

## From Press staff reports

MAYS LANDING - A man being held on contempt charges briefly escaped from the Atlantic County Jail on Wednesday night.

Matthew Newkirk, 19, climbed over the annex yard fence and ran into the woods just before 6 p.m., Warden Sean Thomas said.

The Mays Landing man was picked up moments later by Hamilton Township police responding to the report of a suspicious person on 19th Avenue.

Thomas said Newkirk was being held on contempt charges stemming from a "low-level drug charge." He would not say whether the inmate's disappearance was discovered before or after the re-arrest.

### 4 comments:



**THEBIGRAGU** (1) posts 7:48 pm

An escape is very serious, however this guy was captured, and no one was hurt that's the most important thing. I can't imagine any jail is an easy place to work, but you chose that as your career and the public depends on you to watch the inmates. It's the Warden's responsibility to make hold his officers accountable to their duties, and I guess this Warden will investigate the incident and see where neglect was made and how this occurred. I understand the jail officers have been without a contract for a couple of years, and deserve one, but don't try to exploit this incident, do your duty.



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**ItWasntMe** (5) posts 9:15 am

ruralarea, what criminal isn't dangerous ? Any criminal escaped from jail, climbing a fence to get out is dangerous to anyone he/she may come in contact with. Especially children in the area. And your right. You would think there would have been some sort of alert to the area that someone had escaped from the jail. In broad daylight at that. Maybe the jail never knew he escaped ???? We may never know.



• **ruralarea** (22) posts 8:17 am

no one was watching the inmates in the yard. how about notifying surrounding businesses and towns..unbelievable... if he was a dangerous criminal, just think what could have happened.



• **ItWasntMe** (5) posts 7:18 am

Someone escapes from JAIL...and thats it. A little article. I bet the people in those surrounding neighborhoods are a little more concerned. "low level" drug charge. What does that mean ? It's ok if he escapes ? How does an inmate just climb a fence and not be seen ? Apparently he wasnt seen or they would have gotten him right away. I hope there is an outside investigation into the running of that jail. It's also nice how the Press paints a nice quaint picture...oh well, this inmate..not a bad guy, climbed a fence and got away..he was found a short time later..it's ok...really....it's ok. Are you fricken kidden me. There are schools, and numerous housing whithin walking distance of that jail. This incident is serious and regardless of what this Thomas guy says, he was still an inmate that ,you Sir, were charged with keeping locked up, and you failed. I think the residents of Mays Landing and the public should know more. Especially since Hamilton Twsp Police found him after a phone call reporting a suspicious person, not a call from the jail saying " hey, we are missing a guy ". And considering the jail officers didnt chase or find him or not even know where he was, How did he get out exactly ? What were his charges and bail ? How long was it exactly before he was found ? How long did it take the jail to figure out he was gone ? There seems to be much more to this story and if I lived in that area I would be wanting answers. Unless of course there are no bad people in that jail...just you know "low level" drug people, whatever the hell thats supposed to mean.