

Today

OCEAN & MONMOUTH

Toms River hires CFO

Cherry Hill assistant to get \$160G yearly

Jean Mikle
Asbury Park Press
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

TOMS RIVER - The assistant controller for Cherry Hill has been hired to become the township's chief financial officer, with a salary of \$160,000 a year.

The Township Council voted 6 to 1 on

Jan. 23 to hire Sharon Smith as deputy chief financial officer from Feb. 5 to June 30.

After that date, the township's current CFO, Christine J. Manolio, is slated to retire, and Smith will take her place.

Mayor Thomas F. Kelaher said Manolio, who has worked for the township since 1993, is paid \$193,477, which in-

More online

Search "Red Carpet Inn" at [APP.com](#) to learn about the Toms River Council's plans to buy a motel.

cludes a \$179,155 base salary and \$14,322 in longevity.

"She's highly qualified," Kelaher said of Smith. He said Smith teaches certification courses for chief financial offi-



Thomas F. Kelaher

cers at Rutgers University. She's also treasurer of the Government Finance Officers Association of New Jersey.

Councilman Daniel Rodrick was the only council member to vote against Smith's appointment, saying he had not received her re-

See **CFO**, Page 4A

Freehold's Federici's to reopen

Fire in restaurant caused damage

Katie Park
Asbury Park Press
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

FREEHOLD - Federici's got lucky.

Around 4 p.m. Wednesday, employees and patrons inside the beloved Italian restaurant that has been a staple in downtown Freehold for nearly a century smelled smoke. At first, they couldn't tell where it was coming from - but they could tell it was quickly building.

"Within a minute, two minutes, it started getting very heavy smoke," said Michael Federici, who owns Federici's Family Restaurant on East Main Street.

Within minutes, after restaurant employees and patrons quickly evacuated and called 911, Federici said the fire was spotted in a wall and extinguished.

No one was injured, but Federici's sustained smoke and water damage, according to the Freehold Fire Department, Station 15. A neighboring restaurant - the Court Jester - sustained minor smoke damage.

Despite damage to his eatery and the Court Jester, Federici said it could have been much worse.

"If nobody was here, it could have been a true nightmare," Federici, 53, said.

Firefighters said the fire cropped up in a wall that runs parallel to the Court Jester.

Federici specified on the phone Thursday that it is an 8-inch space that separates Federici's and the Court Jester.

The Freehold Fire Department did not state a possible cause of the fire, saying it is under investigation by the Monmouth County Fire Marshal's Office.

"At this point it is considered undetermined and accidental," Federici said Thursday. "But if he (the fire marshal)

See **FEDERICI'S**, Page 4A

More online

Search "Federici's" at [APP.com](#) to learn more about one of New Jersey's oldest pizzerias.

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The Mullica Pirates



Capt. Steve Nagiewicz answers questions from the audience after a New Jersey Maritime Museum presentation on Jan. 19. He talked about the Mullica River Pirates and their battles with the British. LINDA REDDINGTON/STAFF PHOTO

Colonist crews looted British ships

Linda Reddington Times-Beacon Newspapers
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

BEACH HAVEN - Capt. Steve Nagiewicz was back at Buckalew's Restaurant for another in a series of lectures for the New Jersey Maritime Museum, but this was no dry scientific inquiry.

This was about pirates.

The Mullica River Pirates were privateers, American colonists enlisted by the Continental Congress to seize and loot British ships during the American Revolutionary war. They were enabled to do so through a letter of marque and reprisal.

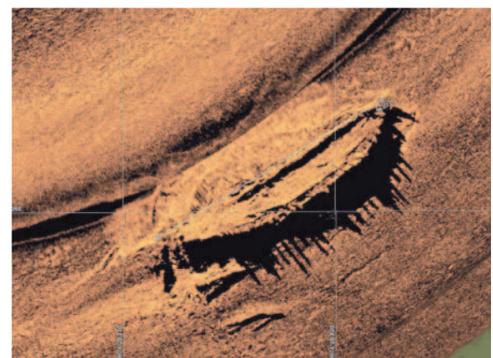
Nagiewicz told the audience at last Friday's lecture that the privateers were very successful in helping defeat the British. "The colonial navy had 64 ships with 1,200 cannon. The privateers had 1,700 ships with 14,782 cannon aboard."

People who take Garden State Parkway exit 44 to visit places like the Village of Historic Smithville or other points south may notice, on their left, a monument to the Battle of Chestnut Neck.

