



Better Newspaper Contest 2011 Editorial Awards

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Better Newspaper Contest 2011

**W1: Responsible Journalism –
Public Service, Lloyd P. Burns
Memorial Award**

NJPA Awards

W1: Responsible Journalism – Public Service - Lloyd P. Burns Memorial Award

Déjà vu all over again

Hoboken UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER



A GOOD DEAL FOR NOW – A principal owner in Bayonne Medical Center is negotiating for the purchase of Hoboken University Hospital.

Some see Hoboken hospital deal as history repeating itself

By Al Sullivan
Reporter staff writer

For some officials in Bayonne, the recent announcement by the Hoboken Municipal Hospital Authority Chairwoman Toni Tomarazzo that a private entity affiliated with Bayonne Medical Center is the final bidder in the process to purchase Hoboken University Medical Center is a bit of déjà vu.

“To tell you, I was a little alarmed when I heard it,” said former Councilman Gary La Pelusa, who was instrumental in providing city funds to help in the rescue of Bayonne Medical Center three years ago.

The Hoboken Municipal Hospital Authority, according to a member of the BMC transition team, entered into a non-binding agreement with HUMC Holdco LLC, one of the principal owners of BMC, late last week, beginning the process that could result in the purchase of the ailing Hoboken hospital, making it into a for-profit hospital modeled after BMC.

“To tell you, I was a little alarmed when I heard it.”
– Councilman Gary La Pelusa

see **HOSPITAL** page 24

Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

The Hoboken Reporter

“Deja Vu All Over” “What is Private”
“Surprise Deal” “Will Hospital Cancel Insur”
“Good Buy, Healthcare”
“Local Hospitals Unlikely Consolidate”
“Hospital Authority Pushed”
“Between: Christie Helps Friends”
“How the Deal Went Down”

**Al Sullivan, Ray Smith,
Assata Wright**

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W1: Responsible Journalism – Public Service - Lloyd P. Burns Memorial Award

Second Place, Weekly over 6,500

The Princeton Packet

Consolidation panel gets finance report

By Victoria Hurley-Schubert
Staff Writer

A baseline report detailing the current state of services and finances in Princeton Borough and Township was released Joint Consolidation/Shared Services Study this week.

The commission will use the 173-page tome, "Municipal Services and Financial Overview," to explore consol-

idation and shared services options, said Anton Lahnston, chairman.

"It doesn't make much sense to consider looking at consolidation or any more shared services without a reasonable understanding of what currently exists," said Mr. Lahnston. "That's why I like to call the report 'who does what and what does it cost,' that's what the report really does talk about."

The report contains a com-

plete picture of the current state of services and financials in the two municipalities.

"It helps to raise questions and comments to give us pointers and direction as we begin to think about moving forward with some of the options and possibilities," he said. "It's a stimulus for that. We're going to help people understand the elements and how to digest the report and what questions does it raise? What does the public want to tell the commission from the

report?"

The baseline report will be discussed at a public meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 26 at John Witherspoon Middle School.

The commission's next meeting is on Jan. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Township Municipal Complex. The group will be preparing for the public meeting the following week. Commission meetings are open to the public.

The report can be downloaded at www.cgr.org/princeton.

"Princeton Consolidation"

Victoria Hurley-Schubert
Calhoun J. Killeen, Jr.

W1: Responsible Journalism – Public Service - Lloyd P. Burns Memorial Award

REMEMBER
MONTCLAIR AND 9/11



STAFF PHOTO BY ADAM ANK

Montclair Police Officer Vincent Russo straps on the gas mask all township police officers are now issued in case of a chemical or biological terrorist attack.

9/11: A decade on

On a modest monument in Watchung Plaza are the names of nine people who resided in Montclair or grew up in town. These nine people were among the 2,753 killed in the terrorists' attacks on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. Twenty-four days from now will mark the 10th anniversary of 9/11, which also resulted in the deaths of 184 people in the Pentagon and 40 in Pennsylvania. This Sept. 11, Montclair will hold ceremonies and events that cherish the people who died and those who were injured during and after the attacks, reflect on the past decade and examine our town, our nation and the world as the future unfolds. Montclair's hometown newspaper, The Montclair Times, today offers our readers the first article in a series, "Remember," on the local impact of 9/11. Other focuses will include what students are learning in local schools, religious perspectives, readers' remembrances, and previews of our town's events to remember 9/11.

It's a decade on, and many of us retain memories of the moment and the people we loved.

The defensive line

Police employ new tactics, gear in the post-9/11 era

BY DAN PROCHILLO
OF THE MONTCLAIR TIMES

Ten years ago, Montclair police officers were not issued gas masks along with bullet-proof vests and guns.

Before terrorists hijacked and rammed jets into buildings in New York City and Washington, D.C., and into a field in Pennsylvania on Sept. 11, 2001, the township's police officers didn't drive patrol cars equipped with full-body suits resistant to low-level chemical and radiation exposure.

Radiation-detection pagers — devices that officers can affix to their belts and that automatically take air samples — were also not part of the MPD's arsenal in those days.

But back then, police departments across New Jersey didn't receive daily updates via email from the FBI and the State Police over

secure computer servers, either.

A decade after the nation was stunned as the 9/11 attacks unfolded, the federal government has poured millions of dollars into making Essex County and the State of New Jersey safer and better prepared in the event of another cataclysmic terrorist strike. According to police, big strides have been made in how well the different tiers of law enforcement communicate and coordinate their responses — a major pre-9/11 shortcoming.

TEAM BUILDING

Montclair Police Chief David Sabagh said the information his department receives daily from federal and state agencies "is not all terrorism related," but it has been "extremely helpful" for both criminal investigations

8/11/11

First Place, Weekly over 6,500

The Montclair Times

“Remember:
Montclair and 9/11”

Staff

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Better Newspaper Contest 2011

W2: Responsible Journalism - Editorial Comment

NJPA Awards

W2: Responsible Journalism - Editorial Comment

Third Place, Weekly under 6,500

Nutley Sun

Keep the action on the mat, not in the stands



BOBBY WELCH/NUTLEY SUN

Nutley High School Athletic Director Joe Piro, center, calms fans following an outburst that disrupted Saturday's wrestling tournament.

Nutley High School's wrestling quad tournament on Saturday had deeper meaning than your average sporting event. The teams involved also orchestrated fundraising to Big D's Gift of Life Foundation, promoting organ donation.

NHS Coach Frank DiPiano, assistants Mike DiPiano and Anthony Montes, and NHS Athletic Director Joe Piro have family members who had a transplant or are waiting on one. "If it wasn't for organ donation, we'd probably be sitting here talking to you without our father," Frank DiPiano said at a press conference before the event.

That's what makes an ugly scene at the event more disheartening.

During a match with Nutley, a Kearny fan disagreed with a referee's call in the third match. He screamed at the referee about that one call for the next six matches, saying the referee wasn't

being fair to both teams and that his license should be revoked. A Nutley fan got involved during the ninth match. The two inched closer to one another, yelling and threatening to fight, screaming and yelling. The matches came to a halt.

Nutley High School Athletic Director Joe Piro and the Cardinals coach stepped in. The wrestlers started to get involved, until the coaches ordered them back to the mat. Finally, Frank DiPiano came over and got everyone to end the dispute.

When will certain parents and fans learn to set an example for the students, exhibiting good sportsmanship? It's one thing to boo a call, but once it's made, it's time to move on. You can still be upset but continued badgering, to the point of confrontation, is uncalled for. Thanks for the cooler heads that prevailed.

"Keep Action on Mat"
"Motorcycle Club
Runs Over Community
Event"

Owen Proctor

W2: Responsible Journalism - Editorial Comment

· EDITORIAL ·

Well, they had to start somewhere

Whenever someone in government starts talking about "efficiency," the people can be sure of one thing - one way or another it is going to cost them. T

The Rockaway Borough Council voted 3-2 to eliminate one of the two times at its public meetings that residents are allowed to address the council. It was done "to avoid repetition," in the words of new Councilman Tom Donofrio, who made the motion, and for "efficiency;" according to Mayor Russ Greuter, who narrowly avoided having to actually vote on the motion when Councilman Joe Vicente arrived just in time to break a 2-2 tie.

