

QUOVADIS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

WEEKLY STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF MIDDLESEX COLLEGE

VOLUME 61 - ISSUE 1

College Kicks Off With Fair

Student Life Sponsors Meet and Greet for Students and Clubs



By Sean Huey Melido, Page Editor

The Student Life office is hosting the Stay Connected Fair in the quad on Sept. 12 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. for students to interact with clubs and organizations available to them.

Mary Tutalo, Student Life Coordinator, said, "The Stay Connected Fair is one of the two larger fairs that the Student Life office does for the year."

Tutalo said both events occur at the beginning of each semester to promote clubs, have students engage with each other and get information pertaining to what each club offers.

"The event is a good way to introduce clubs that are available, what they consist of, who the representatives are, followed by their goals."

The event is weather permitting. "If the weather doesn't allow for it, then it will be in the cafeterias A, B and C," said Tutalo.

Tutalo said the event is a good way to introduce clubs that are available, what they consist of, who the representatives are, followed by their goals.

Alexandra Fields, English professor, said, "I think it is a great opportunity for students to meet their peers and learn more about the many clubs they can join while at Middlesex College."

Geraldine Louise Mendoza, second year student, said, "I believe this is a great event. When I was a first-year student... I was not as active on campus and I didn't take advantage of these free events, which I absolutely regret."

"As an upcoming second-year student here at Middlesex College, I believe that new students should attend these events in order to see

what the college has to offer. This is also an opportunity to meet other students, professors and staff," said Mendoza.

Anoshe Adnan, second year student, said, "I think it's great that Middlesex College is hosting an event like that for students so they can get to know the clubs, especially for the upcoming freshman students."

Tutalo said refreshments and new clubs will be featured.

"There will be inflatable axe throwing and pickleball; a new club in the fall. The fair will have a small pickleball court set up in the circle by the quad and they'll be doing demonstrations to promote their club and pick up new members," said Tutalo.

"There will also be free food, free light refreshments like hamburgers, hotdogs, chips and ice cream. It's usually a nice event, a great way to start up the semester and meet people as well."

Photos Courtesy of Middlesex College



QUO VADIS STAFF

Managing Editors: _____ Patrickka Duncan, David MacAulay
 Core Staff: _____ Kenneth Ortega
 Arts and Entertainment Editor: _____ Sean Huey Melido
 Review Page Editor: _____ Sean Huey Melido
 Sports Page Editor _____ Nolan MacFadyen
 Head Layout Editor: _____ Caprice Benifield-Sanchez
 Staff Writers: _____ Elisa Clavijo, Trinity Dunn
 Hina Navqi,
 Faculty Adviser: _____ Dr. Melissa Edwards

Faculty Adviser
Melissa Edwards
medwards@middlesexcc.edu

Corrections

Quo Vadis promptly addresses any and all errors submitted to the faculty adviser. If you have comments or concerns on the accuracy of our reporting, send Melissa Edwards an email at medwards@middlesexcc.edu

This semester Quo Vadis will release three print issues themed: Black History Month, Women's History Month and Earth Day/Environment Climate Change.

Visit
quovadisnewspaper.com
to sign up

Students interested in reading our weekly newspaper can sign up for weekly emails to receive a copy of our newspaper and other online content.

Campus Hours:

West Hall: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
 Library: 9 a.m - 9 p.m.
 Computer Center: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
 Testing Center: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
 Cafeteria: 9 a.m. - 9 a.m.
 Counseling Services: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Food Pantry: <https://www.middlesexcc.edu/student-life/food-pantry/>