The Battle of Chestnut Neck was fought on Oct. 6, 1778, in southern New Jersey during the Revolutionary War, at a settlement on the Little Egg Harbor River (now known as the Mullica River) near the present-day city of Port Republic which was used as a base by privateers.

Nagiewicz said the British were systematically attempting to destroy all the sites that aided the colonists in fighting the war, such as saltworks, sawmills and ironworks. They particularly wanted to destroy Batsto, which supplied cannonballs and other weaponry, and Chestnut Neck was on the way.

However, Nagiewicz said colonists at Chestnut neck were expecting the raid, and had built a rude fortress of earth and timber. There were, however,



A sonar image shows the Phoebe wreck. The black shadows to the right of it are what remains of the boat's ribs. PHOTO COURTESY OF STOCKTON UNIVERSITY

More online

Read more stories on local history by searching "Jersey Roots" at [APP.com](#).

no supports for cannons.

The British soldiers commanded by Capt. Patrick Ferguson managed to kill 50 colonists, retrieve some supplies and destroyed piers and as many as 10 prize vessels, along with residences and other buildings.

But when they learned that Count Casimir Pulaski was on the way, the British quickly left by ship the following day. Some of their ships, including their

See **PIRATES**, Page 4A

Cancer claims mother of late Toms River officer

Katie Park and Jean Mikle
Asbury Park Press
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

BRICK - A mother who rallied support for her ailing police officer son while she grappled with an advanced stage of liver cancer died Friday.

The death of 58-year-old Lori Jan Hansen, a longtime Brick resident whose hallmark was her loving and

More online

Search "Brett Hansen" at [APP.com](#) to learn more about her son.

compassionate disposition, people close to her said, was the second tragedy to strike the tight-knit family in recent months.

Lori Hansen's 28-year-old son, Brett

Hansen, died at Raritan Bay Medical Center in Perth Amboy on Sept. 29, more than eight months after his car crashed into the back of a trailer on the Garden State Parkway. He was a newly hired patrolman with the Toms River Police Department who was off duty at the time of the collision.

Lori visited Brett in the hospital constantly, even as she weakened from chemotherapy, and remained by his bed-

side while he was kept under medical watch for months. She also attended fundraising events in his name and started an online fundraiser to pay for the medical expenses, said Carol Ray, Lori's youngest sister.

For a while, the officer improved, despite breaking every bone in his face, having his left eye removed and falling

See **MOTHER**, Page 4A

Pirates

Continued from Page 3A

flagship, The Zebra, had become stuck in the Mullica River bottom, so to keep colonists from later salvaging them, they blew up their ships and burned them.

Nagiewicz said no one has been able to find the wreck of the Zebra long the more than 50 mile-long Mullica.

Attending Friday's presentation with Nagiewicz was Steve Evert, a Long Beach Island resident who is the site manager for the Stockton University Field Station at Nacote Creek, Port Republic.

In 2009, Evert had some students, the dean and the marine science professor, Bill Phoel, aboard the university's research vessel, scanning the Mullica riverbed with sonar technology.

At the time, they knew there were two wrecks from the Battle of Chestnut Neck in the river, but they suddenly saw a third.

They made note of it and named it the Phoel Wreck, after Professor Bill Phoel, who had noticed it first, but nothing else was done at the time. There were other projects in the works, and then Phoel died.

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Nagiewicz, an experienced diver and researcher, also has a master's degree in environmental science and has 35 years doing this type of in-the-field archaeology. He took over Phoel's underwater archaeology class in January 2016.

It was shortly after starting teaching at Stockton, while aboard the school's research vessel Petrel, Nagiewicz said

Evert suggested they have a new look at the Phoel wreck.

The three wrecks at the bottom of the Mullica River are The Phoel, The Cramer (named for the marina off which it sits) and The Bead, named after the thousands of tiny glass beads originally found with it. Nagiewicz said the beads were traded to Native Americans at the time, for items that were more useful to the colonists.

The Cramer and the Bead have been declared national historic sites, which means the marina, where the Cramer wreck lies buried in silt, has been unable to make many improvements or additions to its business.

Stockton has taken sonar images of the wrecks over the years, documenting the degree to which they have deteriorated. Earlier pictures show more of the frames or "ribs" and what's left of the hull of the ships. But the Mullica has a strong and rapid current, which wears away at the wrecks as well as the mud around them.

They have been able to tell the approximate size of the vessels from the sonar measurements.

