



## DEVILS' FUTURE

NEW JERSEY'S TURNAROUND SEASON ENDED IN HEARTBREAK WITH AN OT LOSS TO THE HURRICANES IN GAME 5 ON THURSDAY NIGHT. SO WHERE DOES THE TEAM GO FROM HERE? **B1**

**RACING RETURNS!**

**OPENING DAY SATURDAY, MAY 13**

**MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY, MAY 14**

FREE Admission for All Ladies

MONMOUTH PARK

### ATLANTIC CITY

## Casino tries its hand at shoring up beach



A load of sand is dumped on the beach in front of the Ocean Casino Resort in Atlantic City on Friday. The casino is spending up to \$700,000 of its own money to rebuild the eroded beach, deciding it cannot wait more than a year for the next scheduled government-funded beach widening project in the area. The newly widened beach should be open for Memorial Day weekend. See story on A2. *Wayne Parry, Associated Press*

### STATEWIDE

## This 5K is more about the journey to the finish line

Thousands of young girls are preparing for races through a program that weaves lessons about self-esteem, bullying and empowerment into training.



Rose Bolognini, a third grader, completes a 5K training run at Valley Road School in Stanhope. *Julian Leshay, for The Star-Ledger*

**Rob Jennings** For The Star-Ledger

Thousands of young girls are training for 5-kilometer races across New Jersey this month, marking the finish line of a national program offering life lessons beyond running.

The state's four Girls on the Run councils are organizing a series of 5K races, which are 3.1 miles long, over the next few weeks. They begin today with runs in

Sparta and Clinton.

Participation in the races is open to children and adults, with the events serving as fundraisers for the nonprofit organization.

Founded in 1996, North Carolina-based Girls on the Run surged to prominence with its 10-week, 5K training program for girls in grades 3 through 5. The program expanded in 2015 to grades 6 through 8 with Heart and Sole, which also takes part in 5K races.

The program emphasizes developing confidence and learning life skills, including managing emotions, resolving conflict, helping others and making intentional decisions.

"We focus on much more than running," said Dore DuHaime, communications director for Girls on the Run New Jersey East in Essex, Morris, Union, Mercer and Burlington counties.

"Week after week, we tell the girls to find their own happy pace, whatever works for them. As long as they cross the finish line, they've accomplished their goal for the season," she said.

Nearly 800 participants were signed up as of Friday for the first of the New Jersey East council's two 5K races, scheduled for June 10 in Newark. They include 600 girls in the program. Approximately 85% of the girls are in grades 3 through 5, DuHaime said.

The cost of participating in the program varies by council, with financial assistance available, officials said.

Last week, with Cyndi Lauper's "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" playing at the start, 15 girls in the third through fifth grades ran 11 loops around Valley Road School in Stanhope on a 5K course. They were preparing for today's 5K race **SEE RUN, A7**

### POLITICS

## Investigation into Menendez widens, with new subpoenas

Sources say some questions being raised in probe relate to an Edgewater-based developer.

**Ted Sherman** For The Star-Ledger

New subpoenas have been served in connection with an ongoing federal criminal probe of U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez — including at the office of state Sen. Nicholas Sacco, who confirmed Friday that he was the recipient of one.

The scope of the probe involving Menendez, a New Jersey Democrat, remains unknown. But two sources with knowledge of the latest subpoenas say that some of the questions now being raised by investigators relate to Fred Daibes, an Edgewater-based developer whose high-end projects transformed the Hudson River waterfront.

Daibes pleaded guilty last year to taking part in an insider loan scam at Mariner's Bank, the financial institution that he founded and where he served as chairman of the board of directors. His sentencing in the matter, though, has been repeatedly adjourned, which is often an indication that someone may be cooperating with investigators. His plea deal calls for a sentence of probation. Attorneys for Daibes did not return calls for comment.

NJ Advance Media learned that some of the questions raised by the U.S. Attorney's Office in Manhattan in the subpoenas served this week focused on proposed legislation in Trenton regarding development along the Palisades that could have had an impact on Daibes' business. It was not known how this might be connected to any investigation of Menendez.

Another company previously connected to the investigation of Menendez, IS EG Halal — which had been designated as the only business allowed to certify halal meat being exported to Egypt — operates out of a building operated by Daibes, The Daily Beast has reported.

Other reports have noted that the owners of IS EG Halal have given expensive gifts to Menendez's wife, and suggested that the investigation may be looking into whether Menendez used his role as chair of the Senate Foreign Relations **SEE MENENDEZ, A4**

### INSIDE

## Marine vet arraigned in subway death case



A U.S. Marine veteran who placed an agitated New York City subway passenger in a chokehold, killing him and sparking outrage, surrendered on a manslaughter charge. **A4**

Classified, B10 Comics, B9 Editorial, A11 Lottery, A2 Obituaries, A9 Puzzles, B7 Sports, B1 Today, B6 TV, B8 World, A5



**RACING RETURNS!**

**OPENING DAY SATURDAY, MAY 13**

**MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY, MAY 14**

- FREE Admission for All Ladies
- FREE Flower to First 1,000 Moms
- Enter to Win Luke Bryan Concert Tickets

GATES OPEN 9AM  
FIRST RACE 12:40PM

MONMOUTH PARK

FREE Parking, Admission Just \$6  
Children 12 & under FREE

RUN

# This 5K is more about the journey to the finish line

Continues from A1

in Sparta organized by Girls on the Run New Jersey North. The council serves Bergen, Hudson, Passaic and Sussex counties.

