, they've already begun discussion of strategy and training.

"That's gonna be a huge thing, I mean getting everybody on the same page right from the start," said Segal. She continued, she wants there to be more productivity and structure. "We both have a lot to offer and a lot of knowledge about the game. More structure would definitely help the team," said Sparano.

Despite these criticisms, this fall the MCCC's Women's Soccer ended with a winning



STOCK PHOTO | COLLEGE VOICE

Co-captain Samantha Barlow attempts a shot on goal from outside the penalty box, during the Region 19 FiChampionship game on October 31.

10-7 record, taking second place in their region. The season started with a low number of girls participating, many of whom sported major injuries including even concussions. Said Segal, "I'm really

proud of the girls for stepping up the way that they did. They gave a lot of heart... Everybody stepped up to help each other, especially towards the end of the season."

WANT TO LEARN  
MORE ABOUT  
EVENTS IN OUR  
AREA?

visit [mcccvoice.org](http://mcccvoice.org)

## Men's Soccer Team Wins Region Championship

### Player's awarded both offensive and defensive MVP awards

By Pablo Araya-Chacon  
Reporter

The Mercer County Community College Men's Soccer team faced against Burlington Rowan College in the Region 19 Championships on October 31. After a grueling 90-minute game, the Vikings emerged victorious with a 3-1 score.

Coach Dalce told The VOICE that the game was what he expected it to be. He knew that if his team put in the dedication and the effort, that they would make it really far this season.

"[The win] means a lot but mostly for the players on the team... they deserve the win for the hard work that they have done."

He continued, "I saw the team going this far... ever since the first week of the pre-season. I told the team [tonight] that this moment was the moment that they were preparing for."

Because of their motivation, dedication, and the love for the sport of soccer, Dalce was unsurprised by the match result.

In an interview with The VOICE, second year MCCC student and the game's Offensive Most Valuable Player (MVP), Obinna Iloka, described the reasons for which the MCCC Men's soccer team has been so successful throughout the season.

"From the first day of the season, Coach always told us to play with our hearts and as the champi-

ons that we knew they were."

Iloka continued by voicing his gratitude for Coach Dalce and expressing love for his teammates.

"We have one of the best coaching staff at Mercer, [and teams because], we all treat each other like family. Ever since the beginning of the season we played with our hearts...[because of that] since that moment I saw us in the Region Championship."

For Iloka, this win was especially meaningful because he plans on transferring to a four year university next year.

The VOICE also had the chance to interview first-year MCCC student, Emiliano Fama, who was awarded Defensive MVP for the Region Championship. When asked about the win, Fama said,

"Personally, this win for me means a lot... but it couldn't have been achieved without the dedication of the team and coaches."

Fama also added that he always knew the team would do well, but he recognized that it would take patience, game by game, and working like a family in order to achieve their goals.

As a first year student, Fama has at least another season with Mercer. During next year, he plans to continue playing soccer for the school. Later, Fama hopes to transfer to a four-year university to play Division 1 soccer.

Although the college did not make it to Nationals after a tough loss in Districts, the loss seems not to have dampened their spirit or



STOCK PHOTO | COLLEGE VOICE

The Vikings soccer team members celebrate after winning the Regional Championship.

positive outlook on the season's outcome. Said Dalce, it only proved that next year they have to work even harder.

Do you see a  
typo?

Then join the staff  
and fix it!

Wednesdays 12noon ET 127



STOCK PHOTO | COLLEGE VOICE

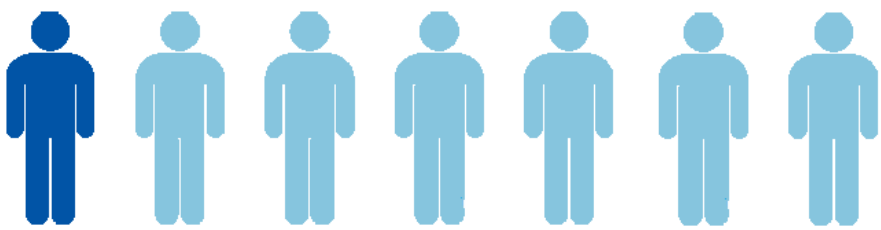
The Vikings team photo after a 3-1 win in Region Championship.