Emergency Phone:
 732.906.2500

Non-Emergency Phone:
 732.548.6000 x3500

School Info Line:
 732.906.2555

Police/Fire:
 911

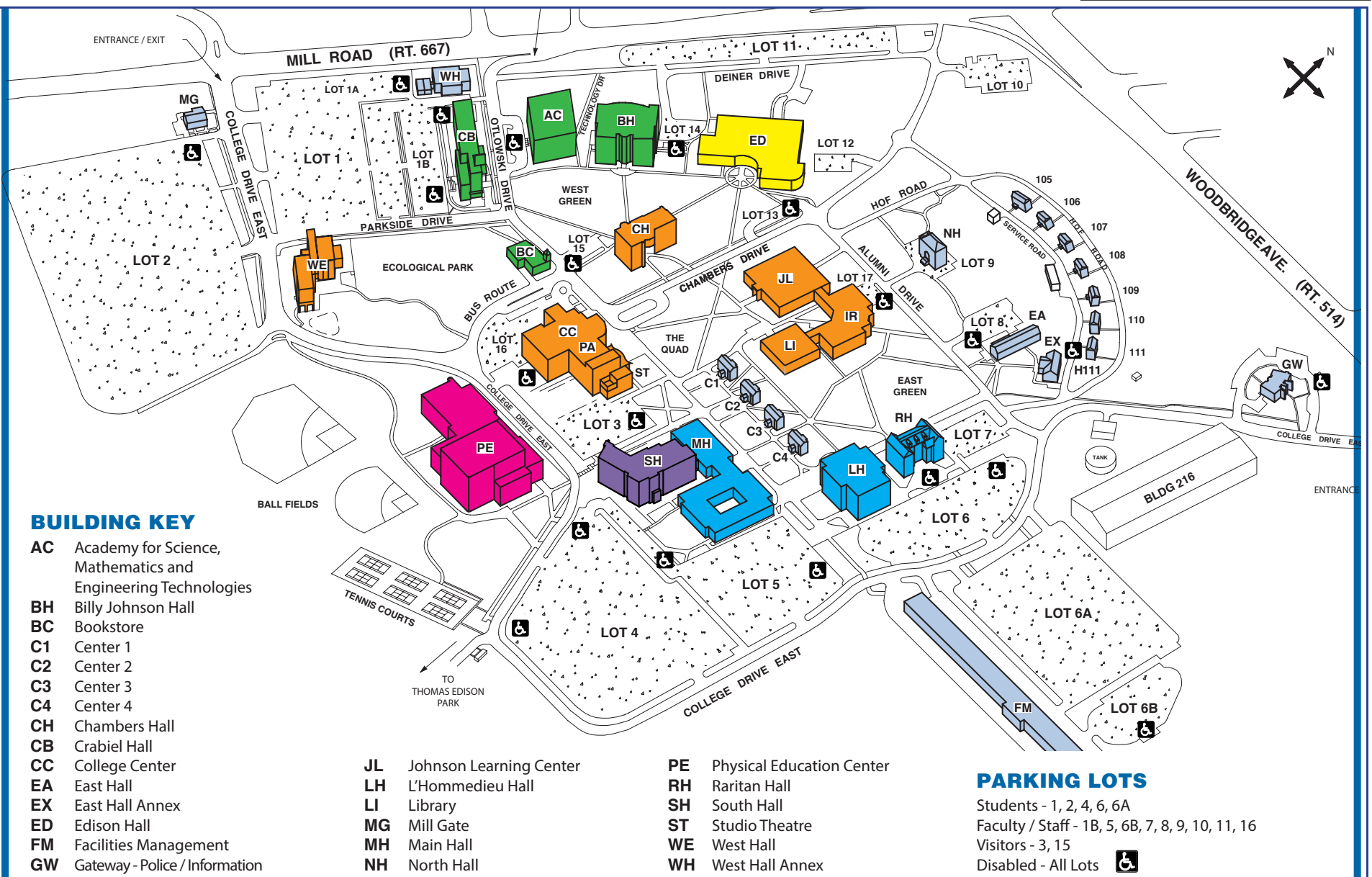
Suicide Prevention:
 800-273-8255

Edison Campus:
 732-548-6000

New Brunswick:
 732-745-8866

Perth Amboy:
 732-906-7755

Click Map to view in web browser



Appreciating the Little and Big Moments

By Patrickia Duncan, Managing Editor

Disney Pixar's *Soul* has an undeniably strong visual, clearcut moral and creative voice work that makes its animatic features come to life. Fluctuating between the different characters and the unique interaction of voices, *Soul* takes you on a meaningful adventure.

The 2020 film highlights the importance of focusing on thriving for something other than your personal ambition and proving excellence; enjoying what life offers whether

ing realism and animation is a key component in this film. The depiction of New York City is very blended, well thought out, and abstract. There are scenes that pivot attention to skyscrapers, crowded sidewalks, and yellow cabs in busy streets. The Big Apple is known for all three of these components, which makes the film a reality. The light quality throughout the movie is also very warm and rich, making the cinematic experience pragmatic for viewers.

