

# IT'S GAME TIME

## INSIDE: YOUR OPENING-DAY GUIDE TO THE 2012 METS



### Christie: Let Israel control holy sites

New Testament leg of trip solidifies view

By Jenna Portnoy  
STATEHOUSE BUREAU

TIBERIAS, Israel — After Gov. Chris Christie, his family and top staffers made a daylong sojourn through the New Testament yesterday, the governor said he believes now more than ever that only under Israeli control can people of all faiths worship together at the holy sites of Jerusalem.

"There is no question that that is so stark when you actually see it and you're here," he said in an interview. "I was somebody who felt that way politically before I came here, but now that I've actually seen the sites, it's reinforced my opinion that the place has never been better or freer than under Israeli control."

■ Codey slams N.Y. Post for Christie headline. Page 9

The group traced the last few Stations of the Cross through the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and enjoyed a window into the worshipping practices of some of the six Christian denominations that run the place: Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Armenian, Syrian Orthodox, Egyptian Coptic Orthodox and Ethiopian Orthodox.

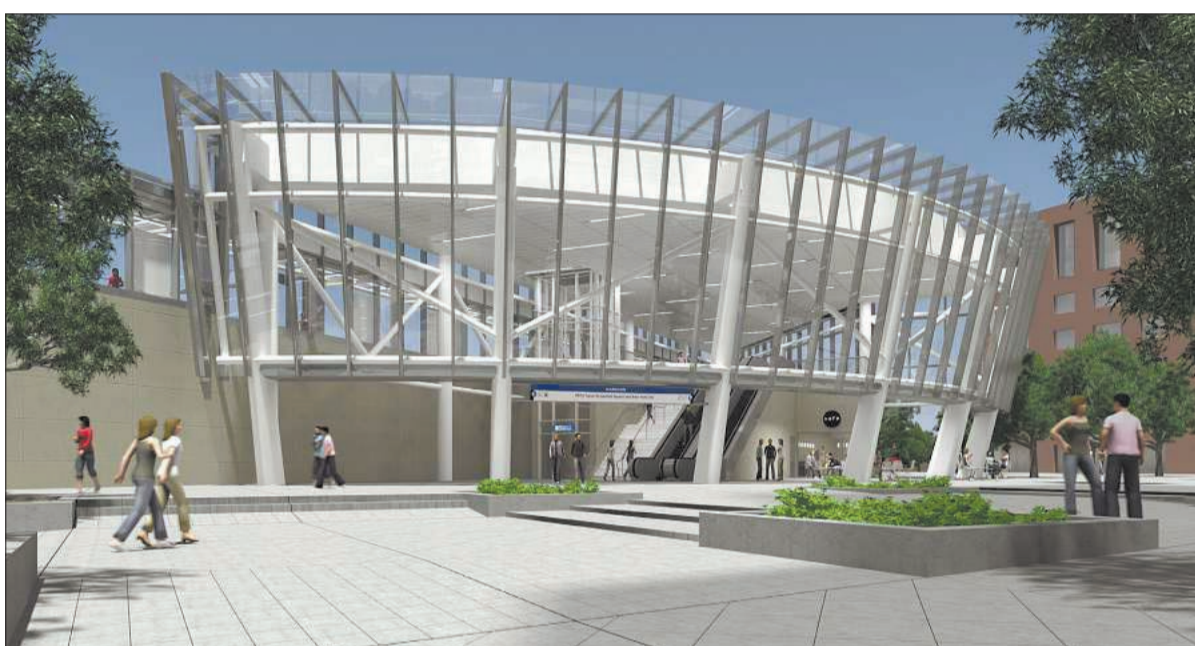
It didn't hurt that the guide, Asher Afriat, CEO of the Israel Seminar, had worked with presidential hopeful Mitt Romney, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor and the pro-Israel lobby the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

"Because of the politics of anonymity and need of all the groups to be represented at the holiest site for Christianity," he said, holding a map and crouching on the dusty stone streets of Old City Jerusalem, the six religious denominations control different parts of the church "and they disagree about what belongs to who."

SEE CHRISTIE, PAGE 9

### HARRISON STATION'S TRANSFORMATION

# Pathway to the future on a \$256M fast track



By Steve Strunsky  
STAR-LEDGER STAFF

Direct access to Manhattan, Jersey City and Hoboken by PATH train has been a cornerstone of Harrison's plan to transform itself from an industrial center into a commuter hub.

Hundreds of condominiums and rental units are already built, under construction or planned for the area surrounding the local PATH station. A multi-phase residential and commercial project now being developed adjacent to the Harrison station is called, aptly enough, Harrison Station.

The problem, though, has been the station itself. Built in 1936, it is cramped and in desperate need of upgrades. Anyone riding an NJ Transit or Amtrak train through Newark passes the aging platforms against a backdrop of empty lots and abandoned factory buildings.

So developers and town officials cheered yesterday's announcement that the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey will spend more than a quarter-billion dollars to replace the 76-year-old station with a far grander, more accessible terminal of glass and steel to serve the 7,000 commuters who use the facility each weekday.

"It's the best news we could have heard," said Greg Russo, a principal in Ironstate Development Co. of Hoboken, which just completed a 275-unit apartment building as part of the Harrison Station project, with a hotel and another rental apartment building planned. "Nothing more important or significant could happen relative to Harrison's redevelopment."

