

## Website helps teachers equip as budgets shrink

■ Donorschoose.org provides teachers with a resource for classroom materials.

By DIANE D'AMICO  
Education Writer

Miranda Levy wanted a way to set up a small library in her kindergarten class at the Shaner School in Mays Landing so that the children could easily find books at their reading level.

But a tight school budget meant no money for extra classroom supplies. Then a friend told Levy about donorschoose.org, a website that

provides a vehicle for donations for school projects. She went to the website, and on a school snow day wrote up and posted her proposal. She found exactly what she wanted from one of the site's stores, and within a week donors had provided the \$350 needed for all the materials, plus service charges.

"Within a couple of weeks I had everything," Levy said. "This is great when you want something that is just too much to pay for out of pocket."

Donorschoose.org was started by Bronx, N.Y., teacher Charles Best as a way to get funding for extra school

supplies, especially for inner city students. Donations have more than doubled in the past two years, from \$10 million in 2008 to \$24 million in 2010 as schools grappled with the impact of the recession on their budgets and teachers looked for alternate funding.

Since 2003, the site has raised \$77 million and funded almost 188,000 projects in 44,400 schools.

The site currently lists 22,210 projects looking for donations, 340 of them from teachers in New Jersey, including seven at Texas Avenue

□ See Donors, A5



First-grader Wasif Labib, 7, looks at a hand puppet that was purchased with the help of the website donorschoose.org as part of a puppet theater for the Shaner School in Mays Landing.

Staff photo by Michael Ein

## CAPE MAY COUNTY'S IRISH PRIDE

# New Jersey's Little Ireland

### Sea Isle City is state's most Irish town, survey says

By STEVEN LEMONGELLO  
Staff Writer

Long ago, in days of yore, the Irish embarked on a great exodus from their homeland, seeking refuge in a far distant land. And so, they gathered their precious belongings onto moving vans and began their journey down Route 40 from Philadelphia and its suburbs to the promised land: Cape May County.

What, did you think there were potatoes and steamships involved?

As the region prepares for another St. Patrick's Day, Cape May County residents can bask in the knowledge that their county, with a 24 percent Irish-American population, has the largest percentage of Irish-Americans in all of New Jersey — and many of them can trace their roots from Eire by way of Philly.

Sea Isle City, meanwhile, has a double distinction — with 50 percent of its residents reporting their first ancestry as Irish, it can proudly call itself the most Irish town in the most Irish county in the state.

### The Census Who we are

"Beautiful," said Sea Isle City Mayor Leonard Desiderio, whose Kix McNutley's Bar sponsored last weekend's 21st annual St. Patrick's Day Parade — the only Italian-American sponsor of a St. Patty's Day parade in the state, he added. "The Irish-Americans are hardworking, dedicated people, and now (in retirement) they're living in Cape May and Sea Isle in particular."

Sea Isle's Irishness and other numbers come from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, which estimates ancestry and ethnicity numbers based on surveys of one out of every 65 people every year.

The upshot: Irish, Italian and German are by far the largest ethnicities in New Jersey, each being listed by more than 1 million people in the state.

Not only does Cape May County have the largest percentage of Irish, it turns out, it can also claim the largest percentage of German-Americans in New Jersey, at 18 percent. The largest percentage of Italian-Americans? Ocean County, at 20 percent.

Breaking the numbers down even further, though, and other towns in Cape May County also have a case as being the "most Irish."

Tiny West Wildwood has the largest percentage in the entire state of people claiming any Irish ancestry, as ranked by the number of total ancestries reported and not people. In other words, if you list every different ancestry down to your Cherokee great-



Frank Kelly, 88, of Sea Isle City, gives a thumbs up as the city's St. Patrick's Day parade passes by Saturday. Kelly says many people of Irish heritage moved to the city after the 1962 storm.

grandmother, you're counted multiple times, while if you list one ethnicity you're counted once. Lower Township has the most Irish-American people in the county, period, with 5,358.

So why — to use the Gaelic word — is Cape May County so densely Eireannach?

The consensus seems to point toward the "Philly transplant" theory.

"Back into the '60s, there was a whole migration of people who came out of Philadelphia to the seashore," said John McCann, whose family is one of the older Irish families in Sea Isle City.

Pary Woehlcke, of the Cape May County Museum — who is one-eighth Irish, by the way — said Irish-Americans in the early- to mid-20th century tended to be lower-middle class. "So if you're an Irish-American living in Philadelphia and you wanted to vacation at the shore, Cape May (City) is probably out of your league, but Wildwood, Sea Isle, the Villas especially, they're all within economic reach to purchase a summer home."

Then, when economic circumstances allowed them to either trans-

□ See Irish, A5



Sean Cunningham hangs the flag of Ireland outside his home on 93rd Street in Sea Isle City. Noting Sea Isle's connection to Philadelphia, he says seven of Philadelphia's Catholic schools are represented on his block.

## N-plant in Japan jolted by 2nd blast

■ As many as 160 people may have been exposed to radiation and 180,000 have evacuated as soldiers warn that another tsunami could hit.

By ERIC TALMADGE  
Associated Press

SOMA, Japan — Soldiers and officials along a stretch of Japan's northeastern coast warned residents that the area could be hit by another tsunami today and ordered them to higher ground. But the Meteorological Agency said there was no risk of another deadly wave.

The warning came as an explosion rocked the nearby Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant, injuring six workers. The blast was felt about 25 miles away by Associated Press journalists in the coastal town of Soma, where residents fled the town for safety after being herded quickly through muddy, debris-strewn streets.

TV footage showed a massive column of smoke belching from the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant's No. 3 unit, about 125 miles

□ See Japan, A6

## Farm Bureau wants help on geese removal

By MICHAEL MILLER  
Staff Writer

Geese have been especially destructive to crops this winter, according to the New Jersey Farm Bureau, which is seeking federal permission to remove geese flocks.

The agency is soliciting comments from local farmers to provide support that would bolster the agency's request for relief from geese to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, spokesman Peter Furey said. He said there were so many geese feeding in areas where the ground wasn't covered with snow that

□ See Geese, A6

## Gadhafi forces seize oil town from rebels

The Libyan leader's forces strike with warships, tanks and warplanes, closing in on the eastern half of the country as opposition fighters plead for a U.N.-imposed no-fly zone. **Story on A3**

### COMING TOMORROW

#### College notebook

We'll let you know about some local athletes' standout performances for their winter and spring sports teams.

## New executive given the task of rejuvenating Trump Plaza

By DONALD WITKOWSKI  
Staff Writer

ATLANTIC CITY — Eddie Llambias may be the only gaming executive in Atlantic City who has a British accent.

The London-born Llambias has crisscrossed the United States and spent time overseas and in the Bahamas during a 26-year casino career that began as a croupi-

er in England.

"In Europe, gaming is different," he said. "In Europe, it is elegant. That is something that always appealed to me. I've always enjoyed the elegance of casinos and what they represent."

Reviving a formerly elegant Atlantic City

□ See Plaza, A6



Eddie Llambias got his start in the casino industry 26 years ago as a croupier in England. He will now try to revive Atlantic City's Trump Plaza Hotel and Casino as its new general manager.

Staff photo by Anthony Smedley

### Sunny

High: 50  
Low: 28

### Index

Bridge .....C10  
Classified .....C5-12  
Comics .....B4

Crossword .....B5  
Giving Back .....A4  
Health .....B1-3

Horoscope .....C10  
Life .....B6  
Movies .....B3

New Jersey .....C2  
Obituaries .....C2  
Opinion .....A8-9

Region .....C1-4  
Sports .....D1-6  
TV/Puzzles .....B5

