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Courier News

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2021 | MYCENTRALJERSEY.COM
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Bridgewater therapist accused of false billing

East Brunswick school district latest to file against professional

Mike Deak
MyCentralJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

EAST BRUNSWICK - The township school district has sued a Bridgewater woman who owns a pediatric therapy company for allegedly overbilling the district more than \$200,000.

Rebecca Dean, of Bridgewater's Martinsville section, is already facing second-degree theft by deception and money laundering charges for allegedly submitting more than \$75,000 in fake invoices to the Edison school district for services that were never provided.

Dean is tentatively scheduled to go to trial on those charges June 15 in Superior Court in Middlesex County.

Dean served as the president of Tiny Tots Therapy, now known as United Therapy Solutions, based in

Fanwood.

According to the lawsuit filed in Superior Court on April 26, in 2008 Dean signed a contract to provide therapy services for East Brunswick students.

For 10 years, until June 15, 2018, Dean submitted monthly invoices to the school district, which were all paid, the lawsuit says.

But in January 2018, Dean became a target of a Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office investigation which

See BILLING, Page 6A

Uplifting experience for frontline workers



TOP: First responders and teachers were treated to a tethered balloon ride at Solberg Airport on Tuesday. **RIGHT:** Howard Freeman, executive producer of the New Jersey Lottery Festival of Ballooning, thanks frontline workers in Readington. More than dozen local firefighters, first responders and educators from the Whitehouse Rescue Squad, the Readington Volunteer Fire Company and Three Bridges School were recognized by the festival, the largest summertime hot air balloon and music event in North America.



CHRIS PEDOTA PHOTOS/USA TODAY NETWORK

Somerville wants public input regarding marijuana sales

Mike Deak
MyCentralJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

SOMERVILLE - The borough is taking its time to decide whether to allow marijuana shops in town and where they would be located.

The Borough Council will hold a special meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday to discuss what options the county sent has for marijuana sales.

Unlike neighboring towns, Somerville is "taking our time" to pass a marijuana ordinance, Mayor Dennis Sullivan said at Monday's borough council meeting.

More than 70% of borough voters approved the referendum on November's ballot calling for the legalization.

"We've been hearing our voters," Sullivan said. New Jersey municipalities have until Aug. 21 to adopt zoning ordinances either to prohibit marijuana sales or to allow the sales in certain neighborhoods.

See MARIJUANA, Page 6A

Stop the spread

- Get vaccinated when eligible
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others
- Avoid close contact with others
- Wash your hands often
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Monitor your health daily

State grants for \$8.5M will upgrade 10 bridges in Central Jersey

Mike Deak
MyCentralJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

TRENTON - The state Department of Transportation has awarded \$8.5 million in grants to improve 10 bridges throughout Central Jersey.

Somerset County received \$2.77 million to upgrade

three bridges. Only four of New Jersey's 21 counties received more money.

Union got \$1.94 million for four projects. Hunterdon received \$1.85 million for two projects and Middlesex was awarded \$1.97 million for one project.

The bridges targeted for improvements are: Somerset County: Tullio Road bridge over the West Branch of Middle Brook in Bridgewater (\$500,000);

Morton Street bridge over Cuckles Brook in Bridgewater (\$900,000) and Pottersville Road bridge over Peapack Brook, Peapack-Gladstone (\$1,367,930).

Union County: Martine Avenue bridge in Scotch Plains (\$700,000); Myrtle Avenue bridge in Westfield (\$250,000); Watchung Avenue bridge in Plainfield

See BRIDGES, Page 6A

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