Greuter cited Parsippany, a large township with more than 70,000 residents as an example of a municipality that holds one public portion at its meetings. Rockaway Borough has less than 7,000 residents. Borough Attorney Ed Wicks helpfully pointed out to some residents at the meeting who expressed surprise at the change that the council is only "obligated" to hear the public once at a meeting.

Of course, all this talk of efficiency would have been more impressive if the meeting, which started at 7:30 p.m., hadn't been over in about 20 minutes. Should services such as combining police departments for efficiency? Not for Rockaway Borough. Contracting out more municipal work to cut equipment, salary and benefits costs? Not for Rockaway Borough. Furloughs for workers, negotiating a zero salary increase? Not for Rockaway Borough.

Saving a few minutes of one's Thursday night "obligation" to meet and conduct the public's business in front of the public by eliminating one of the two chances residents get to speak? Ah, yes, that's the one. We must be efficient at all costs, after all. As for politicians talking about avoiding repetition - really? They get to use their positions as soapboxes for as long as they like at public meetings. Heaven knows, if we had a nickel for every time we watched politicians go on and on and on, we would be very rich indeed.

Councilman Tom Mulligan and Councilwoman Joyce Kanigel voted against the motion. Councilwoman Melissa Burnside, who seconded it, voted for it along with Donofrio and Vicente. Councilman Jay Willer was absent.

We're a bit surprised at Donofrio, the son of the late Patrick Donofrio, a former mayor and longtime councilman. Forget the rights and wrongs of it all, it was politically silly to be the sponsor of a motion that can easily be spun by a future political opponent as anti-open government. A rookie mistake, perhaps, but it may yet come back to haunt him. Perception is everything in politics and it makes these officials look as if they find listening to the public an annoying inconvenience. They ought to try sitting in the audience once in a while.

Second Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Citizen of Morris County

"Well They Had to Start
Somewhere"

"We Like It!"

Audrey Davie

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W2: Responsible Journalism - Editorial Comment

Say it ain't so, Joe

This has been a bad week for Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo.

News reports over the weekend revealed that a loophole in state regulations is allowing the county exec to collect a pension and a paycheck for the same job.

Apparently, he retired last year and started collecting his pension. It doesn't matter that he also was re-elected to a third term in office.

That added more than \$68,000 annually to his salary.

He was apparently able to do this because the law permits it as long as the county employee previously held a different public job.

DiVincenzo says it was all done above board. Sure, he filed legitimately for the pension, but he certainly didn't send out a photo with the usual self-congratulatory press releases to let us all know.

DiVincenzo says he did it for his family. That makes us want to dig up once again his political opponents' campaign literature that shows the DiVincenzo family tree sprouted all throughout Essex County government.

Don't get us wrong. There's a lot we like about DiVincenzo. A bigger cheerleader for Essex County would be hard to find. There's no denying the energy and enthusiasm he brings to his position.

He's cut debt, lobbied for state support of the county's criminal justice system, renovated deteriorating buildings and revitalized our parklands. Ironically, he also established an active Board of Ethics for the county.

But at a time when he – and his bipartisan chum, Gov. Christie – are pushing for pension reform, this is more than an embarrassment.

It smacks of the same sort of shenanigans that are pulled by bankers getting top bonuses while Short Hills residents have to appeal for the Down the Block grassroots group to help with utility bills. These are the sort of shenanigans that school superintendents pull when they retire across the state lines, collect their hefty pensions while getting paid a quarter of a million dollar salaries in towns like Millburn.

It's all legal, we're told.

Yeah, and it smells like you know what.

The governor finally denounced DiVincenzo's actions this week after much pressure and publicity. With union contracts at all levels – from state to municipal to school districts – currently being negotiated, the governor and every single legislator should make it a priority to close the double dipping loopholes.

First Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Item of Millburn and Short Hills

“Say It Ain't So, Joe”
“The Circle Affair”

Harry Trumbore

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

New way

"A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus."

– Martin Luther King Jr.

Montclair's plight is palpable. Our town is immensely taxed, and this year's upcoming property-tax assessment is guaranteed to hike the fee that all homeowners must pay. Really, it hikes the taxation that all property-owners must pay. The higher tax will impel landlords to increase the rents on residential and retail tenants.

Many parents of children attending public schools perceive that, in response to a guaranteed shortfall of funds, the Montclair Board of Education and executives of the Montclair School District intend to shut one or two of the district's 11 schools.

Patrons of the Montclair Free Public Library protest that the Township Council has sharply reduced funding to the library, forcing the Library Board of Trustees and the library's executives to permanently shut, and perhaps even sell, the Bellevue Avenue Branch Library.

In the municipal government and the school district, there's not enough money to provide pay salary hikes to all unionized staffers along with employees' increased healthcare and pension costs. Upcoming budgets likely will require layoffs of some – many? – municipal and district employees.

Our town has borrowed more than \$220 million. Residents must start repaying this debt. Starting soon.

Among our elected leaders – the Township Council's seven members – there's evident enmity in many of their exchanges and a shortage of constructive dialogues.

During this week that commemorates the profound legacy of the late Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., it's definitely time for fresh thinking.

It's time, in Montclair, for a new way.

■ For practical purposes and the all-important projection of leadership, Township Manager Marc Dashfield, Schools Superintendent Frank Alvarez, Library Director David Hinckley and Parking Authority Executive Director John Teubner could regularly meet – every two weeks? Every month? These or similar meetings could also include other important municipal executives such as Police Chief David Sabagh and Fire Chief Kevin Allen.

Through these meetings, they can develop or affirm an increased sharing of services, employees, facilities, and a pooling of their individual visions for Montclair's way forward in our watch-every-dollar era.

■ Our legislative leaders also could regularly meet. Mayor Jerry Fried can sit alongside Board of Education President Shelly Lombard, Library Board President Frank Lawatsch Jr., and Parking Authority Board President Gregg Matthews to discuss, debate and deliberate on concepts and ideas that could save money and simultaneously preserve or enhance local services.

■ Citizens' participation is imperative. Numerous Montclairites and Montclair-based organizations possess the skills, knowledge and aptitude for teamwork. Their qualifications can contribute to the school district, the municipal government, the library, and the parking authority.

Include the folks with the skills, knowledge and aptitude for teamwork. There are citizens' groups of financial and governmental professionals, along with local nonprofits with insightful executives. Whether expressing their insights in letters to *The Times*, on the Watercooler website or in other venues, there are individuals who have one or a dozen potentially important perceptions, proposals and talents.

Some people construct, develop or sustain an improvement. Someone designs a banner.

Someone then carries this banner to the forefront, around which the rest of us rally and embark on the quest to qualitatively change the status quo.

In an observation relevant to Montclair and other municipalities struggling in 2011, Martin Luther King Jr. had noted that improving the status quo requires proactive, often courageous, leadership:

"Almost always, the creative dedicated minority has made the world better."

W2: Responsible Journalism – Editorial Comment

Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

The Montclair Times

"New Way"
"They Died"

Mark S. Porter

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

- EDITORIAL -

Need to find silver lining

The annual Memorial Day parade in Bernardsville is a special event for a number of reasons.

First, it's the only parade held in the borough on a regular basis. Other federal holidays such as the Fourth of July pass with barely a notice here, as many local residents are away for the summer.

What makes the Bernardsville parade so special are its proud veterans and its history. The members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 766 lead the parade each year, drawing much deserved applause from hundreds of flag-waving residents who line Route 202.

The parade is immediately followed by solemn services that usually include a speaker from the military. During war-time the speeches are especially poignant.

This year's parade, however, stirred up an emotional controversy in town as a large group of Paraguayans marched to also celebrate that nation's bicentennial.

Dressed in colorful native garb, they formed perhaps the largest contingent in the parade. While there were no negative incidents during the parade, many residents of Bernardsville said they found it offensive that the marchers carried flags and banners from a foreign nation during one of America's most significant and patriotic holidays.

We certainly understand and appreciate the concerns. Unfortunately, the meaning of Memorial Day has become lost for many who merely consider it a day off to shop, hit the shops or hold backyard barbecues and parties.

To further dilute this important day during an occasion as special as this parade would be a disservice for many.

On the flip side are staunch defenders of the Paraguayans' right to commemorate their bicentennial during the parade. They argue that these proud and hard-working residents came to honor American veterans and to celebrate their nation's independence.

Our hope is that potentially divisive incident can be transformed into an educational one that can bring the community closer together instead of tearing it apart.