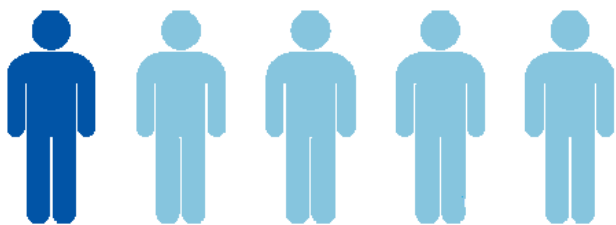
# HUNGER H

*Recent changes in prevalence show*

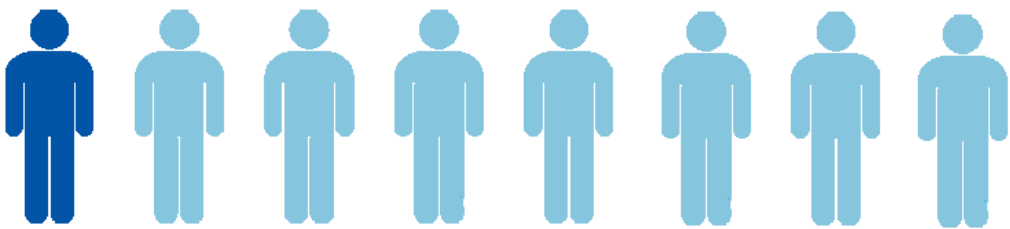
The USDA defines food insecurity as a state in which “consistent access to adequate food [, necessary for an active, healthy lifestyle,] is limited by a lack of money and other resources at times during the year.” It is the single most common measure of hunger in studies conducted within the country. **In 2014:**



one out of seven americans are food-insecure  
( ~ 48.1 million people)



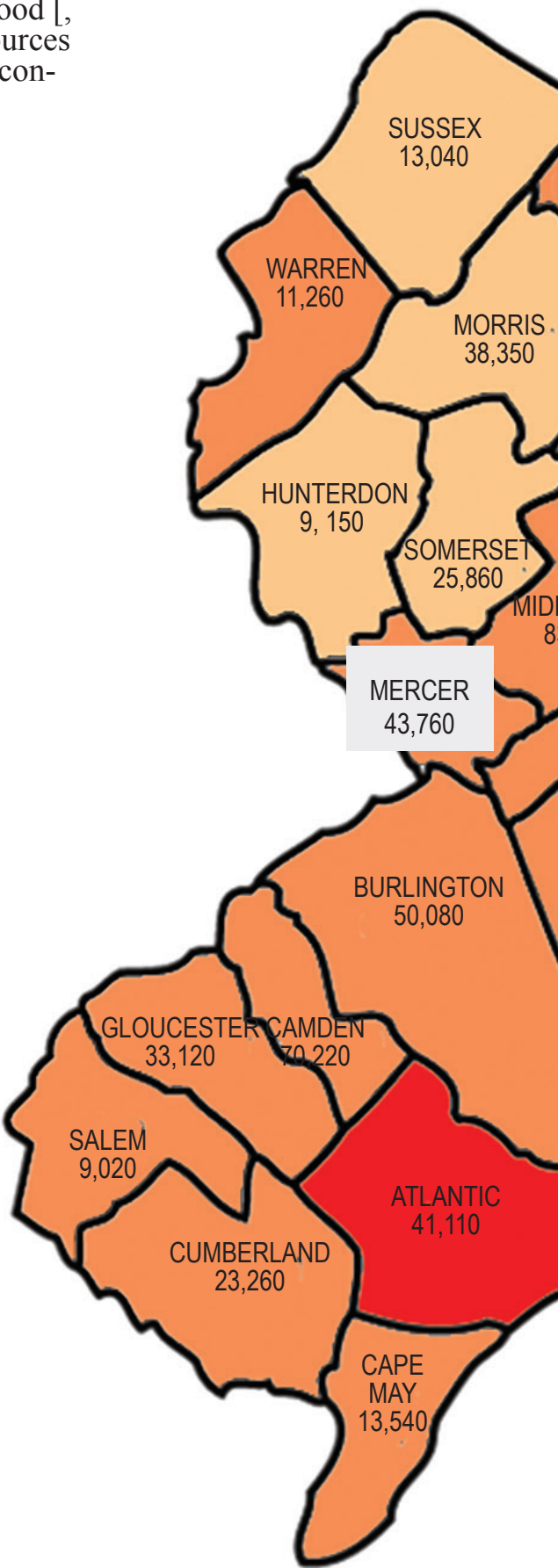
one out of five U.S. children are food-insecure  
(~ 15.3 million)