Rose Bolognini, a third grader, was wearing a shirt that read "Girls can do anything."

"It feels so good to go faster than walking," she said.

Girls on the Run officials said they oversee 200 councils serving more than 200,000 girls annually in all 50 states and Washington, D.C. The group is aided by 100,000 volunteers and holds at least 350 5K races every year.

Girls on the Run in Hunterdon, Bucks (Pennsylvania) and Warren counties is hosting its 5K on Saturday in Clinton.

Two races are being held June 11, the New Jersey East council's 5K in Princeton and the Central New Jersey council's 5K race in Somerville. The Central New Jersey council, which serves Somerset, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Camden counties, also is holding a 5K in Fairhaven on June 4.

In explaining why the program is offered only to girls, the national organization cites studies showing that girls value girl-only "safe spaces" where they can confide in adults and other girls and discuss issues that they might not feel comfortable discussing around boys. They also feel less pressure to look or act a certain way.

Girls on the Run officials also said single-gender environments can be helpful in settings traditionally dominated by boys and men, such as physical education and sports.

Girls on the Run also addresses questions about transgender children on its website, stating: "If a child identifies as a girl, and the parent/guardian identifies the child as a girl, then the child is welcome to participate in Girls on the Run."

Maureen Dykstra, council director at Girls on the Run New Jersey North, said positive life lessons are the program's main focus.

"There's a lesson every time the girls meet. It can be how to stand up for yourself, or how to choose good friends," Dykstra said.

Dykstra said the girls do exercises, including one where three cones are placed in the field — labeled "friendship booster," "friendship tester" and "friendship breaker." The girls chose a cone in



Members of the Girls on the Run program run through a tunnel of teammates during a warm-up routine before a 5K training race at Valley Road School in Stanhope on May 5. Photos by Julian Leshay, for The Star-Ledger



Patrice Reilly, a volunteer, runs with members of the Girls on the Run program.



The nonprofit organization combines running with life-skill building for girls.

response to a hypothetical situation, such as: "You told Susie your parents were getting a divorce, asked her not to tell anyone, but she told Jenny."

There are also discussions about managing screen time, balancing school and friends, and the harm caused by gossip and bullying.

"We give girls toothpaste, put it on their finger, then they try to put the toothpaste

back into the tube," Dykstra said. "That's what gossip is. You put it out, you can't take it back," she said.

Rutgers University psychology professor Joshua M. Langberg, director of the school's Center for Youth Social Emotional Wellness, said his two daughters participated in Girls on the Run before reaching middle school and his wife was a coach.

"It is critical to provide elementary

school-age children with noncompetitive environments to engage in physical activity," Langberg said. "Sports are often an option for elementary school-age students, but competitive environments do not work well for all children, and we see significantly fewer girls engaging in sports as compared to boys."

"Girls on the Run provided my own daughters with a fun and rewarding environment to engage in physical activity while developing self-confidence and connecting with other girls. It also provided them with access to female coaches and role models, which is important because studies show that fewer than 27% of sports coaches are female," Langberg said.

The Valley Road School in Stanhope offers the Girls on the Run program to grades 3 through 5, though the school enrolls students in kindergarten through 8th grade. As last week's training run got underway at 3 p.m., a sixth grader who previously participated in the program cheered runners as they passed by on every loop around the school. Some parents also showed up.

Fifth grader Violet Hanusek was the first to finish, though she received the same recognition as others because the focus is not on winning.

She said she had learned from the program "how you can push yourself."

"It's fun to do with people," Violet said of running.

Anaya Morales, a third grader, was similarly upbeat upon finishing.

"I loved it," she said of her race.

Two Valley Road School teachers, Stephanie DiIunno and Maggie Reilly, serve as Girls on the Run coaches.

DiIunno, a third grade teacher, said this is her fifth year and 10th season with Girls on the Run, which offers programs in both the spring and the fall.

DiIunno said she was not previously a runner, but the program is "kind of turning me into one."

When one girl crossed the finish line of her 5K training run and began crying, DiIunno asked, "Are you 'sad' crying or 'proud' crying?"

Through tears, the girl indicated she was proud of finishing the race and embraced DiIunno in a joyful hug.

Rob Jennings, NJ Advance Media, [rjennings@njadvancemedia.com](mailto:rjennings@njadvancemedia.com)

# RACING RETURNS!

**OPENING DAY**  
SATURDAY, MAY 13  
**MOTHER'S DAY**  
SUNDAY, MAY 14

- FREE Admission for All Ladies
- FREE Flower to First 1,000 Moms  
Courtesy of In The Garden Flowers
- Enter to Win Luke Bryan & Boots at the Basie Concert Tickets



GATES OPEN 9AM  
FIRST RACE 12:40PM



MONMOUTH PARK

FREE PARKING, ADMISSION JUST \$6  
CHILDREN 12 & UNDER FREE

MONMOUTH PARK .COM

FREE FAMILY FUN DAY  
SUNDAY 12-4PM

Courtesy of  
The Star-Ledger