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The Jaffe Briefing - December 13, 2018

1 message

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TRENTON - Even with a joint committee on legalizing cannabis in New Jersey, it looks increasingly doubtful that there will be a vote in 2018. It really seemed like recreational marijuana would have been legalized this fall, but there's a lot of smoke hanging around. How should the state tax the drug? And how should a "cannabis commission" be established to oversee all the fun? This morning, a top-level meeting is scheduled between Gov. Phil Murphy, Senate President Steve Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin. Perhaps they can hash this out with the Legislature; until then, answer your burning questions about cannabis in New Jersey by lighting up [the Nov. 30 episode of the Jaffe Briefing Podcast](#).

OFF THE RAILS - NJ Transit riders experienced the worst November in 15 years, with nearly a third of the rush-hour trains to and from NYC being delayed, *Bloomberg* reports. The bright side? At some point, in the next few years, when the trains finally arrive at the station, commuters will jump on board fancy, new rail cars. According to *NJ.com*, NJ Transit is poised to spend \$699.07 million on 113 multi-level cars, some even with restrooms, replacing decades-old electric powered trains. These trains will be arriving in early 2023, so start getting excited now.



MANALAPAN - There's a wrestling match tomorrow night between Manalapan and Jackson Memorial high schools. And why, exactly, are we telling you this? Because, for the very first time in the history of New Jersey, the teams will comprise only girl grapplers. Plenty of action is planned, with 10 weight classes and, at the end of the night, a clear winner. Manalapan High seems the place to be for female wrestlers; two girls were on the team in 2017 and now the roster boasts 19. Perhaps there needs to be open try-outs next year, with boys invited, if they dare.



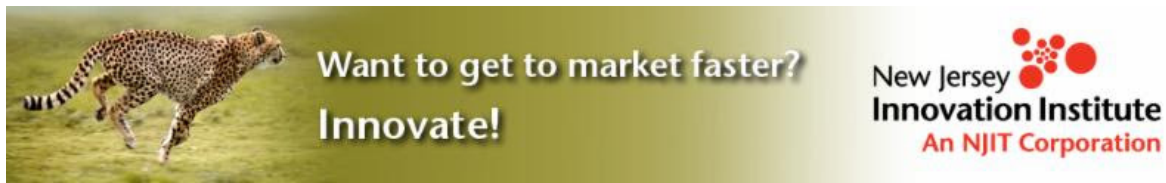
AT THE TRACK - New Jersey sports books are nearing \$1 billion in bets since legalized sports gambling began in June. And, while our state's three racetracks have scooped up millions in this glorious new revenue, they are still approaching state lawmakers, hat in hand. Some lawmakers want to dig deep, handing them \$100 million in subsidies to shore up the state's horse racing industry. A state Senate panel advanced a bill this week to divvy up \$20 million per-year for five years

among the racetracks, saying they're still facing tough financial times. Sen. Vin Gopal - with Monmouth Park and Freehold Raceway in his district - tells *NJ BIZ* these subsidies would be "a huge help" for an industry so closely tied to our "heritage and culture, and a key source of jobs and economic activity." Our money on all this? The subsidies win by a nose.



MONMOUTH BEACH - Good deeds are not always their own reward. Some people, like Paige Woodie, end up \$3 richer. In 2004, 12-year-old Paige and childhood chum Jackie Bradley found three bucks on the ground, dutifully marched into borough police headquarters and turned over the cash to some unlucky cop, suddenly saddled with ridiculous paperwork. Woodie, now 26, tells the *Asbury Park Press* that police recently delivered an evidence bag containing that very same \$3 to her home. Because no one has claimed the cold, hard cash for 14 years, officers say the three bills are now rightfully hers. Woodie says she plans to generously split the bounty with her friend, Jackie. But, hey, no compounding interest?





STATEWIDE - NJSpotlight asks: So how civil a process is civil asset forfeiture in New Jersey? Not very, maintains a new report. Civil or not, it contributes a not-so-insignificant figure to police enforcement's bottom line in the state: \$5.5 million in the first five months of 2016 alone. Critics, some of whom call it "policing for profit," are demanding reform. They say that goods often are seized regardless of whether the property owner ever gets charged with a crime. Another flaw, they contend, is its disproportionate effect on minority communities. [Read all about it.](#)

IN OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

CONROE, TX - Rescuing more than 100 live snakes became the job of volunteer firefighters in this rural Texas town, after a Christmas tree fire filled a home with thick smoke this week. The owner and two dogs escaped, but firefighters found a bedroom just slithering with caged and loose snakes - small ones, big ones, and much bigger ones, like six-foot boa constrictors and pythons. Ick. "They'd give anyone crawling through a smoke-filled house a heart attack," the fire chief tells the Houston Chronicle. With the owner's help, these volunteer firefighters carefully carried all these snakes to safety. "It's just something firefighters may have to deal with even if they don't want to," the chief explained. Next up: rabies-infested tarantulas.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

It was this day in 1975 that Saturday Night Live used a tape delay for the very first time. And for a very good reason, welcoming Richard Pryor as host.



WORD OF THE DAY

Approbation - [ap-ruh-BAY-shun] - noun

Definition: Commendation, praise

Example: I'm not looking for the approbation of the masses. Just you.

WIT OF THE DAY

"I never met anybody who said when they were a kid, 'I wanna grow up and be a critic.'"

- Richard Pryor

WEATHER IN A WORD

Yuck



THE NEW 60

*A Jaffe Briefing exclusive
by Andy Landorf & John Colquhoun*



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