

SCORING A SPOT IN THE FINALS

High School football state tournament results. In Sports and online at nj.com

COMING TOMORROW

After two tours in Iraq, Army Sgt. Coleman Bean had trouble adjusting to life as a civilian. James Jenkins, a decorated Marine, couldn't escape the faces of the people he had killed in combat. Bradley Iorio, just 19, was new to war and new to Iraq. The N.J. men are among a record number of American service members who have taken their own lives in recent years. The military is scrambling to address the crisis.

A Star-Ledger special report.

For state's FBI chief, the crimes kept coming

By Joe Ryan and Judy Peet
STAR-LEDGER STAFF

Weysan Dun, head of the FBI's Newark bureau, had barely moved into his office overlooking the Passaic River in July 2007 when an indictment at the city's federal courthouse nearly shook the streets beneath him.

Sharpe James, Newark's iconic mayor, had been charged in a corruption probe just four days after Dun arrived, giving the FBI veteran a quick introduction to political malfeasance in New Jersey. James was eventually convicted and



JERRY MCCREIA/THE STAR-LEDGER

Weysan Dun, leaving his post next month, called New Jersey's corruption endemic.

is now in prison.

"It illustrated for me how serious corruption is in this state," Dun said yesterday during an interview reflecting on his work in a state he called among the most corrupt in the nation.

After two and a half years, Dun is leaving the bureau's Newark office for a similar post in Omaha, Neb., where he previously has worked.

His tenure included overseeing investigations of organized crime, violent street gangs and a parade of public officials including former state senator Wayne Bryant, Bergen County Democratic chairman Joseph Ferriero and dozens of mayors, assemblymen and others charged in July's massive bribery and money-laundering sting.

"Weysan provided aggressive and principled leadership of the FBI during his tenure. I enjoyed working with him. I respect him. He will be missed," said Gov.-elect Chris Christie, who as U.S. Attorney stood

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IN OTHER NEWS

U.S. promises to join Afghan corruption fight

The defense secretary said the U.S. will examine its own contracts and projects. Page 4

Judge postpones hearing for Jayson Williams

Ex-NBA star fails to show up for an expected guilty plea in limo driver's shooting. Page 11

TAKING A CRACK AT LEARNING



PHOTOS BY ED MURRAY/THE STAR-LEDGER

Top, the faces of Bridgewater elementary students tell the story yesterday during teacher Patricia Pillon's enrichment program called the "Humpty Dumpty Challenge." The second-graders made protective packages to (they hoped) keep an egg from breaking after being dropped from a height of 20 feet. Above left, custodian Tom French tosses the entries off the school roof, while, above right, Christina Nici is sunny side up as she celebrates her egg surviving with nary a crack. Most eggs survived the fall.

Abortion stalemate threatens health bill

Bishops want changes from Senate Democrats

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The White House is on a collision course with Catholic bishops in an intractable dispute over abortion that could blow up the fragile political coalition behind President Obama's health care overhaul.

A top Obama administration official is praising the new Senate health bill's attempt to find a compromise

■ New recommendations cut back on Pap smears. Page 3

on abortion coverage — even as an official of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops says Sen. Harry Reid's bill is the worst he's seen so far on the divisive issue.

The bishops were instrumental in getting tough anti-abortion language adopted by the House, forcing Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) to accept restrictions that outraged liberals as the price for passing the Democratic health care bill.

Reid (D-Nev.) now faces a similar choice: Ultimately, he will need the votes of a handful of Democratic senators who oppose abortion to get his bill through. Republicans hoping to block the health bill in the Senate are relishing the Democrats' predicament.

"Obviously, it's a problem (for Reid)," Sen. Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.), the No. 2 Republican, said yesterday.

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WHAT'S AT STAKE

The Senate is scheduled to vote at 8 tonight on bringing the Democratic health care bill to the floor.

■ If it passes, full debate would begin after Thanksgiving, and Democratic leaders hope to hold a final vote before Christmas.

■ If it fails, debate is cut off and Democratic hopes for passing health care reform would suffer a major blow.

Wary of economy, Dems start casting blame on Obama

By Martin Kady II
POLITICO

The health care debate has sucked so much oxygen out of the Capitol's chambers that it's been easy to miss another simmering story: Democratic fears about the economy.

That pot has finally boiled over, with black caucus members walking out of a Barney Frank financial markup, liberals and conservatives calling for

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner to resign and a policy victory for none other than Ron Paul on his "audit the Fed" proposal.

The tensions show why Democrats want to get the health care debate done as soon as possible — they can then spend much more of 2010, an election year, on jobs and economic reforms.

The wave of Democratic grief had been building privately for months,

but Hill Democrats had held back on publicly criticizing the Obama presidency. But now, Democrats who fear their economic agenda may be flailing and who fear getting wiped out in the 2010 congressional elections are going public with a burst of criticism, and much of it has poured out in the past 72 hours.

It's coming from some of the most liberal supporters of the president,

like John Conyers, who said Thursday on the Bill Press radio show that President Obama was "bowing down" to the right.

"I'm getting tired of saving Obama's can in the White House," Conyers said. "I mean, he won by only five votes in the House, and this bill wasn't anything to write home about."

Oregon Democrat Peter DeFazio,

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A top chef whips up new diner fare

Ryland Inn's Shelton brings flair for food and fine wines to Skylark

By Peter Genovese
STAR-LEDGER STAFF

Jersey food blogs and websites — not to mention restaurant dining rooms and kitchens across the Garden State — have been abuzz with the news.

Craig Shelton, the chef/owner of the currently shuttered Ryland Inn in Whitehouse — once perennially ranked among the state's top restaurants — has taken his toque to a Jersey diner in Edison.

The Skylark Fine Diner and Lounge on Route 1, with its '60s airport lounge-meets-the-Jetsons interior — flying saucer-shaped lights, retro tables and chairs, and clocks showing the time in Tokyo, Moscow, Paris, London and elsewhere — is one of the more striking diners in a state that boasts

more than any other.

But still, a top chef in a Jersey diner? What's he going to do, offer \$25 patty melts?

Far from it.

Shelton, the Skylark's guest chef, has added dozens of eclectic, globe-spanning, reasonably priced dishes to the diner's menu since early September. Constantine Katsifis, the Skylark's owner, says he and Shelton are "inventing a new category of diner."

"The restaurant business across America is a horror show — down 60 percent, down 40 percent," Shelton said.

The thought of working in a diner makes Shel-

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Craig Shelton, who won plaudits as owner of the now-closed Ryland Inn, has teamed with Skylark Diner's Constantine Katsifis to create "the next frontier" in diner dining with eclectic, yet reasonably priced dishes.

MATT RAINY/THE STAR-LEDGER

TODAY
Mostly sunny.
High near 58°



TONIGHT
Partly cloudy.
High near 39°



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