



This Lemmon doesn't fall far from the tree

Chris Lemmon on his father, Jack. In Sunday Best

Daily Record

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MICHAEL IZZO/STAFF PHOTO
The Econo Lodge on Route 10 in Hanover.

Route 10 Econo Lodge a cop spot?

Meetings to decide fate of hotel's welfare housing

MICHAEL IZZO @MIZZODR

HANOVER — Half a mile west on Route 10 from the Hanover Township Police Department sits a motel that's become a regular stop for police in an otherwise peaceful town.

The Econo Lodge has been the site of several reports of criminal activity over the past few months, including drug use, prostitution, a shooting, lewdness and even stealing a puppy and selling it on Craigslist.

"It keeps us busy, that's for sure," Hanover Police Chief Stephen Gallagher said. "This is different for our town. We don't usually have this level of problems for our town. The shooting put a big spotlight on the place. We don't have shootings here."

The Econo Lodge received a lot of unwanted attention this February when Daniel Wendt, 24, of Boonton, was charged with shooting a man in the neck during an alleged drug deal outside the hotel.

Gallagher said police have increased patrols around the hotel, added foot patrols through the building, and had some undercover officers at the hotel running surveillance.

"For us it appears to be building, getting worse," Gallagher said. "We had the shooting. We've had prostitution in there. Drugs."

Gallagher confirmed a death at the hotel the last week of July — the same week a meeting was held with the county to address issues at the hotel — but would not comment on the cause of death.

"There were signs of drug activity taking place, but I cannot determine the cause because people were in and

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HURTING THE HOMELESS

"If these cuts go through, we'll lose the ground that we've gained, and a lot more."

DEBRA WENTZ

CEO, NJ ASSOCIATION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION AGENCIES



Budget cuts could halt Morris' homeless decline

LORRAINE ASH @LORRAINEVASH

If automatic, across-the-board sequestration cuts aren't stopped on Capitol Hill, a Morris County team of 12 case managers who specialize in homeless outreach here could lose two members.

The cuts could reverse a recent decline in homelessness in Morris, making the problem much more visible on local streets, stressing homeless shelters and increasing crime, all as early as next year.

Congress will continue talks on the cuts — part of the federal fiscal year 2016 budget, effective Oct. 1 — when it returns from its recess next month.

"The domino effect would be shocking to the county," said Lisa Falcone, director of homeless outreach services for the Mental Health Association of Morris

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TANYA BREEN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Lisa Falcone, program director of Homeless Outreach for people with Mental Illness (HOMI), at Mental Health Association of Morris County, Inc. in Mountain Lakes on Wednesday.

Did GOP debate finally prompt a Christie comeback?

BOB JORDAN @BOBJORDANAPP

Gov. Chris Christie finally brought his "New Jersey" voice to the campaign for the Republican Party nomination for president.

In the Fox News debate for the top-10 GOP candidates, the governor was loud, brash and in rivals' faces — the Christie that largely has been absent since his campaign launched June 30.

Whether the shift in persona wins over a national audience and turns around his fortunes — Christie was ninth among 17 GOP candidates going into

Fox's two GOP debates — isn't yet clear, but the early read is that Christie breathed new life into his long-shot effort.

Donald Trump has been the attention-getting darling of Republicans looking for a brash nominee, but Christie showed a national TV audience that political brawling is his calling card, too.

In a series of exchanges, he portrayed himself as another strong, no-nonsense, plain-speaking chief executive — an alternative to the sharper-elbowed (and some say unelectable) Trump.

The governor, who had just six min-

utes of speaking time, was able to squeeze in blasts at rivals for their positions on domestic surveillance and entitlements, topics important to conservatives in key primary states such as New Hampshire and Iowa.

The exchanges left a mark.

Seizing the moment

Data from Twitter and Facebook showed Christie's yelling match with U.S. Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky was on-

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Data from Twitter and Facebook showed Christie's yelling match with U.S. Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky was online's most talked-about moment in the Thursday night debate.



Social Security turns 80

What will it take to keep it solvent for millennials? In @issue

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