

**Bergen family with** three generations of coaches celebrates **Father's Day** 

**SPORTS, 1S** 



# The Record CELEBRATING

### SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2020P

### FRIEND OF THE PEOPLE IT SERVES

NORTHJERSEY.COM

NJ family and friends taken by COVID-19





Meredith Carroll















Felicisimo Luna

As New Jersey's death toll from the coronavirus approaches 13,000, it's important to recognize that each life lost to COVID-19 had meaning beyond its statistical value. Too often, those who have died are tallied and forgotten.

Lucy Sarappo

### We are aiming to change that.

We believe that New Jersey's coronavirus victims should not pass in shadow or silence. Each life brought something different to our state. Each life had a purpose. Each life touched family, friends, co-workers and loved ones.

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## **NJ prisoners** are still locked down

Reopening doesn't mean much to those behind bars

Svetlana Shkolnikova NorthJersey.com USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

On his busiest days, Russell Owen was out of his prison dormitory up to 14 hours a day.

After being sentenced to 30 years for murder in 1991, Owen built a life of service behind bars. He was enrolling students and performing clerical work in East Jersey State Prison's education department by 7 a.m. He was tutoring fellow incarcerated men or helping lead services at the prison's Church of the Reconciled as late as 9 p.m.

"My son is a workaholic," said Mae Owen, his mother. "He was active."

Owen kept the routine for years until the coronavirus pandemic forced the state's prisons into various states of lockdown in March, shutting down schoolrooms and the chapel where Owen serves as assistant pastor. For three months, Owen's world has been reduced to the dormitory he shares with about 80 other prisoners.

As New Jersey eases social distancing restrictions and begins to reopen, the state's incarcerated population remains limited in movement and largely confined to cells or dormitories. Programming has been suspended. Classes, religious gatherings and work opportunities have been put on hold. Visits from loved ones are not allowed.

"There needs to be a recognition that to serve time in prison today is very different than it was in February because the conditions of confinement are so much harsher," said Alexander Shalom, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey. "On top of the mental anguish that comes from isolation, there's also the specter of death that is hanging over people. They see their friends, they see people they've been living with leaving in body bags and that constant fear of death and infection makes it that much more difficult." The state's prisoners have died from complications of COVID-19 at the highest rate in the nation, with 25 deaths per 10,000 prisoners, according to an analysis



To help memorialize these lives, Gannett newspapers across New Jersey — including NorthJersey.com, The Record, Asbury Park Press, Daily Record, NJ Herald, Courier News, Courier-Post, Burlington County Times and Home News Tribune – have joined with the Center for Cooperative Media at Montclair State University to form a news cooperative that will work to profile as many people as possible who have been lost to the virus. The launch of this statewide collaboration is supported thanks to funding from The Nicholson Foundation.

We are calling this continually updated series of portraits "Loved and Lost."

See MEMORIAL, Page 9A

### **Twitter account posts sex assault** allegations of Rutgers students

Madeline Ference NorthJersey.com USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

Rutgers University students are posting sexual assault allegations against current and former students on a Twitter account run by an anonymous fellow student.

The account, named "Assaulters at RU," publishes alleged assaulters' names, accompanied by a photo and a screenshot of the detailed allegation from the nameless victim.

"This page was not meant for revenge," the creator said, asking not to reveal her name. "It was meant to hold people accountable and to spread awareness that our campus is not safe until there are repercussions for sexual assault."

See TWITTER, Page 6A

New Jersey's top lighthouses are now

just a click away; find out how to see

### See PRISONS, Page 4A



#### **Reopening trumps renaming**

Clifton Board of Education: Now not the time to talk about renaming Wilson, Columbus middle schools. 1L

### See the light

them. 1LF

Weather today

High 87° I Low 68° A t-storm.

### Weather tomorrow

High 88° I Low 69° A t-storm. Forecast, 2A

