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LOCAL, 8A

# Courier News

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## Sexual abuse by cardinal alleged



Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, D.C., and the first Bishop of Metuchen, lays hands on The Most Rev. James Francis Checchio in 2016. KEITH MUCCILLI/ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

### McCarrick steps down over claim 47 years ago

**Paul C. Grzella**  
Central Jersey Courier News  
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, the retired archbishop of Washington, D.C., who also served as the Archbishop of Newark, N.J., and the founding Bishop of Metuchen, N.J., is alleged to have sexually abused a minor 47 years ago when he was a priest in the Archdiocese of New York, Roman Catholic church officials announced Wednesday.

As a result of the allegations, called “credible and substantiated” by church officials, the cardinal is stepping down from active ministry until a definite decision is made through the canonical process, according to a statement from the archdiocese of Washington.

“While I have absolutely no recollection of this reported abuse, and believe in my innocence, I am sorry for the pain the person who brought the charges has gone through, as well as for the scandal such charges cause our people,” McCarrick said in a statement.

The 87-year-old McCarrick, who has been a priest for 60 years, is believed to be the first cardinal to step down from active ministry following allegations of sexually abusing a minor.

As part of the review process, while no other allegations of abuse with minors were found, allegations that McCarrick engaged in sexual misconduct with adults while he served in New Jersey were revealed.

According to a statement from the Archdiocese of New York, the sexual abuse allegations were reported several months ago, and occurred during the time when McCarrick was private secretary to Cardinal Terence Cooke, a position McCarrick held from 1971 to 1977.

The allegations were reported to law enforcement officials, and were investigated by an independent forensic agency. McCarrick was advised of the charge, and, while maintaining his innocence, fully cooperated in the investigation, according to the statement. The Vatican was alerted as well, and encouraged the archdiocese to continue the review.

The allegations were given to the Archdiocesan Review Board, which includes jurists, law enforcement experts, parents, psychologists, a priest and a religious sister. The board found the allegations to be “credible and substantiated.” The Vatican Secretary of State said the review was “ongoing.”

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## Gas station, convenience store will replace Elks lodge in Peapack-Gladstone

**Mike Deak**  
Central Jersey Courier News  
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

PEAPACK-GLADSTONE – A gas station and convenience store on the site of the vacant Elks lodge on Route 206 has received initial borough approval.

The proposal by Manjit Singh Bajwa and Ravinder Kaur still has to receive site plan approval, but the borough’s land use board has given a use variance for the project.

The site plan review will include the appearance of the building and if a septic system will be installed, instead of running a sewer line on the highway to a small pumping station.

The proposal calls for a gas station with nine fueling

positions on the 5-acre lot, which is only being used by a food truck. Before the Elks lodge, which has been vacant for 22 years, there was a gas station on the property.

The cell tower on the lot will remain.

Elizabeth McKenzie, professional planner for the applicants, said a gas station and convenience store would be an “appropriate” use of the property, according to land use board minutes.

McKenzie said the applicants are also proposing to leave as much of the land as undeveloped as possible.

She also noted there is no other gas station on the southbound side of Route 206 in the borough. There is a gas station and convenience store on the northbound side of Route 206 at Dutch Road.

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## NJ agency has contract to give immigrant children shelter

**Monsy Alvarado and Kim Mulford**  
North Jersey Record  
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

An agency in South Jersey is among more than 100 shelters across the country that have contracts with the federal government to provide shelter to immigrant children who have crossed the southwestern border.

The Center for Family Services Inc. of Camden has a \$4 million contract with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide temporary shelter to children in their care, an official there said Wednesday.

The agency has served 90 children, 95 percent of whom entered the United States without a parent, under a program that has been in place for over a year, said Jen Hammill, the agency’s associate vice president of development and public relations. The center has 17 “safe homes” in South Jersey, she said.

“We do not have foster homes; we have shelter homes,” she said. “We have various levels of care, emergency housing to permanent supportive housing to group homes to shelter homes.”

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**Inside**  
**Our view:** Never forget Trump’s cruelty in causing thousands of families to be torn apart. **4A**

## Time to get tickets for Stitch ’N Pitch game with Patriots

**In Stitches**  
Pamela MacKenzie  
USA TODAY NETWORK - N.J.

On Tuesday, Eric Fuzer from the Somerset Patriots called me about the Stitch ’N Pitch game on July 27. I had sent him a list of about 40 knitting/crochet groups across Central Jersey, and he’s going to be sending all of them flyers about the game, with information about getting the discounted group tickets.

If I know about your knitting/crochet group, whether it’s a prayer shawl ministry, a library group, a senior citizens group, guild or a group of friends, you may be getting a letter from him soon. Watch for it. And please act on it.

See MACKENZIE, Page 9A

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