one out of eight people in NJ are food insecure  
( ~ 1,101,750 )

2.9

averaged percent increase of food insecurity  
in the U.S from 2002-2014



in brief

## PROFILE: “FACES” OF FOOD INSECURITY



### Lori

“All anyone wants is piece of mind but you can’t have that when you constantly thinking of all the things you need to do.”

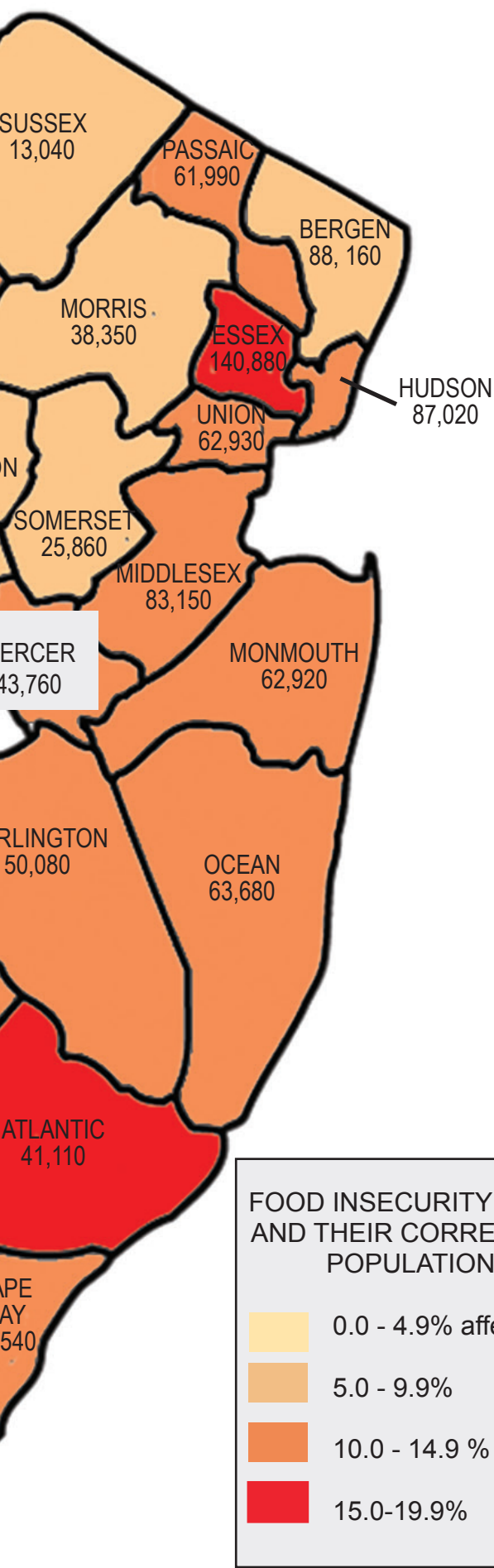
After the passing of an uncle with whom she had stayed and cared for, Lori became homeless. Not wanting to alarm any of her other relatives, she took up residence at a Trenton-area shelter. She eventually secured an overnight position at the post office and later, a seven day-a-week job, but neither covered her daily expenses plus her outstanding medical and tuition bills. She therefore applied to Amazon and now works four 12-hour days. During her time off, Lori visits TASK to use the computers and stay connected to the community she once belonged.



