

# RALLY FALLS SHORT



Sixers lose to the Magic by a score of 96-87.  
SPORTS, B1

# TASTY FRUIT



Fruit trees, like this pawpaw, can beautify your garden  
AT HOME, B8

50¢

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2009

## Poor economy puts squeeze on college budgets

BY RYAN TRACY  
STAFF WRITER

Facing declines in endowments and state funding, decision makers at local colleges and universities are using delayed construction projects, salary freezes and tuition hikes to close the gap.

Budget cuts will stretch across the region at a time when some college officials expect enrollments to rise, creating the double-edged sword of growing demand and dwindling funding in difficult economic times.

Rider University, which reported an endowment loss of about \$20 million, or 34 per-

cent, from January to November 2008, said recently it will not meet an estimated 2012 start date for \$24 million worth of capital projects.

Fund-raising has lagged for a new \$17 million fine arts building at its Lawrence campus and another \$7 million academic building at the Westminster Choir College, according to Jonathan Meer, Rider's vice president for university enhancement.

Rider has raised \$14 million for the projects and has "numerous seven-figure solicitations" in progress, but "the economy has definitely hampered our ability to secure private support for these projects," Meer wrote

in an e-mail. "Nationally, fund-raising for higher education has been hit very hard by the recession."

Rider will also increase tuition this year by 4.9 percent to \$28,470 for the term that begins this fall, though the university said that increase was its lowest since 2001.

At Princeton University, an endowment of nearly \$16.4 billion as of June 2008 provided a larger cushion, but the school now estimates its savings fund will lose 30 percent of its value by this June.

The school has already postponed \$695 million worth of construction projects, including plans for new arts, environment and

neuroscience centers.

The Ivy League university delayed construction of new neuroscience and psychology buildings, scheduled for this year, until 2010. Other projects, including a satellite location of the Princeton Art Museum, were removed from the capital plan, which runs through 2016.

Despite those long-term cuts, university president Shirley M. Tilghman has said Princeton needs to cut another \$170 million from its operating budget over the next two years, though exactly how that will happen is still unclear.

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"Everyone who manages resources has been told that we need to continue finding ways to do more with less."

MATT GOLDEN,  
TCNJ spokesman.

## Students plant garden for Earth Day

BY MEIR RINDE  
STAFF WRITER

TRENTON — It's hard to imagine a more classic example of an urban garden than the raised beds and new outdoor classroom at Grant Elementary.

With traffic rushing by on Perry Street a few feet away, and within sight of Trenton's ambulance service headquarters and various commercial buildings, students spent the morning on a plot next to the school's parking lot, clearing weeds, filling the beds with soil and preparing to plant vegetables.

"Excuse me, first graders," teacher Regina Landgraf said to her students as they hunted for worms, gleefully dirtying their hands in the dark brown soil. "We're not playing with the weeds. We're pulling the weeds."

The school has had two long raised beds where students have grown vegetables and flowers for the past four years, and yesterday marked Earth Day by inaugurating two new smaller beds and a pergola where outdoor classes can be held.

Gardens like those at Grant Elementary and many other schools serve a variety of purposes beyond letting students get soil under their fingernails, said Elyse Pivnick of the community organization Isles, Inc., which helped create the garden.

"It's a really a great opportunity for kids to understand where their food is from, to learn about horticulture and get some exercise," said Pivnick, Isles' vice president of environment and community health. "There are few lessons that have all of that involved."

As they weeded yesterday morning, several of teacher Ron Maurais' fifth graders said that along with gardening at school,



In this photo montage, students at Grant Elementary School in Trenton join the staff of Isles, spending the day planting seedlings at a new school garden yesterday.

MARTIN GRIFF/THE TIMES

## Worldwide downturn the deepest since 1930s

BY JEANNINE AVERSA  
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

WASHINGTON — The global economy is expected to lurch into reverse this year for the first time since World War II with appalling consequences for nations large and small — trillions of dollars in lost business, millions of people thrust into hunger and homelessness and crime on the rise.

