



INSIDE TODAY

Arts + Escapes: Actor Mark Wahlberg talks about "The Fighter." Plus, a trip to the birthplace of golf, and our holiday gift guide.

Perspective: Chris Christie gets his first report card. Key players in the state grade the governor on his first year in office.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

SAYREVILLE	14
BRICK MEMORIAL	0
WAYNE HILLS	24
OLD TAPPAN	21
LACEY	56
DELSEA	7
LAKELAND	20
RAMSEY	0
RUMSON	13
MATAWAN	7
SHORE REGIONAL	30
DUNELLEN	6
FREEHOLD BORO.	14
MIDDLETOWN S	12
PISCATAWAY	34
HUNT. CENTRAL	6
RANDOLPH	19
MONTCLAIR	0
NEW PROVIDENCE	21
LINCOLN	8
MORRISTOWN	40
NUTLEY	6

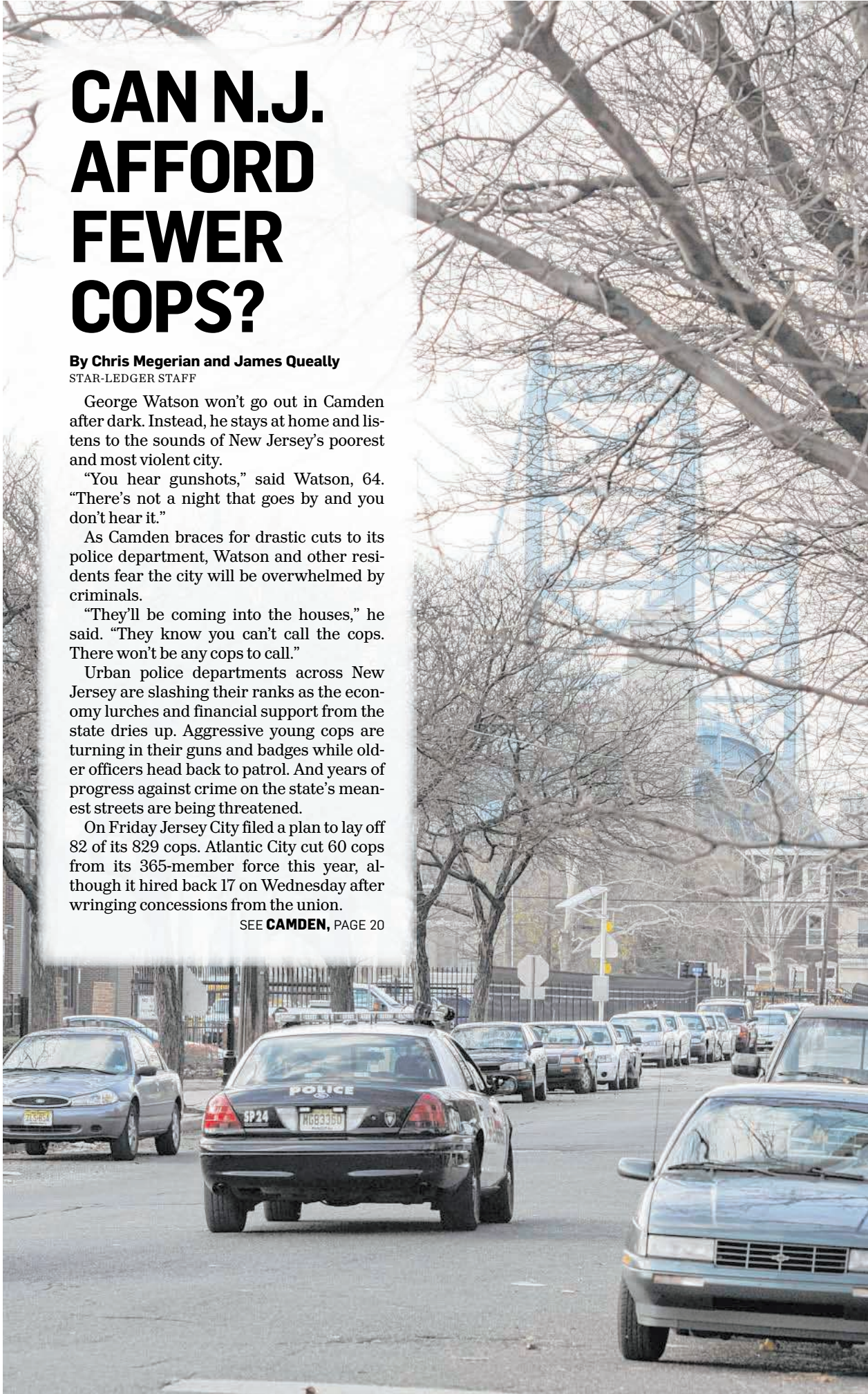
FULL COVERAGE IN SPORTS

IN OTHER NEWS

**Senate Republicans block move to extend tax cuts**  
President Obama looks to compromise after GOP makes its stand on continuing cuts for high-wage earners. Page 3

**Jersey hunters will go out loaded for bear**  
A six-day season opens tomorrow, after activists lost an appeal before the state Supreme Court yesterday. Page 17

**Divorcing couples now split real estate losses**  
Who gets to keep the house used to be a key issue. Now the mortgage makes breaking up even harder to do. In Business



CAN N.J. AFFORD FEWER COPS?