# HITS HOME

*show promise but numbers still high*

By Noelle Gilman  
Layout & Graphics Editor



## HOW DOES N.J. COMPARE TO OTHER STATES?

Although the state total percentage of individuals who qualify as “food insecure” (12.4%) is less than the national average (14.3%), the number of individuals this equates to (1,101,750), is greater than the number of individuals affected in the states with the top four highest percentages (MS, 22.7%; AR, 19.9%; LA, 17.6%; KY, 17.5%).

## WHAT FACTORS CONTRIBUTE TO FOOD INSECURITY?

Poverty and food insecurity are undeniably related however, low income is not an unfailing predictor of hunger. In fact, unemployment, lower household assets, and demographic groups such as Latinos (1 in 6 seek assistance from food programs), African Americans (1 in 4), and senior citizens, also strongly correlate to food insecurity.

## WHY IS THERE HUNGER IN THE UNITED STATES?

Food insecurity is often caused by life’s unpredictable events. The money required to pay say, a medical bill, might force a family near the poverty line to cut back elsewhere. Limited access to fresh goods, like more-expensive produce and distribution failures, also characterize our system. Even still, the U.S. is ranked #1 on the Global Food Security Index.

in depth



## Leo

“The food [served at TASK] is better than anything I could get out on the streets.”

Having once lived in Ocean County, the first-year computer networking student eventually moved to Trenton because of its more extensive and better developed outreach programs. Leo now sleeps in the shelter nearby the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK), where he stops in every few days to eat a warm meal, use the computers, and get advice and assistance on his schoolwork. Occasionally, he walks forty minutes to work at a local restaurant. Though he collects a minor income, Leo relates how quickly it disappears and therefore how little one has left over for basic needs.



## The Celebrity Scoop



**KHLOE KARDASHIAN**

The reality television star recently requested the withdrawal of divorce papers that would have otherwise ended her marriage to Lamar Odom. The star has said it was “the right thing to do right now” after Odom’s life-threatening drug binge at a Nevada brothel last month.



**FLIP SAUNDERS**

The Minnesota Timberwolves Head Coach died last month from complications related to Hodgkin’s lymphoma; he was currently taking time off to receive treatment. Over a span of 17 years in the NBA, Saunders won 654 games.



**ADELE**

The British singer and songwriter released her first single in three years last month. The song’s music video broke the record for most single-day views, topping Taylor Swift’s “Bad Blood” and Miley Cyrus’ “Wrecking Ball”.



**LEAH REMINI**

The actress’ memoir, out on stands November 3rd, details among other things, her infamous split with the Church of Scientology. In an interview with 20/20 about the book, Remini reportedly calls Tom Cruise, another member of the Church, “evil”.

## NEIL SIMON’S RUMORS IS A MUST-SEE

By Kwame Colecraft  
Reporter

American playwright, Neil Simon’s high-spirited comedy *Rumors* was performed last month at Mercer’s Kelsey Theatre. The play, which ran from October 23 to November 1, received favorable reviews.

The story of *Rumors* is set at an anniversary party which is suddenly interrupted by the suicide of host Charlie Brock and the simultaneous disappearance of his wife. Not wishing to cause panic, the party’s first guests, a Mr. and Mrs. Gorman, attempt to cover up the occurrence of the events. However eventually, those that attend quickly find out what happened and chaos ensues.