It is our sincere belief that the members of the Paraguayan community came to the parade with honorable intentions. In a letter sent to the town before the parade, organizers of the bicentennial celebration unequivocally expressed their desire to honor American veterans on the occasion as well as commemorating the landmark occasion in their nation's history.

We observed during the parade that marchers carried flags from both nations; three young men of Paraguayan heritage, in fact, carried an American flag that was probably the largest in the entire event.

We will not argue with those who passionately contend that celebrating the bicentennial on this day was inappropriate. Memorial Day has deep personal meaning for many and this has clearly hit a nerve. Nonetheless, instead of casting blame after the fact, we'd prefer to see this moment utilized as an opportunity to emphasize the real meaning of Memorial Day, not only for our Paraguayan neighbors but also for the dozens of children who march in the parade behind the banners of their sports teams and other organizations each year.

We've noted, for instance, that in recent years the tradition of tossing out candy to youths during the parade has grown to the point where kids are now bringing their own collection bags to the event.

An argument could be made that this activity, which prompts kids to scramble onto the roadway in pursuit of treats, is more aligned with Halloween than Memorial Day and should be temperate.

A more reasonable stance, though, is that the candy chase makes the parade more fun for the kids and helps encourage them to return each year.

Then, like other holidays that also have unrelated components, it's ultimately up to the parents to teach their the real meaning of the day.

The dispute over the Paraguayan involvement in the parade has cast a negative pall over this important community event and that's unfortunate.

But we don't believe there was intent to be disrespectful, even though we understand how it could be perceived that way.

It's now up to reasonable individuals and town leaders to help everyone learn and grow from this experience instead of allowing it to further divide the community.

RELATED STORY

Was it appropriate to celebrate Paraguay's bicentennial on Memorial Day? Please see story on page 1.

W2: Responsible Journalism – Editorial Comment

Second Place, Weekly over 6,500

The Bernardsville News

“Need to Find Silver Lining”
“Blackout”

Charlie Zavalick

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W2: Responsible Journalism - Editorial Comment

▪ COMMENTARY ▪

When spirit lived

The "captain" was like "a king holding court." Patrick Hayes was that captain, earning that title through years of unabashed support for Bergenfield athletics.

When Mr. Hayes died two weeks ago at the age of 91, his passing assuredly prompted some to recall seeing him along the sidelines of many a Bergenfield High School football game, the image of spirit and support.

Bergenfield Schools Superintendent Dr. Michael Kuchar was one of those remembering him and helping to keep his memory alive, saying that Mr. Hayes "was a fixture at our sporting events forever."

"He was like a king holding court," Dr. Kuchar said.

Indeed, the "king" had a long reign, his involvement with local sports dating back to 1955, when he began coaching his son's baseball team. He coached 9- and 10-year-olds for 20 years, and 11- and 12-year-olds for an additional 16 years, all the while coaching town-sponsored basketball and youth boxing.

Attending innumerable local sporting events – his grandson said he missed only four football games in 42 years – Mr. Hayes became a local icon, the kind of which, unfortunately, comes along only rarely.

It was almost ironic that, when learning about his death, a photo we found to run with his obituary was one of him with Eric Hochloch, another memorable model of team spirit.

Eric, who had the birth defect spina bifida, was another familiar figure on the Bergenfield athletic scene, sitting in his wheelchair along the sidelines, the place where Mr. Hayes was usually found.

When he was a student at Bergenfield High School, Eric threw himself into athletics, although his condition precluded his competing. He could be found among the football players and the wrestlers, the teams of which he managed. He was



RECORD FILE PHOTO

'Captain' Patrick Hayes gives a pat on the head to Eric Hochloch in this 2002 photo.

proud of the varsity letters he received in both sports.

Eric died in 2008, succumbing to pneumonia. He was 24 years old.

But, it was his determined attitude which earned him much respect.

We recall him saying that, just because someone could not play the game, did not mean they could not be part of the team.

As with "Captain" Hayes, such spirit is seldom seen. His passing leaves a void in Bergenfield spirit.

And so it is that the photo accompanying this commentary is a touching, visual reminder of what spirit is all about.

First Place, Weekly over 6,500

Twin-Boro News

"When Spirit Lived"
"A Flood of Work
Had to be Done"

Bill Slossar

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION



Better Newspaper Contest 2011

W3: Responsible Journalism - Enterprise

NJPA Awards

W3: Responsible Journalism - Enterprise

Irene leaves her mark on village

Residents prove to be resilient

BY KELLY EBBELS
Staff Writer

Village residents were torn between exhaustion and good humor in assessing the damage after the name from Hurricane Irene.

"It was an unbelievable amount of water, so we had to come and see," said Luke Doherty, who, with his brother Steve, came to Veterans Field with a skateboard on Sunday morning.

"It's nice, because you only get to do this on the beach, but now we can do it here," Steve said.

Between Village Hall and the public library, a group of residents came who hadn't seen each other in a long time - came to view the damage. Water had crept up to both buildings.

"We have new waterfront in Ridgewood," said resident Craig Moore.

The school was more missed among residents who live near the Ho-Ho-Kus Brook. By noon on Sunday, some people were looking through the streets. Others, however, were still hard at work cleaning up their basements.

"We're having a rough time over here," said Emily Daucher of Marshall Street, whose backyard sits behind the retaining wall at Veterans Field. Their basement had

See RESIDENTS, page A9

Lessons from Floyd

Village emergency services, including the Office of Emergency Management, school district officials and village government representatives, used lessons from Hurricane Floyd to prepare for last weekend's storm. To read more on storm preparations, see page A8.



Ridgewood firefighter Matthew Masicant (front), and Probationary firefighter Jordan Zales evacuate Marshall Street residents Andy and Pam Welch, along with their dogs and their son, Anton (back), in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene on Sunday.

Damaged sports fields not fit for play

Temporary locations approved by school board

BY JOSEPH CRAMER
Staff Writer

While buildings across the Ridgewood school district weathered Hurricane Irene's impact with relatively minor problems, the turf fields at the high school sustained significant damage. Use of four alternate fields throughout the district was authorized by the Board of Education (BOE) for sports teams while cleanup and repairs move forward.

Superintendent David Falduto delivered a status report on district facilities in the storm's aftermath at Monday's BOE meeting, detailing damage at each of the schools. While only Ridgewood High School was without power at the time of the meeting, power has since been restored to all the buildings.

See FIELDS, page A3



In the aftermath of Hurricane Irene, curious residents view the flooding from the Ho-Ho-Kus Brook onto Stadium Field.

Cleanup effort is 'unified'

BY KELLY EBBELS
Staff Writer

Across Ridgewood, Hurricane Irene left behind as much as 7 feet of water in basements, garages, basements and garages raised, and turf fields in shambles. Many hundreds of residents lost power, and dozens of the village's trees were uprooted across roads and yards.

Still, with the village now in the recovery stages of the storm's after math, there is some relief among emergency responders that things were not worse.

Only one minor injury was reported - "remarkable," said Paul Mason, the coordinator of the village's Office of Emergency Management (OEM). The storm's winds had largely abated by the time it reached the area, leaving some damage related to water.

"Certainly, we were lucky. We dodged a bullet," said Mayor Keith Killian. "We had a little better than Hurricane Floyd. But it was still significant enough to cause a lot of damage."

The waterways through the village breached Sunday, Sunday, with the Ho-Ho-Kus Brook and Saddle River rising more than 1 foot above flood levels. The swollen waters effectively cut the village into three sections, though emergency responders had anticipated the problem by creating stations in each area to ensure service. (For more on the preparations, see page A8.)

About 20 people were evacuated using bucket ladders, boats and other vehicles, according to Killian.

Village Hall was flooded with about 4 feet of water, and Veterans Field and Maple Field were both under water Sunday. Killian, who on Monday was helping to map

See DAMAGE, page A9

Third Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Ridgewood News

- "Hurricane Irene Coverage: Irene Leaves Her Mark on the Village"
- "Residents Prove to be Resilient"
- "Cleanup Effort Is 'Unified'"
- "Damaged Sports Fields Not Fit for Play"
- "Village Checks In on Residents"

Kelly Ebbels
Joseph Cramer

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W3: Responsible Journalism - Enterprise

Second Place, Weekly under 6,500

Belleville Times

PUBLIC SAFETY

Gauging relationship between addiction, suicide

BY MARIA KARIDIS
of Belleville Times

Not only is drug abuse a problem in Belleville, it is also causing questions about how many residents are falling victim to suicide.

