

Bergen Pines County Hospital
BEFORE Privatization
on 3/14/1998

<u>Date of Article</u>	<u>Title of Article – Brief Description</u>
12/24/1997	<p><i>Union Sues to Block Privatization of Pines</i> By Hugh R. Morley, Staff Writer The Bergen Record “Union officials have said they fear the switch to private management will mean job cuts and declines in patient care. We believe that the freeholders and the county are making this decision based on the money,” said Twomey, explaining the decision to file suit. “We believe the hospital was created for public interest, that this agreement actually jeopardizes not only the care but the continuance of the hospital,” Twomey said.</p>
7/3/1997	<p><i>Pines Sued Over Suicide of Girl, 13</i> By Christopher Mumma, Staff Writer The Bergen Record “Bergen Pines patient died only a few months after the suicide of a 14-year old boy in the psychiatric ward. Following the third suicide state inspectors visited the facility and cited the hospital for failing to adhere to rules that require all patients to have visit from a doctor every day.”</p>
3/20/1997	<p><i>Mother Who Sued Pines After Suicide of Son is Dead</i> By Matthew Mosk and Hugh Morley, Staff Writers The Bergen Record “Falaaca, a graceful, soft-spoken woman, was consumed by her son’s death. Over and over, as she campaigned for change at the county’s giant public hospital, she retold the events of the day in March 1995 when she picked up the phone in her kitchen and was told that 14-year-old Nicholas had hanged himself with a bedsheet.”</p>
11/27/1991	<p><i>Pines Workers Threaten Strikes</i> By Andrea Della Monica, Staff Writer North Jersey Herald & News “Exasperated by the unproductive negotiations and what they describe as poor working conditions, about 300 workers packed a hospital board meeting to demand action. Meanwhile, low morale from unmet grievances is becoming intolerable for many and could harm patient care at the county hospital.”</p>
12/16/1988	<p><i>Mortality at Bergen Pines Exceeds U.S. Predictions</i> By Eva Markowitz, Staff Writer The Bergen Record “The federal government’s annual survey of hospital death rates for Medicare patients has found higher-than-expected figures for patients served by four New Jersey hospitals, including Bergen Pines County Hospital in Paramus.”</p>

9/16/1988

More Turmoil at the Pines

Opinion, The Bergen Record

"A lot of the people who make Bergen Pines County Hospital run walked off their jobs on Wednesday. Other employees struggled to fill in serving meals, running the huge laundry, and sorting out medical and financial records for the 871 patients. But it's still been necessary to turn away new patients and discharge others early."

9/15/1988

Strike Shuts Hospital Emergency Room

By Scott Friedman, Staff Writer | The Bergen Record

"A strike by about 1000 hospital workers Thursday morning forced the Bergen Pines County Hospital to close its emergency room and outpatient clinics."

3/28/1988

Cure for Hospital Proved Elusive

By Karl Stark, Staff Writer | The Bergen Record

"I talked to other administrators. They don't know how I put up with all the rancor, with the press, and the pressures of this place. As the Pines' 12th administrator in 12 years, Kopczynski, 45, challenged the entrenched might of the Pines' 13 unions and alienated many of them."

2/12/1988

Help Wanted: Can Anybody Run Bergen Pines?

By Peter Overby, Staff Writer | The Bergen Record

"We've had so many administrators there, and it's such a complex concern that when they learn of the intricacies of the hospital, then they leave, it's very traumatic. Its very difficult. You need a superman."

12/27/1987

Pines Increases its Private Staff, Seeks to Avoid \$30M Deficit

By Peter Overby, Staff Writer | The Bergen Record

"Trying to avoid a potential \$30-million deficit in 1988, Bergen Pines County Hospital is turning to private enterprise. Bergen Pines, founded 71 years ago, has a history of treating patients no one else wanted. Most of the patients are elderly and poor."

11/3/1987

75 Pines Staffers Stage Protest

By Manuel Mendoza, Staff Writer | The Bergen Record

"They treat nurses like dirt around here. They're demoralizing and dehumanizing us. The two-hour picketing session, led by nurses, indicated worsening relations between the employee unions and Bergen Pines administration."

6/4/1986

Trouble at Hospital

By Robert F. Lanzetti, Staff Writer | North Jersey Herald & News

"Both union and non-union workers at the Bergen Pines County Hospital are expected to attend today's board of freeholders meeting to voice concern over what they consider unsafe working conditions and staff shortages."

6/5/1986

Pines Staff Level Perilously Low, Employees Say

By Michele Fuetsch, Staff Writer | The Leader-Free Press

“Two hundred workers from Bergen Pines County Hospital jammed last night’s Bergen County Board of Freeholders meeting to complain that the company hired to upgrade patient care at the Paramus hospital has instead caused care to deteriorate.”

5/29/1986

Morale Called "Rotten" at Pines Hospital

By Jack O’Shea, Leader Bergen Bureau | The Leader-Free Press

“A veteran employee of Bergen Pines County hospital has complained to county Freeholders that morale and working conditions at the giant facility are so rotten under the Pines’ new management that virtually all of its 2000 employees are so unhappy they don’t give a damn anymore. The Pines has traditionally been the county government’s biggest money-loser, running at a loss of between \$20 and \$25 million in 1985.

5/15/1986

Pines Nurse Voices Security Concerns

By Paul S. Rabin | The Post Review

“In 1978, Bergen County Sheriff’s Officer Joe Rybka was killed by a Pines medical patient who grabbed the officer’s service revolver and shot him with it”.

11/3/1985

Bergen County Needs a Change

Opinion | The Sunday Post

“But, most importantly, when something goes wrong on the county level, who is to blame? When a dishwasher broke at Bergen Pines County Hospital, it would have cost \$20,000 to fix it and then replace it with another one. But patients instead ate off paper plates for one year, waiting for the new dishwasher to be purchased and installed. Who’s to blame? Who’s to be held accountable?”

4/10/1985

Pines Managers Uphold Firing

By Jim Conson, Correspondent | The Bergen Record

“During Mrs. Weinberg’s first year on the job, \$50,000 worth of tuna canned tuna was found missing, prompting a report by a county grand jury that was highly critical of hospital purchasing and security practices.”

1/17/1985

Pines Employee Sues Over Job Loss

By Susan Edelman, Staff Writer | The Bergen Record

“The suspension was in response to an infestation of cockroaches at the hospital for which Bergen Pines had been criticized by the state Department of Health. As assistant executive director, Mrs. Weinberg was responsible for among other things, overseeing the housekeeping department”.

9/26/1984

Year of the Cockroach

Opinion, The Bergen Record

“The roach problem at Bergen Pines County Hospital is revolting. And call to account the hospital officials who sat on their hands while roaches took over the institution.”