Although the storyline seems serious, the absurd actions of the party’s four couples lend the play a comedic tone: the frantic Gormans (Stan Karuzis and Susan Galli), the sarcastic, childish Ganzs (Ron SanGiovanni and Sara Their), the elderly and sophisticated Cusacks (Nathan Parker and Marilyn Licciardello), and the unfaithful melodramatic Coopers (Wayne Rossignol and Judy Venturini).

Artistic director and lighting designer M. Kitty Getlik stated that “The couples [are] very well matched with each other. But then you have the policeman that comes in and he is completely different from the rest”.

Officer Welch, played by a Mr. Charles Acosta, is characterized by extreme curiosity which serves only to intensify the play’s melodrama. Although his role in the story is short-lived, actor Acosta was undoubtedly one of the play’s biggest stars; his performance of an accented voice was outstanding. Indeed, his one-on-one scene with Mr. Lenny Ganz, (SanGiovanni) speaking fake Spanish was absolutely hysterical. The line at the end where Welch exclaimed, “Your Spanish is horrible,” had the whole audience roaring with laughter.

Another actor that attracted attention was Ron SanGiovanni. His character’s relentless dry wit and sarcastic humor constituted a majority of the play’s entertainment. The skill with which he performed his character’s actions, most especially his ability to overexaggerate, were crucial to creating laughter. Said Gerlitz, SanGiovanni had to be spot on



PHOTO | LAURA MUREY

Front row, from left, Susan Galli as Chris Gorman, Judy Venturini as Cassie Cooper, Marilyn Licciardello as Cookie Cusack, and Sara Their as Claire Ganz; back row, from left, Stan Karuzis as Ken Gorman, Wayne Rossignol as Glenn Cooper, Nathan Parker as Ernie Cusack, Ron Sangiovanni as Lenny Ganz, and Charles Acosta as Officer Welch (far right). Photo by Laura Murey.

with his performance because his many of his character’s lines were central to the storyline and comedic tone. Explaining further, “In non-musicals, you are pretty much depending on the dialogue to set the tone... But in this play, there is also a lot of action since this is a farce.”

Major praise for the project as a whole must go to

the directing of Liz Wurtz. She did an excellent job in her debut as a director in the Kelsey Theatre. The dialogue was great, the action was hysterical, and all the actors were magnificent, but none could have likely been executed without the guidance and leadership of Wurtz. All things considered, Neil Simon’s *Rumors* is a must-see comedy.

## Passing the Palette: Art educators and their students

By Ivana Airo  
Senior Reporter

The Gallery at Mercer County Community College presents the last exhibit of the fall semester. Passing the Palette: Art Educators and Their Students will be on display in the West Windsor Campus from November 16th through December 8th.

A total of 67 pieces comprise the exhibit, and vary in type of media. Their 50 authors hail from eight high schools from the surrounding area.

In an interview with The VOICE, Gallery Intern Lizzie Mayer said she valued this exhibit particularly for the nostalgic emotions it evokes. “Some of these students were me not too long ago,” she said.

The Passing the Palette exhibit permits high school students to display their artwork on a more professional level but also allows students to connect with the teachers that inspired them and their artistic passions.

“This exhibit allows different artists from different schools to come together and show what they’ve got” said Anna Cook, another gallery intern.

High schools featured in this exhibit include Allentown, Hopewell Valley, Lawrence, Robbinsville, South Brunswick, Trenton Central, Trenton West and West Windsor-Plainsboro South.

Reception for the exhibit will be held on Wednesday, November 18th from 5 to 7 p.m. Gallery hours for this show are Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Wednesdays 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.



PHOTO | IVANA AIRO

From left to right: Dean Robin Schore, Lucas Kelly, Dylan Wolfe, President Jianping Wang, Tina Laplaca, and Michael Welliver attending this year’s “Passing the Palette.”