"The new thing now with the kids is pills; it's out of control. It's so easy to get them. They're the No. 1 thing out there," said Belleville Police Lt. James Galiano. "When we respond to a call for a pill overdose, and there are a lot of them, you wonder: 'Was this a suicide?' How do we know if the overdose was accidental or not?"

...Especially when self-poisoning is one the most common methods of suicide – particularly for females – according to a Centers for Disease Control 2010 report.

Belleville police have caught residents as young as 15 abusing prescription medications, often taking five to 10 pills each day, the

lieutenant said.

"The abuse of these medications is skyrocketing; there's a huge illicit market for Oxycodone, Percocet, and all those opiate analgesics... and with teenagers, the biggest problem is that they're using mom's and dad's medicine supplies," said Dr. William Annitto, attending psychiatrist and Unit Chief of Dual Diagnosis Services at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. "We'll get calls sometimes from doctors that want to find out if a [drug] patient has a psychiatric history, is the patient depressed... and sometimes it can be really hard to tell. I think a lot of families tend more to cover up than to not cover up those kinds of facts."

As a result, suicide attempts might be a bigger problem in Belleville than statistics show, both the police lieutenant and psychiatrist said.

"The numbers are probably

erring on the low side... drugs and alcohol are fool's courage," Annitto said, stating 80 percent of the people on murderer's row were in "alcoholic blackouts" when they killed their victims. "The numbers are staggering. That's what it does to people, same with suicide," he added.

The National Violent Death Reporting System reveals that, of those tested in 16 states, one third of suicide victims were positive for alcohol at the time of death, and one in five were positive for opiates, including prescription pain killers. Likewise, 90 percent of suicide victims have a "significant psychiatric illness" at the time of their death, states the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. The "two most common" suicide bearing illnesses, according to AFSP, are substance abuse and mood disorders.

When those psychiatric illness-

Belleville	Suicides	
	Suicides	Attempted suicides
2005	3	26
2006	2	31
2007	0	27
2008	5	22
2009	5	37
2010	2	21

Source:
Belleville Police Department

es are present in a person, the risk for suicide increases exponentially, particularly in teenagers and 20-somethings, AFSP states on its website.

"Drugs and alcohol are often a short-term solution for a long-term

issue," Annitto said. "...The numbers for teens are the scariest because they had gotten much better for a long while, and now, they are inching back up."

Cigarettes and marijuana are particularly present in his juvenile patients lately, which doesn't bode well, Annitto said.

"They are gateway drugs, and while some people don't agree with that concept, I definitely do," Annitto said. "It's very, very rare that an addict in an inpatient service just suddenly picked up cocaine at 22 years of age. It's extremely rare, believe me. Usually it starts with a can of beer and a smoke in high school, and off you go."

Suicide

The average age of confirmed suicide victims in Belleville, during

SEE SUICIDE, PAGE 19

"Gauging the Relationship Between Addiction, Suicide"

Maria Karidis

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W3: Responsible Journalism - Enterprise

First Place, Weekly under 6,500

Belleville Times

U.S. CENSUS

Town's Hispanic population nearly doubles

Editor's note: This is the first article in a series.

BY MARIA KARIDIS
of Belleville Times

Another page of Belleville history was written this month, in Spanish.

After decades upon decades as a predominantly white community, Belleville is now – officially – mostly Hispanic, according to 2010 U.S. Census data released on Feb. 4.

The Census Bureau reports 14,133 Hispanics in Belleville, compared to 13,868 whites.

And, those numbers may not paint the most realistic portrait of Belleville. According to some experts, Belleville's Hispanic headcount is probably higher than noted.

"I'm always curious, especially for New Jersey, how accurate the numbers really are because it was in New Jersey where a Hispanic pastor boycotted the census and

encouraged Latino immigrants not to be counted," said Arturo Vargas, executive director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials. "How many Latinos in New Jersey listened to such individuals who said not to fill out the census form... We're missing out on a horrible opportunity for our people to progress."

Another issue concerns undocumented Hispanics not accounted in the census.

New Jersey housed approximately 550,000 illegal Hispanic immigrants in 2010, according to a Pew Hispanic Center report released on Feb. 1. According to the report, 6.2 percent of New Jersey's population is made up of undocumented Hispanics, ranking fifth in the nation. "The reality is that there are several Hispanics who are undocumented," said Fr. Ivan Sciberras of St. Peter's Church in Belleville. Sciberras



DALE HINCK/BELLEVILLE TIMES

The Santa Luzia Churrasqueria on Washington Avenue, is one of several Belleville businesses that cater to the town's growing Hispanic population.

SEE CENSUS, PAGE 7

- "Town's Hispanic Population Nearly Doubles"
- "Growing Hispanic Population Finds Belleville 'a Nice Safe Town to Live In'"
- "Changing Look for Belleville Businesses"

Maria Karidis

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W3: Responsible Journalism - Enterprise

Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

Union County Local Source

District should 'follow the law'

By Cheryl Hehl
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD — Is the Board of Education above the law? According to 140 families due money from the district, that decision is now in the hands of the Council for Unfunded Mandates.

A few weeks ago, the state told the school district in no uncertain terms that they are required by law to pay the 140 township families with children in private schools a total of \$61,880 annually or face having 2011 state aid held back. This year, the Springfield School District is expected to receive \$328,859 in state aid.

Meanwhile, the 140 families with children in private schools, who depend on this state mandated payment in lieu of transportation funding to help defray the cost of transporting their children to school, have no other recourse but to wait for these funds.

See PARENTS, Page 12

“District Should Follow the Law,
Board Will Pay Parents”

Cheryl Hehl

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W3: Responsible Journalism - Enterprise

Second Place, Weekly over 6,500

Pascack Valley Community Life

"Cardiac Arrests the Leading Cause of Firefighter Deaths"

Kimberly Redmond

PASCACK VALLEY

Cardiac arrests the leading cause of firefighter deaths

Only Park Ridge requires annual physicals for members

BY KIMBERLY REDMOND
Staff Writer

Despite the fact that sudden cardiac deaths remain the leading cause of on-duty firefighter fatalities, departments that require members to undergo annual medical check-ups are few and far between.

Within the Pascack Valley only one department has such a requirement in place to ensure its members are in tip-top shape.

Park Ridge Fire Department has had a policy for almost 25 years requiring firefighters to receive a physical on an annual basis in order to participate, according to Fire Chief Robert Ludwig, and several of the members "owe their lives" to the check-ups.

Sudden cardiac deaths are the number one cause of on-duty firefighter fatalities, according to the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA). In 2010, there was a total of 72 on-duty firefighter deaths in the United States. Exer-

tion, stress and other medical-related issues, which usually result in heart attacks or other sudden cardiac events accounted for the largest number of fatalities, the NFPA says. Of the 39 deaths in that category, 34 were classified as sudden cardiac deaths.

Dave Finger, director of Government Relations of the National Fire Council, says, quite simply, "When you're in the fire service, you're at a higher risk of heart attack."

"A study in the Harvard Medical Journal showed that if you're a firefighter, when the alarm goes off your chances of stroke increase when your adrenaline kicks in and your stress level goes up," Finger says. He notes that although heart attacks are "the single leading cause of deaths," it is also a condition that is preventable, which is why it's important for firefighters to undergo annual cholesterol screenings, blood pressure tests, body mass index tests and blood glucose tests.

"There are a lot of challenges

departments face with recruitment and retention, but when you're talking about putting people out there when it's not safe to do, all of those other issues - in my mind - melt away," says Finger.

Ludwig says the annual check-ups have enabled some members to identify medical issues and "treat them as needed," which results in healthier firefighters who are able to "participate for more years."

According to Ludwig, a member can opt to receive his or her physical through the department's physician, a cost which is covered in the fire department's annual budget. Ludwig says the department budgeted \$5,500 last year to cover the cost of the 40-member department. Members can also choose to see his or her own physician, however, the medical provider must fill out a department-supplied form indicating whether the member has passed all of the required areas specified. While the physician does not need to indicate any personal

health issues to the fire chief, he must sign off that upon examination a particular member is "fit for firematic duties," Ludwig says. Among the things the doctor will look for is something that provides evidence of a cardiac-related condition, he says.

In addition to keeping the department healthier, Ludwig also believes there's a benefit to the town by way of insurance costs.