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He added that in addition to the missing Zebra, nothing has been found of about 30 whaleboats which also were supposedly at Chestnut Neck at the time.

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"It would take a grant to do it – an expensive grant, so if anybody has any contacts, tell them about us," he said.

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"In three more years, we will be celebrating our 100 years," Federici said. "And if it wasn't for the prompt response by the fire department, I don't know if we would have been celebrating a hundred years here."

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Mother

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"He and his family are among the most humble and respectful people we've ever known," Toms River police said the day he died. "Brett was known to drop whatever he was doing to help others with whatever they needed."

Brett's death was hard on the family, but it didn't weaken his mother, Ray said. Instead, Ray said Lori fought harder against the cancer to be there for her remaining son, Tyler, who is Brett's younger brother.

"She fought for everything, and, you know, she cared more about other people and their stories," Ray, 54, said Wednesday.

"And here she had just lost her son; she's battling Stage IV liver cancer," said Ray, who lives in Old Bridge. "And she's like, 'Oh my God, Carol, they got it worse than we do.' And I said, 'How do you figure that?'"

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"You just had to feel so sorry for her," Kelaher said. "I remember watching her holding his (Brett's) hand, talking to him, even though he was in a coma. It was heartbreaking."

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As the family prepared for funeral arrangements, Ray asked people to be like Lori in some ways – be compassionate, giving, and kind; respond to the kindness others show you by doing something good for someone else.

"Pay it forward," Ray said.

Lori Hansen, who was born in the Bronx and raised in Old Bridge, is survived by her husband, James A. Hansen; son Tyler James Hansen, niece Katie Ray; nephew Cody Tipton; sisters Carol Ray, Lynn Ray and Debra Tipton, and many family members and friends, according to her obituary.

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CFO

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"It's very possible that Ms. Smith is very qualified, but I haven't seen her re-

sume," Rodrick said.

He also questioned the \$160,000 annual salary for Smith, noting she was making a base salary of \$93,000 a year in Cherry Hill.

Committeeman George E. Wittmann Jr. said the council's administration committee reviewed Smith's qualifications after she was recommended for the job by Mayor Thomas F. Kelaher.

Under the township's strong mayor-council form of government, the mayor appoints most department heads with the advice and consent of the council.

"She's a CPA and a CFO, which is not very easy to come by," Wittmann said. "If you want to get somebody with that caliber of talent, you have to pay them."

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Councilwoman Maria Maruca said that Rodrick and other council members can always ask questions of the council liaison if they are interested in knowing more about a candidate's qualifications.

"I'm just asking, respectfully, if you expect me to vote on something, give me more information," Rodrick said.

Jean Mikle: 732-643-4050, @jeanmikle, jmikle@gannettnj.com



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Special Half Price AAUW Book Sale
 Winter is a good time to curl up with a good book. Get more books for less at the AAUW Used Book Sale special half price sale, Saturday, January 27, 9am-2pm at Old First Church, 69 Kings Highway, Middletown. Call 732-933-4855 or visit www.aauw-nj-nmcb.org for more information.

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St. Mary's by-the-Sea 12th Annual Gift Auction
 Sat. 2/24/18, 5 PM, Brick VFW 373, Adamston Rd. Large prizes including: kayak, LCD TV, iPad & 2 Broadway tix to Disney's Frozen. Grand Prize-\$3,000.00 in gift cards to Amazon.com. Tix/Info: 732-892-9254.

Pirates

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"It's very possible that Ms. Smith is very qualified, but I haven't seen her re-

sume," Rodrick said.

He also questioned the \$160,000 annual salary for Smith, noting she was making a base salary of \$93,000 a year in Cherry Hill.

Committeeman George E. Wittmann Jr. said the council's administration committee reviewed Smith's qualifications after she was recommended for the job by Mayor Thomas F. Kelaher.

Under the township's strong mayor-council form of government, the mayor appoints most department heads with the advice and consent of the council.

"She's a CPA and a CFO, which is not very easy to come by," Wittmann said. "If you want to get somebody with that caliber of talent, you have to pay them."

"If you want to get somebody with that caliber of talent, you have to pay them."

George E. Wittmann Jr.
Committeeman

Councilwoman Maria Maruca said that Rodrick and other council members can always ask questions of the council liaison if they are interested in knowing more about a candidate's qualifications.

"I'm just asking, respectfully, if you expect me to vote on something, give me more information," Rodrick said.

Jean Mikle: 732-643-4050, @jeanmikle, jmikle@gannettnj.com



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