“The characters and constant change of scenery portray different perspectives in regard to life and its specialty.”

you accomplished something or not. The characters and constant change of scenery portray different perspectives in regard to life and its specialty. Through these counterparts, different interests, personalities and quirks open the gateway to a fair-paced, comprehensible plot.

With fair pacing of the plot, the cinematography and graphics of *Soul* is marvelous. Evidently, balanc-

With some of the phenomenal voice work of Angela Bassett, Jamie Foxx and Tina Fey the comedy-drama highlights expressive visuals to set the mood for emotional or action-like scenes. Bright colors and patterns dance across the screen. It's like a utopia of sophisticated art, where everything seems to come to life and keep watchers on their feet. In conjunction with the visu-



Photo Courtesy of Pixabay

Girl enjoying life

als, the audio also intensifies and in a way highlights the importance of the scene. Loud thumps, sparks, and other profound sounds arise beneath your feet to provide a high

auditory experience.

Soul is a family-friendly movie that not only takes you on an adventure but is a thought-provoking film. This delightful animation is enjoyable to

watch and explores mature themes of life. If you are looking for a comfort movie to watch that is also witty and eye-opening, I highly recommend *Soul*.

A Dessert Utopia for all Cultures



Mangonada

By Patrickia Duncan, Managing Editor

Chamoyz Snack Bar located on Georges St. in New Brunswick offers

versatile shakes, smoothies, snacks and fruit bowls that will leave your

mouth watering. Its menu has different flavors and ingredients that not

only elevate your taste buds but are bona fide when it comes to Hispanic culture. Indulging in this dessert utopia puts tasty and colorful creations to the test.

The menu ranges from smoothies, pinas (fruit in a pineapple bowl), raspados (flavored ice) sandias (fruit, cucumbers and peanuts arranged in a watermelon bowl), michelaguas (a non-alcoholic drink with a little spice), munchies (such as concha con helado— a traditional Mexican sweet bread with ice cream), as well as fruit snacks. What I admire about the menu is that there are images of each drink/food item so that customers are given the option to choose something that they may gravitate towards; a depiction helps tremendously when it comes to choice.

Under each category, there are quirky names for all creations and

(for thick consistency), lime juice, chamoy, tajin and tamarind candy straws. I was so key to this drink, so I ordered it. The lady taking my order was very welcoming and patient. The service was very fast and there were no issues when it came to the payment method or even me taking my time to look over the menu beforehand.

The drink was ready in five minutes and the presentation was satisfactory. The consistency of the drink was smooth and syrupy. It evenly draws out through the tamarind candy straw; it never once got to the point where the drink was too thick for consumption and got stuck in the straw. With the edible straw, you also have two in one. The tamarind candy is molded around the straw to create the perfect balance of chili powder, sweet, and spicy along with the drink itself. The mango sorbet provides a

“With the red infusion from the chamoy, the vibrancy and bold flavor comes to life.”

Photo Courtesy of Patrickia Duncan

the price to the right. All food items range from \$4-32 depending on the portion or what you order. At this snack bar, it's not about quality over quantity, vice versa, rather these concepts are equally proportionate.

Although there's a variety of options to choose from, I craved something simple. The first thing that caught my eye was the Mangonada located under the smoothie section for \$7. This fruit beverage is perfect on a blistering hot day. The refreshing recipe consists of frozen mangoes (for coolness), mango nectar

rich natural sweetness that is very pleasing to the tastebuds. The authenticity and tropical twist speaks for itself. With the red infusion from the chamoy, the vibrancy and bold flavor comes to life. On top of the drink blend, there are mango cubes, light dusting of tajin and chamoy drizzle for garnish. With just one sip, you have the flawless blend of sweet, tangy, spicy and savory. For projected hot summer days, all you really need is this mango puree; a strong flavorful tart combination that enlightens your tastebuds.