By Chris Megerian and James Queally  
STAR-LEDGER STAFF

George Watson won't go out in Camden after dark. Instead, he stays at home and listens to the sounds of New Jersey's poorest and most violent city.

"You hear gunshots," said Watson, 64. "There's not a night that goes by and you don't hear it."

As Camden braces for drastic cuts to its police department, Watson and other residents fear the city will be overwhelmed by criminals.

"They'll be coming into the houses," he said. "They know you can't call the cops. There won't be any cops to call."

Urban police departments across New Jersey are slashing their ranks as the economy lurches and financial support from the state dries up. Aggressive young cops are turning in their guns and badges while older officers head back to patrol. And years of progress against crime on the state's meanest streets are being threatened.

On Friday Jersey City filed a plan to lay off 82 of its 829 cops. Atlantic City cut 60 cops from its 365-member force this year, although it hired back 17 on Wednesday after wringing concessions from the union.

SEE CAMDEN, PAGE 20

WITH THE BEN FRANKLIN BRIDGE AS A BACKDROP, CAMDEN POLICE PATROL A CITY STREET LAST WEEK — NOAH ADDIS/FOR THE STAR-LEDGER

Diocese's sex abuse reforms fail, critics say

Newark archbishop vowed transparency

By Jeff Diamant  
STAR-LEDGER STAFF

Eight years ago, Newark Archbishop John J. Myers stood among the nation's bishops at a landmark gathering in Dallas and helped craft a policy intended to cleanse the priesthood of pedophiles and restore trust among shaken American Catholics.

In ratifying the Dallas Charter, Myers and his colleagues promised a new era of reform and transparency. Allegations of sexual abuse against priests would no longer be hidden from parishioners or police, and any priest believed to have molested a

**"We do not have priests in ministry without proper supervision, and those who have had credible allegations have been removed from ministry."**

James Goodness, spokesman for Newark Archbishop John J. Myers

child would be permanently banned from ministry.

In the years since, Myers and his aides say the archdiocese has taken aggressive measures to identify abusive priests.

But a Star-Ledger review of the archbishop's record since 2002 shows Myers on at least four occasions has shielded priests accused of sexual abuse against minors and one adult. In the four instances, the priests have either admitted improper sexual contact, pleaded guilty to crimes stemming from accusations of sexual misconduct or been permanently barred from ministry by the archdiocese after allegations of sexual misconduct.

The archdiocese also wrote a letter of recommendation for one of the priests, a week after it learned he was accused of breaking into a woman's home in Florida and possibly assaulting her.

From one perspective, the newspaper's findings suggest Myers continues to take a cautious hand in publicly

SEE REFORMS, PAGE 18

On hot, grim gridiron of Iraq sand, Jersey guy lifts spirits with football

Before we start, it helps to dispel this lingering misconception: Even though our troops entered the so-called "advise and assist" phase of their deployment two months back, rest assured that life on a command operating base in Iraq is still like residing in some unused corner of hell.

You just don't hear much anymore about the 50,000 Americans stationed there (or much of anything about this forgotten war) on the news



or on Capitol Hill. They've moved out of the cities but are still exposed to ambushes and roadside bombs and other attacks in their joint patrols with Iraqi troops throughout the

country — especially where 1st Lt. Aaron Raymar serves in Basra, the major oil export port of this cauldron, shoehorned between Iran and Kuwait at its southern extremity.

Moreover, these men and women may not come home very soon — March at the earliest — and as Raymar sees it, "The downhill portion of the deployment is the slowest and hardest for soldiers to handle."

For this and many other reasons, they play football.

The flag variety. At night, under the lights, when it isn't 110 degrees.

This was the brainstorm of Raymar, an extraordinary breed of Jersey Guy. He is a 24-year-old Watchung native who was once a National Team swimmer at the Somerset Hills YMCA. His days as a national-class athlete may be over, but he's proved to be a world-class leader: In his first job out of Lehigh University, Raymar led 105 patrols in 125 days in Iraq before he was rotated to a staff

position at Basra COB a few months ago.

There, Raymar immediately noticed there were many individual sportsmen and weight-room devotees on the base, but something was missing.

So with the NFL season about to start, he figured it was time to bring the 2,500 troops in Basra (Army, Navy and Air Force) a piece of home.

"There is so little time to enjoy all

SEE D'ALESSANDRO, PAGE 19

TODAY  
Mostly sunny, with a high near 39°.

TONIGHT  
Partly cloudy, with a low around 26°.

MORE  
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2 Weather  
17 New Jersey

29 Holiday Fund  
29 Local News  
23 Obituaries

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