"If a medical issue occurred on a fire call or firematic activities, I'd have to think somewhere that more claims would lead to high premiums. By having firefighters screened within the last 12 months, we're probably more likely to have less heart attacks, strokes and things that might be of a more long-term nature," he says. However, other area towns seem hesitant to implement such a requirement for firefighters.

In the 2011 Best Practices Checklist, a state-issued survey regarding topics such as budget preparation, general management, emergency policies and public safety, one of the questions posed regarded whether or not municipal firefighters are required to receive an annual heart screening in accordance with standards set forth by the NFPA. Officials in Emerson, Hilldale and River Vale all answered "no" to the question, with each expressing concern that such a requirement would adversely affect department membership - especially during a time when volunteers are hard to come by.

Emerson Borough Administrator Joseph Scarpa says that implementing such a procedure could

"deplete" the number of members on the Emerson Volunteer Fire Department and could eventually "lead to a paid department," a multi-million dollar expense.

Hilldale Mayor Max Aronowitz says, "There are 56 members on the Hilldale Fire Department that are active and if 20 to 25 can't meet that requirement, the service could be seriously depleted."

"I've heard the argument from insurance companies that there could be serious problems with firefighters who don't know their limits... but there's different things that members can do on a department, besides going into active fires," he says. Aronowitz, who is 67 years old, went on to explain that several years ago, he made the personal decision that he would no longer go into fires and would remain a "support person outside" at the scene.

"I don't want to lose anyone because of mandated physical requirements," he says.

Diminished membership is a concern that Finger says he's heard before.

"I think the issue is that no one wants to tell someone they are too old or too out of shape to be a firefighter. But the reality is, if you have someone too unhealthy they will get hurt or killed. That's worse than telling someone they have high blood pressure or high cholesterol," Finger says.

Ludwig also says he's heard the concern that requiring physicals will limit new membership or cause a drop in the ranks of existing membership and that in Park

SEE PHYSICALS, PAGE 30



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W3: Responsible Journalism - Enterprise

Diversity is on the rise



STAFF PHOTO JAMIE WINTERS

All local towns saw growth in their Asian populations. Rutherford, which has been known to historically have the largest Asian population remained to foster that stat as per the 2010 U.S. Census. About 13 percent of Rutherford's total population last year was Asian, a total of 2,362 residents.



JACK HOLLINGSWORTH/PHOTODISC/THINKSTOCK

Locally, the black or African American population saw large gains within the last 10 years, according to the 2010 U.S. Census data. In both Lyndhurst and North Arlington, the black or African American population grew by over 200 percent from 2000 to 2010. Lyndhurst's black or African American population went from 119 to 406 and North Arlington's went from 70 to 220.



FILE PHOTO

The Hispanic or Latino population skyrocketed in the five South Bergenite coverage area towns by 5,885 residents within the last 10 years, according to 2010 U.S. Census data. Carlstadt saw the largest increase in Hispanic or Latino residents as that population soared 133 percent in the borough.

First Census numbers give snapshot of the growing cultures among us

BY MICHAEL LAMENDOLA
Managing Editor

Populations are on the rise in South Bergen and so is the diversity of those populations, according to the latest data released by the U.S. Census Bureau, derived from last year's census, which is conducted every 10 years. From 2000 to 2010, when the last two complete censuses were conducted, out of five South Bergenite coverage area towns, only Rutherford saw a dip in its population, slightly down by less than half a percent. On the flip side, Lyndhurst has become the first local town to eclipse 20,000 residents and saw the largest population increase

with a six-percent rise. In all towns, racial diversity also expanded, with the census data showing less of a white population and more of a diverse mix.

CENSUS large jumps in black and African American, Asian and Hispanic and Latino residents.

Moderate growth

Overall, South Bergen's total population grew by 1,740 residents in the 10-year time span from 2000. Lyndhurst saw the greatest overall increase, eclipsing 20,000 residents. According to last year's census data, Lynd-

Inside
Who we are by the numbers
IS

hurst had 20,554 residents, up 1,171 from 2000. The township saw its total housing units rise by 684 since 2000 as well, with approximately 95 percent of the total 8,787 housing units occupied in 2010. Since 2000, the township saw the addition of two large-scale multi-housing units, the 160-unit Riverside Plaza apartment complex on Riverside Avenue and the 128-unit Avakon Lyndhurst apartment complex on Wall Street West. Other pocket developments such as the controversial 20-townhouse development called Valley Brook Court next to Sacred Heart School also popped up this past decade, but current commissioners put a near moratorium on condo and town-

house construction within the past five years. Mayor Richard DiLancio said the town has room to grow, but not in the uplands section of town. He said the town has been improving infrastructure in anticipation of such growth, with school overcrowding the only thing that could deter further development and growth.

"We spent a lot of money in projecting our town as one that was prepared to grow, through infrastructure improvements, recreation enhancements. We are really trying to identify what makes Lyndhurst so marketable," said DiLancio. "The current commissioners put a near moratorium on condo and town-

SEE CENSUS, PAGE A5

First Place, Weekly over 6,500

South Bergenite

- "Diversity Is on the Rise"
- "The Diversity Among Us"
- "Will Our Schools Burst Under the New Baby Boom?"
- "More Gays Calling South Bergen Home"

Michael Lamendola
Kelly Nicholaides

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NJPA Awards

W4: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - News Writing

Third Place, Weekly under 6,500

Leonia Life

“Snowfall Brings Down Trees and Powerlines”

Max Almenas



LESLIE BARBARO/THE RECORD

Brian Luterman, of Leonia, photographs the downed trees and fallen powerlines in front of his home at Leonia Avenue and Cottage Place on Oct. 30.

WEATHER

Snowfall brings down trees and powerlines

BY MAXIM ALMENAS
Staff Writer

FORT LEE — Just two months after Hurricane Irene and weeks after a tornado-like microburst storm, area residents were once again put to the test after an unlikely nor'easter on Oct. 29 dropped 6-10 inches of snow and turned Halloween weekend into a winter nightmare.

The wet snow weighed down trees branches that snapped like twigs, taking power lines with them, leaving thousands of homes without power, heat or hot water.

“We had at least four high rises completely without power, and fire crews at three of them,” said Fort Lee Fire Chief Jeff Silver on Oct. 31. “And we have a lot of buildings with partial outages, and we had a fire today.”

Most residents from 201 Bridge Plaza North were evacuated and the area was closed off to vehicular traffic after firefighters responded to an underground

SEE STORM, PAGE 7

W4: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - News Writing

Second Place, Weekly under 6,500

Nutley Sun

Police pursuit ends at Nutley house

BY MEGHAN GRANT
Staff Writer

A van of criminals crashed into a Nutley family's home early last Thursday morning on Satterthwaite Avenue, police reported.

"It sounded like a bomb hit the house; the whole house shook," said John Papa, who had been asleep in the house with his parents. "[The van] landed on top of my father's car; it's totaled."

From the inside, "it looks like there's a giant hole in the wall" of their stairwell and living room area.

Authorities ordered them to vacate the house since a main support beam was struck, Papa said. His family will likely be staying with relatives, he added.

Anthony Olivo, 18 of Paterson, and two others were inside the van, police said. They were allegedly fleeing police after a botched motorcycle theft. They were speeding on Washington Avenue before losing control while attempting a turn at the intersection with Satterthwaite. The vehicle narrowly missed a fire hydrant, before ascending a small hill and striking the house, police added.

Nutley officers John Mecca and Ted Durand were patrolling

River Road at 3:12 a.m. when they observed a van backed into a driveway and the occupants attempting to steal a motorcycle, authorities reported.

"What happened next was textbook police work," Nutley Det. Anthony Montanari said.

Catching sight of the officers, the suspects jumped into their white Ford Econo, reported stolen out of Paterson, and attempted to flee. Nutley police gave chase west on East Center Street, then north on Washington Avenue before the van crashed.

"The trio jumped out of the van and fled on foot through the rear yards of Nutley homeowners," Montanari said. Olivo was found hiding in a shed several houses away. A Nutley sergeant apprehended him.

The Essex County Sheriff's Department K-9 Unit tried to track the two others, described by police as "light and dark-skinned Dominicans." The scent was lost by Park Avenue, where they were presumed to have been picked up by a vehicle.