Twitter Transitions to X

By David Macaulay-Smith, *Managing Editor*

Elon Musk has made headlines with his bold move to take over Twitter and rebrand it as "X". This choice has sparked a flurry of debates in regards to the pros and cons of the sudden name change. On the one hand, the new name denotes a new beginning and a break from the standard Twitter identity. Conversely, it can muddle the platform's brand and mislead current users. The launch of new features like X Premium additionally sparked user interest and concerns. The expanded functionality this premium membership service provides raises questions about the possibility of a paywall that can restrict access to specific services. The user experience has also been significantly impacted by Musk's payment mechanism on the app that enables users to essentially earn money. Although it gives content providers a chance to make money off of their presence on the site, it also raises concerns about the possibility of an unfair and marketed user experience. Users have expressed both excitement and concern over Elon Musk's acquisition of Twitter and the changes that followed. With the implications of the name change, new features, and payment mechanisms this subject matter became the talk of the town.

X Premium has brought about new features that have significant implications for its users. With the launch of X Premium, users now have access to special features including the ability to undo a tweet, group bookmarks into folders, and view long tweets in reader mode. In addition to improving the user experience, these features provide users with more control over how they read material and tweets. For instance, having the option of editing a tweet can prevent people from posting quickly or regrettably, encouraging more careful and thoughtful engagement. Addi-

tionally, grouping bookmarks into folders can help users manage their saved content and organize it, making it easier for them to discover and revisit relevant information. Users may read longer threads more easily and intently using the reader mode, which improves comprehension and lightens the cognitive burden. These features have the potential to improve user satisfaction and engagement on the platform. The fact that X Premium is a subscription-based service, nevertheless, should be kept in mind since it could restrict certain users' access to these services. This raises concerns about these features' potential exclusivity and accessibility as well as their potential to widen the digital divide among users of operating system X. The launch of X Premium and its additional features nonetheless represent continued attempts to innovate and meet the ever-changing needs of its user base.

A unique feature of X Premium has attracted notice by enabling users to make money using various monetization strategies. Although there may be some advantages for consumers, there are also some disadvantages to take into account. The ability for content creators to monetize their postings is one of the key benefits of consumers receiving payment via X Premium. For those who put time and effort into creating high-quality material, such as influencers, artists, and individuals, this may be particularly tempting. Users can potentially be able to convert their interests into a dependable source of income by getting direct payments. This financial incentive may also encourage users to produce more interesting and original material, improving the platform user's overall experience. However, there are also a few disadvantages to consider. The possibility of material becoming overly monetized is one

possible downside. The authenticity and organic character of the user experience may be jeopardized if users start getting compensated for their postings and the app targets commercial content. Additionally, the inclusion of monetization tools can produce a gap between content creators who can make money from their contributions and those who can't, which might cause users to feel excluded or treated unfairly. Additionally, the payment structure of X Premium could not be equally beneficial for all users as it might favor certain types of content or individuals with greater followings, giving smaller creators fewer opportunities to benefit financially. While X Premium users getting paid offers benefits for monetization and encouraging content production, it also poses issues with commercialization and user inequality.

In conclusion, there are advantages and disadvantages to Elon Musk acquiring Twitter and changing its name to "X". On the one hand, the new name gives the platform a feeling of originality and creativity. The introduction of additional features, like X Premium, and the availability of in-app payments for users have the potential to improve the user experience and open up new possibilities for content creators. On the other hand, there may be a learning curve for users adjusting to new features, and the name change may alienate long-time users who are used to the old title. Moreover, the new payment feature may not be equally beneficial for all users, as it might neglect smaller creators, giving them fewer opportunities to earn. Ultimately, the success of these changes will depend on how effectively Musk and his team execute and communicate the updates to the X community. Only time will tell how these changes will shape the future of the platform and its user base.



Photo Courtesy of Pixelbay

A person using a phone

Supreme Court Ends Affirmative Action in College Admissions

By Trinity Dunn, *Staff Writer*

With affirmative action being removed in college admissions, where does diversity stand?

Over the summer, the Supreme Court struck down affirmative action in college admissions, limiting how race is considered in their admissions process. This decade-long action, when it was permitted, was used to achieve diversity and equal opportunities for those who were discriminated against. Now what this will mean for diversity in colleges and sources that use affirmative action?

As a high school graduate, making sure that I had an affordable education when the time to attend college came was important. But I also would look at diversity as well since it was important to me because of the cultural awareness aspect, and inclusion of people from different backgrounds. So, how could the removal of race in higher education affect that?