And the pain won't stop this year, the International Monetary Fund declared yesterday, for what it said was "by far the deepest global recession since the Great Depression." To cushion the blow and head off further damage next year, the IMF is calling for more stimulus projects from the world's governments, including major spending for public works projects.

Even with many countries taking bold steps to turn things around, the global economy will shrink 1.3 percent this year, the IMF predicted in its our forecast.

"We can be fairly confident that in 2010 or even 2011, economies will not be back to normal," said IMF chief economist Olivier Blanchard. "Which means that governments should today basically think at least about contingent plans for infrastructure spending. . . . Next year will be too late."

In the U.S., President Barack Obama's \$787 billion stimulus includes money for fixing roads and bridges and

"For the world economy to recover, you need the U.S. to recover."

ALLEN SINAI,  
chief global economist at Decision Economics.

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## S. Brunswick voters put teen on board

BY RYAN HUTCHINS  
FOR NEWHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

When most high school students are upset about changes in the classroom, they complain to parents or school administrators. Maybe if they're resourceful, they lobby the school board.

Not Elizabeth Chang. Upset that her Advanced Placement science class wasn't being held as frequently, and that the district would no longer pay the \$86 fee for AP exams — "I thought maybe they would go on and cut more" — the senior at South Brunswick High School decided to run for a seat on the school district's Board of Education.

The 18-year-old said she wanted to give back to the schools that had given her "so much."

Chang never thought she would win. But 1,281 residents thought otherwise, electing her Tuesday by a 20-vote margin. She didn't know she'd won until yesterday morning, when a friend congratulated her at school.

"I still thought it was an April Fools' prank," Chang said in an interview minutes before her first sit-down with South Brunswick school superintendent Gary P. McCartney.

She missed some of her Environmental Club meeting to speak with the district leader.

McCartney said he gave her some basic information about her role in advance of a reorganization session scheduled for Monday night.

"It will be a new experience for me, and I think Elizabeth will be an excellent addition," said McCartney, who noted this will be the first time in his 25 years in school administration that a student has served on a board to which he reports.

It isn't the first time a teenager has been elected to a school

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DAVID GARD/FOR NEWHOUSE NEWS

Elizabeth Chang in her honors English class.

### MORE INSIDE

#### Top cop's pact

The police director in Lambertville wins a three-year renewal of his contract. **Page A3.**

#### Budgets approved

Despite everyone's economic woes, voters throughout New Jersey approve nearly 75 percent of local school budgets. **Page A3.**

#### Freddie Mac tragedy

The chief financial officer of money-losing mortgage giant Freddie Mac is found dead in his basement in an apparent suicide. **Page A13.**

#### Morning after pill

Seventeen-year-olds will soon be able to buy the "morning after" emergency contraceptive without a doctor's prescription. **Page A13.**



MARKOFF

#### Accused killer

Victims' items found in Craigslist suspect's home. **Page A15**

## Dems say it's time for Gov. Corzine to make it official

BY CLAIRE HEININGER and JOSH MARGOLIN  
STATEHOUSE BUREAU

He kissed a baby in Bloomfield, cut a ribbon in Paramus and stuck a shovel in the dirt near the Atlantic City Expressway.

He's boarding a plane this weekend to collect campaign donations in Arizona and Louisiana, and planning another fundraising trip to the West Coast.

He has touted his "fighter" political persona at local Democratic functions from Galloway Township to West Orange.

But Gov. Jon Corzine insists he's not yet campaigning.

While his Republican challengers endlessly skewer his record, the Democratic governor scarcely mentions their names. Corzine has yet to formally announce his re-election bid, waiting longer to do so than New Jersey's last two incumbent governors, Jim Florio and Christie Whitman.

Corzine said he's keeping politics "off the burner" so he can "do the best job I can in an incredibly difficult financial position for the state and for our people."

"My response to the criticism is doing what I'm supposed to be doing as governor," Corzine said. "It didn't say in the Constitution that you were supposed to engage in politics."

The hands-off "Rose Garden" strategy is a well-worn path for incumbent politicians. But with Corzine suffering

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