After the crash, Papa said he emerged from the house armed with a golf club, and he saw the armed police run after the sus-

SEE PURSUIT, PAGE 9



A Ford Econo rests on a Nutley resident's Impala last Thursday at the end of a police pursuit, authorities said. At left, home damage left behind after the crash.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN PAPA (ABOVE) AND BY MARIA KARIDIS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"Police Pursuit Ends at Nutley House"

Meghan Grant

VERONA

Eleven-year-old helps rescue her neighbor, age 88

BY MOLLIE GRAY
Managing Editor

It hadn't been dark very long when 11-year-old Cianna Winkler noticed her elderly neighbor stumbling in the snow.

She yelled to her mom: "Turn the car around, there is something wrong!"

Cianna was a passenger in the car her mother was driving along Lynwood Road. They were returning to their Verona home from Cianna's dance class and passing the neighbor's house when the fifth-grader, who attends H.B. Whitehorne, witnessed the man tumble.

He fell backward – off his front steps – into the snow.

Art Ferber, 88, had just come home from grocery shopping. He'd fallen on his way into the house and was wedged between a snow bank and his front stoop.

The Winklers were just a few houses away from their home when Cianna happened to look out the car window and witness Ferber in trouble about 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 5.

Her mom, Beverly, turned around and pulled into Ferber's driveway. She handed Cianna her cell phone and Cianna dialed 911.

Beverly Winkler told the dispatcher what had happened as Cianna called her father from her cell phone and ran next door for help.

The Winklers live about five houses down from Ferber. Cianna's dad, Wayne, and her brother, Zach, came running down the street.

As they waited for emergency officials to arrive, Zach took off his North Face thermal fleece coat and laid it on Ferber.

"It was pretty cold out. I was afraid he would go into shock," said Zach, 15.

Cianna, her brother, mother and father, all came to the aid of Ferber that night. Several inches of snow had fallen the night before and it was dark when Ferber fell. Police and Ferber's family members said if it wasn't for Cianna seeing him fall, and react-

SEE RESCUE, PAGE A7



PHOTO COURTESY OF BEVERLY WINKLER

Cianna and Zach Winkler sit with their neighbor, Art Ferber. The Winklers came to the assistance of Ferber when he fell outside his house the night of Feb. 5.

W4: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - News Writing

First Place, Weekly under 6,500

Verona-Cedar Grove Times

"Eleven-Year-Old Helps Rescue Her Neighbor, Age 88"

Mollie Gray

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W4: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - News Writing



Police: Khan violated restraining order

BY DAN PROCHILO
OF THE MONTCLAIR TIMES

Shazmina Khan, a Montclair woman who was found slain on July 4 in her Wheeler Street apartment, had a final restraining order against her husband, 42-year-old Khalid Khan, who is suspected of committing the homicide, Essex County Prosecutor Homesh Sukhdeo said.

"He wasn't supposed to have been there," Sukhdeo said.

Unlike a temporary restraining order, which can be issued quickly and without much of a legal process, Sukhdeo said, a final restraining order is instituted by a judge following a court hearing.



KHALID KHAN

The revelation that such an order was in place contradicts previous information provided by authorities that, while there was a history of "domestic complaints" between the couple, Shazmina, 31, had no restraining order against her spouse at the time of the killing.

Given the confidentiality of family court matters, Katherine Carter, the Prosecutor's Office spokesperson, stated that she could not disclose the details of the order — such as when it had been issued and what restrictions it imposed.

But Carter did say the order was at some point amended to allow for Khan to visit his daughter, 8-year-old Samara. He and Shazmina separated in 2009.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NADIR ESMAIL
Shazmina Khan and her daughter, Samara, posed together for a photo in happier times. On Monday, July 4, Shazmina Khan was found slain in her apartment, and now her siblings seek custody of Samara.

Homicide victim's family seeks custody of her daughter

BY LINDA MOSS
OF THE MONTCLAIR TIMES

A year ago, Shazmina Khan was in England, joyfully celebrating her brother's wedding there. Nearly a year to the day later, the Montclair woman was found slain in her apartment. Now her siblings are desperately trying to get custody of her 8-year-old daughter, Samara Khan.

"I spoke to a few people in the states who were very close to my sister," Nadir Esmail told The Times in a

phone call from London. "They have explained that Shazmina, before her death, she had one wish: that if anything happened to her, that her daughter would be sent to the UK, to her family."

Late last week Esmail, a 33-year-old London resident, finally succeeded in getting possession of his sister's body, having it transported from New Jersey to England, where most of Khan's family lives. But the issue of Samara's custody remains.

Khan and her three siblings were all

born in Kenya, and the family now has several hundred members living in Great Britain, in not only London but in cities such as Liverpool and Manchester. Shazmina's brother Esmail as well as one of her two older sisters, Shafira Esmail, reside in London. Another sister, Kate Esmail, lives in Tanzania.

Kate Esmail has been working with authorities in the United States to come here and get custody of Samara.

CUSTODY CASE

KHALID KHAN



STAFF PHOTO BY ADAM KIRK

A flyer for donation efforts hangs in the Jefferson Café & Food Market on Maple Avenue.

Trying to help Shazmina Khan's child

BY TANYA DROBNES
AND LINDA MOSS
OF THE MONTCLAIR TIMES

The flyer hangs in the Jefferson Café & Food Market on Maple Avenue.

It reads: "Samara Khan: Foundation," and contact information is provided for anyone who wants to donate.

The surname is misspelled, but Samara is the 8-year-old daughter of homicide victim Shazmina Khan, who was found slain Monday, July 4, in her

Wheeler Street apartment. Samara is under the care of the Division of Youth and Family Services, authorities said.

The child's father, Khalid Khan, who authorities said has been charged in connection with the homicide, remains in the Essex County Correctional Facility.

So, friends of Shazmina Khan say they will do what they can to help, and try to collect donations for Samara. "We were close," said Chantale

Pierre, who called Shazmina "Mina," and is helping make donation arrangements.

Pierre, who lives in Orange, said she met Shazmina about a year and a half ago when they worked at Jefferson's Professional Dry Cleaning & Laundromat.

"We used to talk all the time ... and I talked to her daughter too."

Jefferson Café co-owner Elnette Jef-

FUNDING CASE

Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

The Montclair Times

- "Police: Khan Violated Restraining Order"
- "Homicide Victim's Family Seeks Custody of Her Daughter"
- "Trying to Help Shazmina Khan's Child"

Dan Prochilo
Tanya Drobness
Linda Moss

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W4: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - News Writing

POLICY

Law limiting where teachers can live has some educators concerned

BY MARC LIGHTDALE
Staff Writer

HARRINGTON PARK – The New Jersey First Act has created a lot of buzz from local superintendents, who feel it's a hindrance to hiring the best teachers available.

The act requires all teachers, state and local officials hired on or after Sept. 1 to either live in the state or after their date of employment begins to relocate to New Jersey within a year, unless exempted under state law.

Adam Fried, superintendent of the Harrington Park Public School District, said that some teachers who currently live in New York will be grandfathered in. The idea, Fried said, was to probably keep the tax dollars in the state of New Jersey.

"It's very dangerous," Fried said. "It seems a little draconian," Fried said. "I have no doubt that this is the Governor's thing."

Cresskill Superintendent Loretta Bellina said she agreed with some of the criticisms.

"I don't think it's fair to force a person to move to the state," she said. "In this part of Bergen County, we are close to New York. It limits us to looking at certain candidates. I hate to be in position where we want to hire and you

have to move. I don't see how that is fair or how that is any way to improve education."

Englewood Public Schools Superintendent Donald Carlisle said there are teachers in his system who are grandfathered in but he does not like the law's limitations.

"Lots of folks cross over the bridges, there's a huge pool of folks both experienced and not experienced [that this will affect]," he said. "People living in New York State may not be in a position to move or their spouses might not be able to."

Tenafly Superintendent Lynn Trager echoed the sentiments from others.

"I think it limits the talent that's available to us. There are people who are so close to Rockland County, to say we can't hire from there," she said. "We have at least 12 educators who live in New York [that are grandfathered in]."

Trager suggested a call to the Governor's office would be in order.

"What about the quality of the person even if they happen to live 10 minutes away in Rockland County or Manhattan?" Trager said.

In Demarest, Superintendent Michael Fox said it could affect

hiring if the district was looking to hire somebody from New York State because they would have one year to change their residency.

"We're trained to hire and maintain the best teachers possible. If it decreases the pool [that could be a problem]," Fox said.

