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Conflict forces Honeywell restart

Morris Twp. committeeman bows out on rezoning

By Dylan Lyons :: Special to the Daily Record

MORRIS TWP. — Committeeman Jeffrey Grayzel reluctantly recused himself from a vote on rezoning the Honeywell property after officials raised concerns because his wife is a former company employee.

The Township Committee canceled a scheduled hearing on an ordinance to change the zoning of the Honeywell property to mixed use, which would allow the company to redevelop its 147-acre headquarters and build townhouses, and started over at its Wednesday night meeting.

Without Grayzel voting, the committee reintroduced the ordinance and set a public hearing for Aug. 15.

Township Attorney John Mills said the committee acted after it was brought to his attention that a committee member has a "continuing financial interest" with Honeywell, and he recommended that member recuse himself the second time around.

Grayzel's wife is a former Honeywell employee and receives a pension and retirement benefits from the Morris Township-based company. Mills said he feared the public could perceive the connection as a conflict of interest.

Although Grayzel, the only Democrat on the Township Committee, said he does not think his situation constitutes a conflict because his wife "has no voice in the management of either of these funds and is also unable to divest them," he said it was not worth undermining public trust to be able to participate in the proceedings.

"I am quite disappointed that the hint of conflict has to compete with the legislative obligations I have to

"We needed to restart the entire process."

JOHN MILLS,
Morris Township attorney

See CONFLICT, Page A2

WILD WEATHER? WARMING CITED



HEAVY RAINS

Flooding on Route 72 in Stafford, Ocean County, during a severe storm on June 22. PHOTO COURTESY OF LEN SCHWARTZ



STRONG WINDS

A "supercell" thunderstorm left numerous trees downed in Freehold last weekend. BOB BIELK/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



NEW NORM?

Debris litters a street in Freehold on Sunday after a storm moved through Saturday evening. MARY FRANK/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Severe storms become more frequent, N.J. group warns

By Dustin Racioppi :: @dracioppi

In the last six weeks, New Jersey has experienced the fury of weather phenomena with esoteric names like "derecho" and "supercell storm." Add in a string of heat waves and heavy rains and the summer of 2012 has provided glimpses into the types of weather extremes one state environmental group says

can be traced directly to global warming.

Mirroring a national increase, New Jersey has seen a 33 percent increase in extreme rainstorms and snowstorms since 1948, according to the report, "When It Rains, It Pours," released Thursday by Environment New Jersey, an environmental advocacy group.

The span between 1948 and 2011

See WEATHER, Page A2

'Jersey Shore' duo won't film their new show in Morristown

By Cara Townsend

@CaraTownsendDR

MORRISTOWN — The production company behind the MTV reality show "Snooki & JWoww" has decided not to film in Morristown and will focus on other areas, a release from the mayor's office said Thursday.

Burbank, Calif.-based 495 Productions requested permission from town officials to use public and privately owned property to film segments in Morristown between Thursday and mid-October.

The show, starring Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi and Jennifer "JWoww" Farley, premiered in June.

Mayor Tim Dougherty said in the release that a conference call last week with the company was "productive," and that representatives were "willing to accept certain restrictions on location and hours of filming, which would have provided positive exposure to the new businesses and boutique shops in Morristown while limiting detrimental impact to the town."

Representatives from the production company could not be reached Thursday for comment

See SNOOKI, Page A2



TV personality and new East Hanover resident Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi signs copies of her latest novel, "Gorilla Beach," for fans at Costco in East Hanover on July 28. KAREN FUCITO/SPECIAL TO THE DAILY RECORD

Chinese company investigated for spy-tech sales to Iran sued locally

By Peggy Wright

@peggywrightdr

A China-based telecommunications company under federal investigation for allegedly selling surveillance and telecommunications equipment to Iran in violation of a U.S. ban has short-changed its U.S. corporate general counsel, according to a lawsuit filed in Morristown.

The federal probe into ZTE USA Inc. stretches from the company's American headquarters in Dallas to Shenzhen, China, and now has touched Morristown, where ZTE USA maintains a branch office in a suite on Madison Avenue.

Attorney Ashley Kyle Yablon, who is based in Dallas, filed a complaint in state Superior Court, Morristown, claiming ZTE hasn't reimbursed him multiple, but un-

See CHINA, Page A2

THE PROBE

Federal authorities are investigating sales of surveillance and telecommunications equipment by China-based ZTE to Iran in violation of U.S. sanctions, according to Reuters and the BBC.

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