According to NPR, Georgetown University conducted simulations to examine the potential consequences of eliminating race as a factor in college admissions. This study revealed that selective colleges experienced a decline in ethnic diversity unless they re-designed the process, which would, unfortunately, include ridding of legacy and athletic recruitment. Interestingly, the simulations showed that excluding race and using alternative data like high school grades and test scores, or social economic indicators instead did not provide a more ethnically diverse student body, another reason why affirmative action was essential.

Although some may say they're happy it's gone, let's look back on the history of why this act was even created. Today's affirmative action was thought up with the intent to combat segregation, and the concept can be spotted in the mid-1900s with Executive Order 8802, issued by FDR, which would be shaped by social movements for civil rights, gay rights, and women's liberation. Then 20 years later, we see affirmative action used in context with ex-

ecutive orders like 10925, signed by JFK, where all federal contractors were required to take "affirmative action" to ensure all job applicants and workers got treated equally, no matter their race, beliefs, color or national origin. And since such orders were made, we've had and continue to have an increase in diversity in the workplace and education.

Around the 1960s and 1970s, Colleges and universities began incorporating race-conscious admission policies to address historical and systematic discrimination issues with underrepresented groups in society, including minorities, and promote diversity in higher education. However, this act has been challenged for years, and the Supreme Court case of 2023 against affirmative action was not the first, with several states banning affirmative action years prior. Nonetheless, colleges continue to try and figure out other methods that can be used to achieve diversity in their institution, even though affirmative action was the most efficient way to see results.

Moreover, the 2023 Supreme Court ruling was interesting because it didn't offer a solution, nor did it address certain issues. As stated by education professionals at college board, the court's opinion did not touch on subjects like scholarships and financial aid, data collection, race-neutral strategies, etc. So it's up to colleges and universities how they will deal with these matters.

Being one of the important cases in 2023, Students for Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College will leave its mark in history. With this limitation on affirmative action, there could be a negative impact on diversity with applicants and employment in the future, but the ruling won't prevent colleges from keeping their diversity in some way. Therefore, this removal will have its effects in the long run, whether good or bad in some areas of the U.S. Given affirmative action being restricted in admissions, what will the Supreme Court overrule next or try to?

Theft in the United States Gets Worse

By Patrickia Duncan, *Managing Editor*

For many retail businesses, large and small, inflation is very high. The main culprit is rising theft. Although poverty or need is a catalyst for this act, theft is growing significantly, which also refashions the asking price for a product. Petty shoplifting occurs frequently and with large-scale theft, shelves become wiped out in no time.

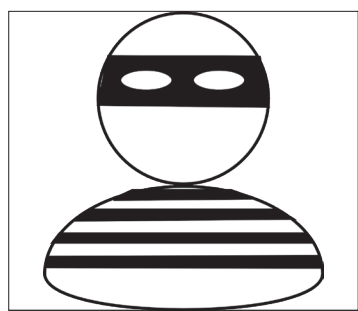
There are several Americans hurting and different reasons behind theft as a whole. Oftentimes, certain products are stolen for specific use such as opportunity. Some individuals may steal because they may not be financially stable or equipped. Stolen goods can also be easily sold online for a profitable price. In order for shoplifters to avoid unbearably high prices, stealing is a way to sustain or possibly even maintain a solid budget.

From my experience, working as a sales associate isn't easy because of consistent theft. As a sales associate, we are to ensure that electronic article surveillance technology (EAS)

stickers and/or labels are put into effect. We also have to ensure that certain security-protected devices are explicitly designed for certain products.

For example, let's take a look at Red Bull. You'd think that people wouldn't steal something as small and simple as an energy drink, but that's not the case. Red Bull now has an anti-theft device on its cap to ensure that the store's profits are secured.

Personal protected devices (PPDs), encourage a strategy for loss prevention. Evaluating and making



A Robber

Illustration Courtesy of Pixelbay

use of devices like this ensures that the system performs well. This decreases the probability of the security alarms not working or there being a complete false alarm.

Another major contribution to theft is the NJ bag mandate. With the New Jersey plastic bag ban, everything is getting worse. Shoplifters can bring their own bags and comfortably steal. It also motivates them to loot carts or a basket full of items.