"Our proximity to New York is four to five miles. Finding the best instructional staff regardless of where they lives becomes more challenging."

Fox said none of the currently-employed teachers will have to move, and questioned whether the law accounted for moving via marriage, asking what happens if a teacher marries someone who lives and works out of state, and moves in with them.

"Do they get married and she doesn't teach?" he said.

Fox wanted to know more about how the exemptions will work.

Haworth K-8 Superintendent Paul Arlotta agreed that the law appears to limit the pool of talented teachers.

"In the future, it puts us in a very poor position to recruit the 'best and the brightest' if we have to limit our search to NJ or tell someone from NYC, Rockland or lower Westchester, etc. they have to move to the state," he said.

Second Place, Weekly over 6,500

Northern Valley Suburbanite

"Law Limiting Where Teachers
Can Live Has Some Educators
Concerned"

Marc Lightdale

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W4: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - News Writing

Flood zone lives up to its name



At top, Darren Tedesco, left, and Richard Esposito of Fairfield take a boat on Big Pine Road, Fairfield, Saturday afternoon; top left, water threatens to overturn patio furniture behind Charles Boffa's home on Broadway Lane and, bottom left, water surrounds the backyard shed. => Please see more flood photos page 8, 9 and online at www.theprogress.com.



A soaked Fairfield wrings itself out for second time in two years

BY STEVEN GALANTE JR.
STAFF WRITER

FAIRFIELD TWP. — For the fifth time in six years, the township has had to dry out from severe floods that blocked roadways, closed township schools and forced residents out of their homes.

When it was over, the virulent Passaic River had officially crested at 13.5 feet at Two Bridges Road Saturday, March 22.

On the other side of town, at Pine Brook the river crested at 22 feet.

As if Wednesday morning before this newspaper went to press, huge at east and Hiram-

Field Avenue were open. Little Falls Road near Pine Lane, Horseshoe Road, sections of Big Pine Road, Camp Lane and Riverside Drive, remained closed. Commerce Road was open to trucks only.

A shelter set up in the municipal building Friday saw one resident over the weekend.

A total of 22 homes were evacuated and in some cases, police assistance was needed. Deputy Chief Anthony Marino said Wednesday "All of the evacuees were calm and orderly," he noted.

Two auto accidents were reported but it was unclear if ei-

Getting a first-hand look at Passaic River flood and mud

BY STEVEN GALANTE JR.
STAFF WRITER

FAIRFIELD TWP. — It was clear to the police I had no idea what I was heading into last Saturday.

It was then when I rode along with members of the media, police, and fire departments and Mayor James Casperini to best flood-ravaged Fairfield.

Perched on the back of the flood vehicle, Fairfield Officer David Chaboy looked at my ankle-high snow boots and said, "So you're from Caldwell, huh?"

"No I hadn't left my wheels at home. I don't even make. And, in fact, I am a North Caldwell

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

resident, which means I'm even higher up on the hill than he thought.

But what I was about to experience proved how short-sighted my expectations were and how little I understood the plight of my neighbors in the north.

My first council meeting as a staff writer for *The Progress* was in Fairfield the month after the 2012 deluge. It was my first exposure to the serious

PLEASE SEE FLOOD, PAGE 8

First Place, Weekly over 6,500

The Progress

"Flood Zone Lives Up to Its Name"

Steven Galante, Jr.



Better Newspaper Contest 2011

W5: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Coverage of Government - Art Weissman Memorial Award

NJPA Awards

W5: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Coverage of Government - Art Weissman Memorial Award

COUNCIL

Firefighter salaries are too generous, administrator says

BY JEFF FRANKEL
Staff Writer

Firefighters' salaries are more than double that of the median household income of Bloomfield residents, and current and newly hired firefighters receive more vacation time than any other township employee, says Township Administrator Yoshi Manale.

In a blunt, 15-minute prepared statement, Manale told the council at the April 25 meeting that the township needs "get costs in control," starting with the Bloomfield Fire Department. The firefighters' contract is up at the end of the year. Manale, the township admin-

istrator since January, makes an average salary of \$130,000.

"However, the residents of the Township of Bloomfield can no longer afford to continue to provide the firefighters with the generous salaries and benefits that the firefighters have enjoyed for so many years," the administrator said.

The median household income was \$53,289, a 1999 figure Manale cited in his report from the 2008 New Jersey Municipal Data Book. Seventy two of 78 firefighters made over \$100,000, according to Manale.

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 5

Third Place, Weekly under 6,500

Bloomfield Life

"Firefighter Salaries
Are Too Generous"

"Advocate Accusing Officials
of Disclosure Missteps"

"Shelter Manager Says
Accusation Doesn't Compute"

Jeff Frankel

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W5: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Coverage of Government - Art Weissman Memorial Award

GOVERNMENT

Council is grilled about bills for legal services

BY MAXIM ALMENAS
Staff Writer

EDGEWATER – The final mayor and council meeting at the old borough hall on June 13 did not end with fireworks, but tempers flared when several attendees brought up a recent report by state Comptroller Matthew Boxer regarding professional service contracts.

Boxer's report raised questions about bills submitted by Borough Attorney Philip Boggia and also scrutinized the process for awarding other professional contracts.

According to the report, released on June 8, the borough has "poor contract management practices that led to a string of unnecessary expenses for taxpayers."

On numerous occasions, the report said, the borough paid for legal services that were improperly billed and approved a series of modifications to its contract with Boggia that permitted him to bill the borough hourly for services previously included in his salary.

Boggia's hourly expenses for legal services increased substantially after the modifications.

According to the report, the borough's hourly legal bills for 2007, Boggia's first year as borough attorney, rose to \$181,740, from \$78,540 the previous year. In 2008, the report said, in addi-

tion to his \$77,273 salary, Boggia billed an additional \$180,262 for legal services.

An Edgewater resident, Mary Hogan calculated from the comptroller's report that Edgewater taxpayers may have unnecessarily paid at least \$17,600 in Social Security and Medicare taxes from 2007 through 2009 because part of Boggia's compensation was in the form of salary.

After asking why independent contractors were being paid as borough employees, she also asked the governing body if other professional contractors were being paid under similar arrangements.

"Mary, that's something the council is taking into consideration, and we're going to clean it up," Mayor James Delaney said.

The borough received an initial report from the comptroller's office in March.

It was apparently not the first time that similar questions were raised before council members. An Edgewater resident and former councilwoman, Valory Bardinas, said she questioned the procedures at numerous council meetings but was constantly told to trust the professionals.

"Well sometimes your professionals aren't doing the right thing," said Bardinas, who filed a complaint in a separate case

SEE BILLS, PAGE 4

Second Place, Weekly under 6,500

Edgewater View

"Council Is Grilled About Bills
for Legal Services"

"Officials Want Lights, Camera,
Action"

"Council Alerted to Walkway
Vandalism"

Max Almenas

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W5: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Coverage of Government - Art Weissman Memorial Award

First Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Ridgewood News

“School Officials Express Concern”
“Senator, DEP Rep Tour the Damage”
“Costs from Irene Approach \$1.5M”

Joseph Cramer



RENDERING COURTESY OF TWO-FORTY ASSOCIATES, LLC

The Ridgewood Planning Board heard a proposal Tuesday for a residential development on Chestnut Street, featuring 46 apartments and six townhouses.

PLANNING BOARD

School officials express concerns

Two housing developments are proposed

BY JOSEPH CRAMER
Staff Writer

Members of the Ridgewood Planning Board heard an application for another significant multi-family housing development near Ridgewood's downtown area. This time, however, planning board members weren't the only local officials interested in the proposal's potential impact on the village.

Board of Education (BOE)

President Michele Lenhard spoke at Tuesday's meeting, asking the planning board to hire a third party to conduct an enrollment study and measure the potential impact that this proposed 52-unit apartment complex - called Chestnut Village - and a South Broad Street development proposed earlier in October would have on the school district.

"I think that it's hard to understand changes in housing needs and who would be attracted to this property, and as our school buildings and budgets are very tight, it would really be helpful to the board, in terms of commenting further on this application, to have a real outside opinion on

See **DEVELOPMENT**, page A8

Recently proposed developments

Chestnut Village

- Proposed for vacant lot on Chestnut Street (former site of the Department of Motor Vehicles inspection station).
- 52 residential units, including 46 apartments and six townhouses.
- Developer is Two-Forty Associates, LLC.