PHOTO | IVANA AIRO

Tic Giantisco viewing a piece by Dianne Belnay entitled “Thistle Nocturne.”



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## The slogan “Black Lives Matter” is not a complete sentence



By Alyvn Haywood  
Professor of Communications

### Disclaimer:

*The following views and opinions presented in this letter are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the college or newspaper.*

The slogan "Black Lives Matter" is not a complete sentence. It is an incomplete

thought. The question is, To whom do Black lives matter? A strong argument can be made that with the documented intra-cultural violence that has plagued both the inner cities and rural neighborhoods throughout the US, people of African descent don't think that "Black lives matter." Even the messages contained in popular music that commodifies the exploitation and the fantasizing of self-destructive behavior reinforces the argument that Black lives don't matter to Black people. It might seem harsh, but many would gladly sell their very soul for the opportunity to become a millionaire by producing a rhythmic dance product that glorifies the rump shaking and rape of young women and men. Under the guise of "keeping it real," many are willing to defend

and condone the continued debasing of women through misogynist themes as supported and promoted in the marketplace. The auctioning of human beings of African descent by any other name is still perpetuating the slave trade in High Definition (HD). And if African people near and far would not participate in the "business" nor condone the practice, the auctioneering would fester and run, dry up and wrinkle, like a raisin in the sun. And so, an answer to the question "to whom do Black lives matter?" might be, unless and until Black lives matter to black people (as soon as the murder rate between black people in the United States and Africa begins to drastically decline), when black people begin treating each other as they would have others treat them, then and only then

will Black lives truly matter. Not only will Black lives matter, All Lives will matter. All Life Will Matter. When we as a community begin to appreciate the value of each other as brothers and sisters, the quality of every human being's life will matter to all of us. For as we are members of the same species, as all of us are the native inhabitants of Earth, we will emerge into the Greater Community of Worlds and know ourselves as members of one race, the Human Race. We are colors of the Spirit...We are many... We are One! We are One! We are One!!! In the immortal words of the African Frenchman Alexandre Dumas, "All for one, one for All."

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Trenton Punk Rock Flea Market returns

Written by Ivana Airo,  
& researched by Zachery Knight

Originally, the Trenton Punk Rock Flea Market started out in January 2013. The Trenton Punk Rock Flea Market initially started out with only a miniscule amount of about 40 vendors as opposed to the 200+ vendors it now attracts.

Now the Market is typically a punk rock inspired flea market that takes place in Trenton three times throughout the year.

Along with music, they sell everything from vintage clothing, original artwork, antiques, silkscreened posters, handmade jewelry, handmade tshirts, vintage toys, vinyl, bone jewelry, taxidermy and numerous other unique collectibles.

The Flea Market shows love for punk rock, DIY ethics, the arts, tattoos, and coffee.

Recently, the Trenton Punk Rock Flea Market was named one of the best Flea Markets in America by Huffington Post.

"I went to The Punk Rock Flea Market for the first

time two years ago and each year it gets better and better, not only the stands of what they sell but also the food trucks and the music gets better" explains second year mercer student, Sarah Cronin.

The TPRFM tends to bring in vendors and customer from not only NJ but also, NYC, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland. TPRFM is hosted

at the Historic Roebling Machine Shop located at 675 South Clinton Avenue in Trenton, NJ.



Excited crowds attended the opening of the annual Trenton Punk Rock Flea Market.



PHOTO | ZACHERY KNIGHT

Two attendees stopped to pose for a picture and share their love for everything punk rock.

Changing the course: Prevention through Education

By Patricia Rameriz  
Reporter

Danilo Castillo, an ex-gang member and currently a freshman Computer science major from Mercer County Community College was part of what he called "the bad life" after record gang activity for over 5 years.

He used to spend his time trying to get "fast money" on the street of Trenton by selling drugs. At one point, he experienced so much pain during his time in the gang that nothing could hurt him, he said.