Although inflation will always be around, there are ways to prevent theft. Ensuring retail stores have security devices on deck for high-value products is a must as well as making sure customers remove all items from their bag when they make a purchase. Another solution is keeping the store clean and tidy so that the store manager can differentiate between what's been stolen and what hasn't. To close, retail stores should ensure that merchandise that is likely to be stolen is secure, monitored correctly, and inventory counts are recorded on a regular basis.

Women's Soccer Team Plays Against Brooksdale

By Nolan MacFadyen, Page Editor

The women's soccer team travels to Brookdale for their second game of the season on Thursday, Sept. 7.

Head coach Adrienne Giordano, said, "We lost to Brookdale in the playoffs last year and I think the team is hungry for a win. They want to show that they're not to be underestimated again. It's definitely a point of contention and overall we're just preparing to do better than we did last year."

Athletic director, Rocco Constantino, said, "Last year's team was one of just four teams in Region 19 to qualify for the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region 19 Tournament. It was a great accomplishment considering we didn't

even have a women's soccer team in 2019 or 2020. We also had one of the biggest rosters in the region. It was great to see so many students participating in women's soccer at Middlesex. This year, even with a lot of turnover, I expect that we can have a similar type of season."

Sophomore team captain, Vanesa Rodriguez, said, "My expectation for this upcoming season is to work hard to make it to the Region 19 Tournament like last year and win many games throughout the season."

"Being captain means a lot to me. It means that I am someone who my teammates look up to and will have their back no matter what; on and off the field. Being a captain also means being a leader and leading us to victories for this upcoming season," said Rodriguez.



Player practicing at Crabiell park on Aug. 12

Photo Courtesy of Middlesex College Women's Soccer

Men's Soccer Team Prepares for the Upcoming Season

By Nolan MacFadyen, Page Editor

The Colts Men's soccer team lost an exhibition game against The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) 5 to 2 at Crabiell park on Friday Aug. 25 bringing an end to their preseason.

After the game head coach Javier

Velasco said, "I think playing against TCNJ was a learning experience for our players. They were more physical than us today. We also made some mistakes that caused us some goals and I hope that our players learned from these mistakes now so they

don't happen during the season. We gave all our players the opportunity to play today so we can learn more about them."

Sophomore winger Juan Arboleda said, "Last year we went to the playoffs, but we lost against Brookdale, so this year we want to build off last

season and try to get back to and win the playoffs."

Freshman goalkeeper Jhan Paul Mayorga who started the second half said, "I'm excited for what's coming I hope the team preforms well and we can reach our goal make it to the playoffs, I'm just glad I'm here... I'm

from Costa Rica so this is my first season playing here at a college in America so I'm just excited for new things and opportunity's."

According to middlesexcoltsathletics.com the colts next home game will be on Saturday Sept. 9 against County College of Morris.

Scheduled Games September

06	6 p.m.	Middlesex College Women's Volleyball Vs. Brookdale Community College
07	7 p.m.	Middlesex College Men's Soccer @ Drew University
	4 p.m.	Middlesex College Women's Soccer @ Brookdale Community College
09	12 p.m.	Middlesex College Women's Volleyball @ Union College
	12:45 p.m.	Middlesex College Women's Soccer Vs. Hagerstown Community College
	3 p.m.	Middlesex College Men's Soccer Vs. County College of Morris
11	6 p.m.	Middlesex College Women's Volleyball Vs. Rowan College South Jersey-Gloucester
12	4 p.m.	Middlesex College Men's Soccer Vs. Rowan College South Jersey-Gloucester
	7 p.m.	Middlesex College Women's Soccer Vs. Rowan College South Jersey-Gloucester
13	6 p.m.	Middlesex College Women's Volleyball Vs. Bergen Community College

Colts Results

* Preseason Game

8/22	Middlesex College Men's Soccer @ Kean University Tied 3-3*
8/25	Middlesex College Men's Soccer Vs TCNJ Lost 5-2*
8/28	Middlesex College Women's Volleyball Vs Ocean County Lost 3-0
8/28	Middlesex College Women's Soccer @ Brooklyn College Won 4-1*
8/30	Middlesex College Women's Volleyball @ Morris Postponed



Freshman Bryan Bonilla brings the ball up the field up the left wing to start an attack