SEE PATH, PAGE 4

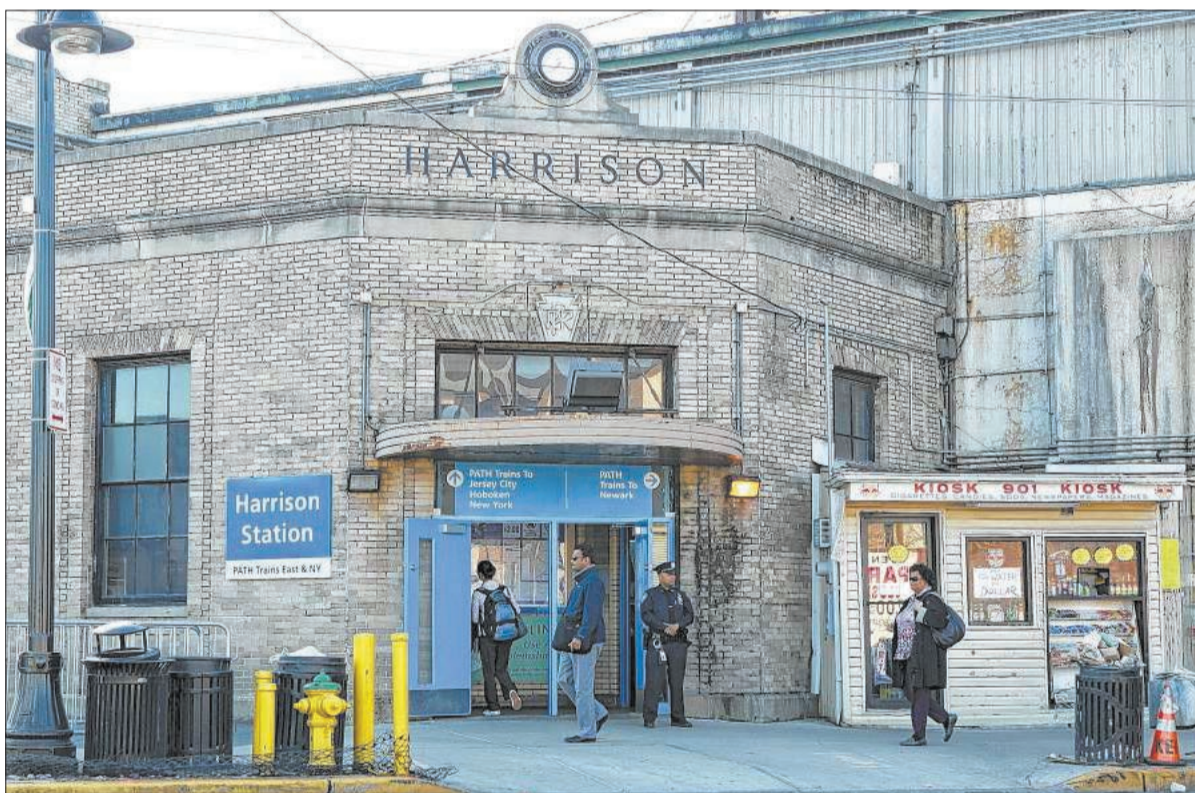


PHOTO BY JOHN MUNSON/THE STAR-LEDGER. RENDERING COURTESY OF THE PORT AUTHORITY

At top, a rendering of the new \$256 million glass-and-steel Harrison PATH station the Port Authority announced yesterday. Above, the current station, built in 1936. News of the plan was hailed as a boon for redevelopment.

## Minister sees no alternative but to fight the government on deportations



Bob Braun  
nj.com/braun

He is young and looks even younger than his 36 years. Yet in the midst of a confrontation with the federal government that could have grave consequences for his future, Seth Kaper-Dale acts with the poise of a much older man.

"I'm not afraid," says the co-pastor of the Reformed Church of Highland Park. "To me, we're facing a cross and crosses are what we face. We know about facing crosses and we know

about the hope that's found on the other side of crosses, so we walk with confidence toward crosses."

So, in the last few days, he has admitted two more men into his church to find sanctuary, refuge from federal immigration officials who want to deport them. That makes three. Kaper-Dale is likely to bring in more, although he could face charges of conspiracy to violate the nation's immigration laws. "Our arms are open wide, as wide as

Visit the church in a video by Mike Roy at [nj.com/videos](http://nj.com/videos).

the cross," says the young man who, until this struggle over the immigration status of Indonesian refugees, was known primarily as a housing activist who has helped the homeless, the poor, veterans and single mothers. He calls the immigration system "broken." Kaper-Dale, whose wife, Stephanie,

is the other co-pastor of the church, did not intend to become the defiant hero for Indonesian Christian immigrants who fled persecution in the midst of chaos that followed the collapse of the Suharto regime in 1998.

But when he and his wife were hired by church elders in 2001, he learned many of his parishioners were Indonesian and virtually all had overstayed tourist visas given out by American

SEE BRAUN, PAGE 11

TODAY  
Sunny with a high near 59°



TONIGHT  
Mostly clear with a low near 34°



MORE  
Enter your ZIP code at [nj.com/weather](http://nj.com/weather) for hour-by-hour local forecasts.

30 ADVICE  
53 AUTOS  
28 BUSINESS  
51 CLASSIFIED

35 COMICS  
30 CROSSWORD  
14 EDITORIALS  
33 H&G

30 HOROSCOPES  
13 NEW JERSEY  
22 OBITUARIES  
52 REAL ESTATE

39 SPORTS  
31 SPOTLIGHT  
17 TOWNS  
37 TV SCANNER



Spend the morning with us. Learn about our degree programs, financial aid and student life and meet with faculty, current students, and admission representatives. 10 am to 1 pm • Jersey City Campus

Visit [www.spc.edu/OpenHouse](http://www.spc.edu/OpenHouse) or text "SaintPeters" to 41513

# OPEN HOUSE

## Saturday, April 21

Bachelor's • Master's • Doctoral

# SAINT PETER'S COLLEGE