For initiation, Danilo was beaten up by his fellow gang members to prove his strengths:

"It's a way to show them you're tough" he said, "and everybody welcomes you to the family."

The street turned him into a cold person, without fear of danger. "I wasn't afraid of anything, of anyone."

In 2007, the crime rate in Trenton was 6,862.87 according to the most recent FBI's Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) converting the capital of New Jersey as one of the most dangerous regions in the United States. Danilo was indisputably part of these numbers.

One of the reasons that motivated Danilo to get involved in these groups is that over time gang members

gain prestige and status among their friends. "My only goal was to have power, I wanted to feel respected and important" he said.

The idea of a gang acting as a substitute family is increasing with time. "My mom was suffering as I was surrounded by so much riskiness" he said. Danilo considered fellow gang members to be family and that they took care of each other. According to him, gangs provided him with a sense of belonging and protection that he did not receive from other relationships or experiences in life.

According to a survey conducted in 2010 by the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety Division, more than half (58%) of all gangs were reported to have six or fewer members. Conversely, 43 gangs were identified with more than 100 members. While gangs are renowned for their criminal activity, the majority were not reported to be involved in violent crimes (54%), theft crimes (62%), drug crimes (51%), or other crimes (70%).

In fact when it comes to gangs, many tend to be divided based upon race, ethnicity, and territory. Recently, they have become more sophisticated in their use of violence and intimidation tactics. Physical force is the way they control neighborhoods and expand

their illegal money-making activities that effect the general population with vandalism, drug dealing, assaults, drive-by shootings and other criminal activities. Even now, gangs are breaking through racial, cultural, and socio-economic barriers in growing numbers. Young people from all economic and social backgrounds have been lured into gang life, mostly seeking protection from the trials and

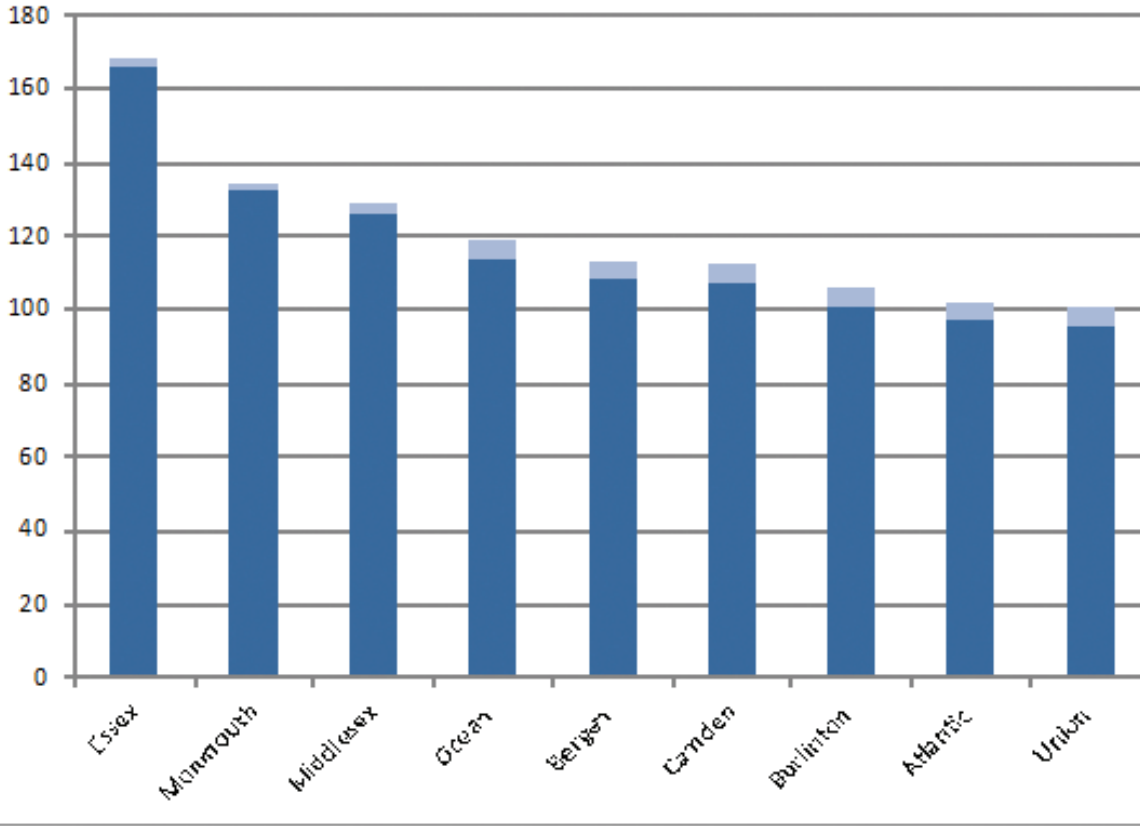
tribulations that adolescents face on a daily basis.