Photo by Nolan MacFadyen



Sophomore Juan Arboleda sending in a corner kick after a TCNJ player put the ball out of bounds

Photo by Nolan MacFadyen

Summer Collage

By Quo Vadis Staff

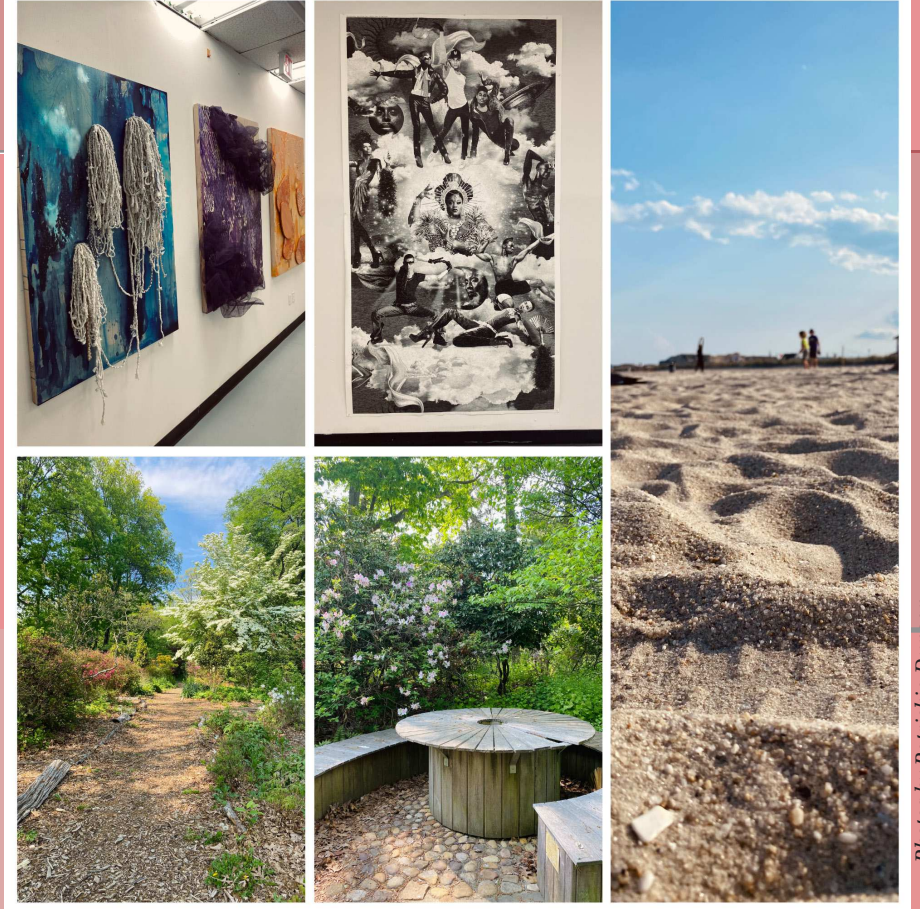
Fun Summer Activities



Photos by Huey Melido

Left to right: V. Sattui Winery, Lake Tahoe in Nevada, TWICE's 'Ready To Be' concert at MetLife Stadium, Yosemite National Park, Santa Cruz Beach, Boardwalk, and San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge

Summer Mode Activated



Photos by Patricia Duncan

Top left: Contemporary art at PES Studios in Newark, Top middle: Black and white art portraying sexuality, Bottom left: Beautiful landscape at Rutgers Garden, Bottom middle: Outdoor seating at Rutgers Garden, Right: Woman relaxing and enjoying the beach

Spending Time with Family



Photos by Hima Naqvi

Top left: A ride at the American Dream Mall, East Rutherford, NJ, Top right: Hina and her family at the beach, Bottom left: The American Dream Mall in East Rutherford, NJ, Bottom right: Hina's family at the park in Virginia

Fun Places in MA



Photos by Elisa Clavijo

Top left to right is : house in Pioneering World, wall of Paper House, Binx's House from Hocus pocus in Pioneering World. Middle left to right: shackles in Pioneering World, Town Hall in Salem, MA, cabin in Pioneering World. Bottom left to right: exterior to Paper House, interior to Paper House, piano to Paper House