After experiencing gangs firsthand, Danilo understood that God was his best outing and that education could direct him to success. "My former colleagues are surprised at my change, I was born again" he continues. Danilo said that God helped to clear his path and he tries to now focus on his professional preparation ensuring a better future

for himself and his family.

Tons of tactics of prevention, intervention, and suppression has been implemented in communities across the United States to assist young talented people like Danilo. He exemplifies how education can be one of the most powerful weapons to overcome adversity. "For the gang violence to end," Danilo said, "All it comes down to is being given the chance to succeed."

New Jersey Counties Reporting 90 or more Gangs







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For students seeking to complete a course in two weeks on campus or in five weeks online this winter, Mercer County Community College offers accelerated classes during its traditional mid-winter break.

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Classic Peanuts



Horoscopes

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

With the holidays coming along, it's about time for you to take charge of your life and pursue your dreams. It will be a lot of work, but you're up to the challenge.

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Whether it is because of the change in temperatures or seasons, important changes are coming ahead. Take the opportunity to reinvent yourself. Be adaptable.

**Pisces**  
Feb. 19 - Mar. 20

Although you are entirely focused on getting ahead, don't forget to keep hold on to those you love most. It will take a lot of effort, but you will find success.

**Aries**  
Mar. 21 - Apr. 19

Whether it is the glow from being surrounded by loved ones or the hearty meals, friends and family will be charmed by your company. Take the opportunity to reconnect with everyone.

**Taurus**  
Apr. 20 - May 20

Work hard and play hard will be your motto for the upcoming month. Whether at work or in your social life, you will be in constant demand. Keep your eyes on what is most important.

**Gemini**  
May 21 - Jun. 20

The end of the semester will find you overflowing with new and exciting ideas. Don't let yourself get in the way of expressing them and putting them to good use to connect with people.

**Cancer**  
Jun. 21 - Jul. 22

Your talents will shine through this month. Your colleagues will struggle, whereas your natural skills will create opportunities that will place you in high demand.

**Leo**  
Jul. 23 - Aug. 22

Everyone should look out because this month nothing is holding you back. Pursue what your heart desires and what your mind knows you desperately need. Let nothing get in the way.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

This is the time of year for you to take it slow. As the world rushes by, do not be taken in by the hustle and bustle. This approach will allow you to seek out financial opportunities that others will miss.

**Libra**  
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

Look out for situations that put you outside of your comfort zone. The new experience will invigorate you and allow you to insert a fresh perspective on life and romance.

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Like most months, the upcoming holidays will find you brimming with brilliant ideas. Now is the time where others will recognize your potential and seek you out for advice. For once, they will listen.

**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Although you tend to stay away from the spotlight, this month is your time to shine. With the help of friends and colleagues, you will grow your social circle and find yourself eagerly seeking out their attention.



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Dilbert and Get Fuzzy