The Dayton

- Proposal for lot on South Broad Street (former site of Brogan Cadillac currently used as a commuter parking lot).
- 120 apartments, including 44 one-bedroom and 76 two-bedroom units.
- Developer is Garden Homes Development.

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W5: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Coverage of Government - Art Weissman Memorial Award

Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

Fort Lee Suburbanite

PLANNING BOARD

Plaza parking variance is denied by Planning Board

BY MAXIM ALMENAS
Staff Writer

FORT LEE – Angelo Nigro will have to wait a little longer to see his 1400 Anderson Avenue plaza open for business after the Planning Board denied his variance for parking spaces on Sep. 26.

Nigro, the applicant listed as The Angelo Nigro Family Trust, sought a variance of 12 parking spaces in addition to the original

26 parking spaces granted for the plaza.

His application features pizza, Italian gourmet foods, grilato, and a trattoria.

But according to Herbert Greenberg, the Planning Board Chairman, Nigro never obtained approval from the mayor and council for the parking spaces before coming to the planning board for final approval.

"In his application, he specifically said he was going to get 11

metered parking spaces on the street. He did not make that application, and we have no knowledge of him making that application. So to entertain his application for a variance at this time made it more difficult for us."

Nigro said he was under the impression that the Fort Lee Parking Authority would submit the application for the metered spaces to the mayor and council.

"I secured a resolution from the Parking Authority stating that they were going to install the metered parking on Anderson and Center avenues and gave them a \$6,000 deposit towards the purchase of the meters," said Nigro. "Without those parking spaces, I wouldn't have built that building. I relied on the fact we received approval from the parking authority."

Greenberg said the board's decision was compounded by the fact that Nigro was proposing use of the municipal lot across from the Fort Lee Police Department, which is 800 feet away from the site, to help meet his parking requirements.

"That means a lot of the parking would definitely end up on

the side street of the residential area, which would negatively impact that area," Greenberg explained.

Nigro said the residential parking would possibly be impacted during lunch hours, adding that there is plenty of metered parking on Irwood Terrace and 15th Street during off-peak hours.

"My place is going to be a neighborhood eating establishment, whereby a lot of my patrons will be walking to the plaza," Nigro said. "No one is going to drive three or four blocks to come to my place if they live in the area. I'm expecting many of my patrons to walk

SEE VARIANCE, PAGE B



- "Plaza Parking Variance Is Denied by Planning Board"
- "Officials Want Lights, Camera, Action"
- "Mayor Discusses Reintroduction of SID"

Maxim Almenas

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Community News

POLICE

Chief asks the governing body to hire six officers

Crime analysis report by the state indicates police department is understaffed

BY JUSTIN ZAREMBA
Staff Writer

FAIR LAWN – A crime analysis of the borough conducted by the state police indicates the police department is understaffed compared to Bergen County and the New Jersey State Police.

The study is based off of borough statistics from 2005-2009 when the department had 64 offi-

cers as of Oct. 31, 2009 and a 2008 estimated population of 30,521. According to the figures, the Fair Lawn Police Department has 2.1 officers per thousand individuals, while Bergen County and the state police have 2.4 and 2.5 officers, respectively, per thousand individuals.

“Fair Lawn would need nine additional police officers to attain the rate of Bergen County,”

according to the study. “Twelve additional police officers would be needed to attain the rate of the state [police].”

The study also indicates that the figures must be evaluated on a town-by-town basis.

“Attempts at comparisons of crime figures of police rates between jurisdictions should not be made without first considering the individual factors present in

each community which may influence the volume and type of statistics presented here,” according to the study.

Police Chief Erik Rose cited the study during the March 8 budget meeting and indicated that he wanted to hire six additional officers in the 2011 budget. Rose said the layoffs of four police officers

SEE OFFICERS, PAGE 5

“Chief Ask Governing Body to Hire Six Officers”

“Mayor Says Police Department Not Dysfunctional”

“Council Agrees to Idemnify Chief, Captain”

Justin Zaremba

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The Gazette

HALEDON

Police chief's lawsuit is delayed

BY JUSTIN ZAREMBA
Staff Writer

Police Chief Louis Mercurio's federal lawsuit against the borough was delayed on June 30 pending resolution of his disciplinary hearing.

Mercurio, a 32-year veteran of the Haledon Police Department, was suspended on administrative charges on June 5, 2009, the day after he accused a member of the Haledon Council of being under investigation for cocaine use in a theatrical display at a town meeting.

The ruling in U.S. District Court last month was a mixed bag as the court delayed hearing the case, but refused to dismiss the suit.

Disciplinary proceedings against Mercurio began in May 2010 after nearly a year of paid suspension and have progressed slowly since last year due to frequent scheduling conflicts. The borough is seeking a 180-day suspension against Mercurio and his removal from the police department. If removal is not warranted, then the borough seeks Mercurio's demotion to the position of lieutenant effective June 4, 2009. The

proceedings are public to a degree, with the exception of testimony relating to personnel issues, per an order from Hearing Officer Richard Cushing.

Mercurio has been on paid suspension since June 5, 2009 – more than two years – receiving a base salary of \$117,000 and longevity pay of 10 percent of his base salary for a total of \$128,700, according to Borough Clerk Allan Susen. Mercurio, like other non-union borough employees, has not received a pay increase since 2009, Susen said.

There are currently no sched-

uled hearing dates for the disciplinary proceedings, Susen added.

During the June 4, 2009 meeting, Mercurio claimed he was approached by investigators from police agencies on two occasions in 2008, who were looking into cocaine use among members of the council. Mercurio has alleged he was shown a sworn affidavit from a local bar owner who related going to New York City in a chauffeured limousine with two members of the council at the time.

SEE LAWSUIT, PAGE 5

“Police Chief’s Lawsuit Delayed”

“Suit Filed Against Suspended Chief”

“Chief Mercurio Returns to Work”

Justin Zaremba

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Better Newspaper Contest 2011

W6: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Interpretive Writing

NJPA Awards

W6: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Interpretive Writing

PUBLIC HOUSING

Battle for new rent control policy looming

BY JEFF FRANKEL
of Bloomfield Life

Kevin Lindahl doesn't know if he's coming or going.

The Troy Towers resident was supposed to be evicted from his 14th floor apartment building Jan. 31, after claiming he was targeted for publicly advocating a rent control measure. Since receiving notice of a 20 percent rent hike last year, Lindahl has been one of the driving forces behind re-establishing one.

Though state law clearly defines eviction for such actions as illegal, that did not stop management of the complex from calling police when Lindahl was distributing flyers, he says.

But he is not alone in his fight. Councilman Robert Ruane led the charge in November 2009 when he accused Troy Towers management of raising rent on some tenants upwards of 20 percent. But Josh Allen, managing agent of the 346-unit complex, previously told Bloomfield Life in November that only a small majority of tenants have seen rent increases.

Residents have come to recent council meetings in droves to lobby for rent control — and not only from Troy Towers. In the meantime, Lindahl is forced to play a



Troy Towers resident Kevin Lindahl has become a driving force for the establishment of new rent control measures in Bloomfield.

waiting game. "I'm just going to wait and see my lawyer and see if I get a (eviction) letter under my door," said Lindahl, 36. "It's nerve-wracking."

WILL IT HAPPEN?
Those in favor of rent control face a long battle.

While Ruane is clearly on their side, other elected officials (excluding Mayor Raymond McCarthy) have not made their stance known, at least publicly.

McCarthy does not favor rent control. Having heard many gripes from residents with respect to landlords tells him the issues they

face involve maintenance, which clearly lies outside the council's reach of power, he says. Still, McCarthy hopes to meet with Allen to discuss limiting increases to a more manageable level.

"To some extent, the raising of (rent) 20 percent, in this day and age, is 'inappropriate,'" said McCarthy, though he contends rent control would hurt downtown redevelopment. The mayor

Rent control at a glance

■ New Jersey does not have a law that controls or governs rent leveling or rent increases. But any New Jersey municipality is permitted to adopt an ordinance that controls rent increases.

■ Fourteen of 21 Essex County municipalities have at least some form of rent control. They are: Bloomfield, Belleville, Caldwell, Cedar Grove, East Orange, Irvington, Maplewood, Newark, Nutley, Orange, South Orange, Verona, West Caldwell and West Orange.

■ As of 2009, 121 of the state's 566 municipalities have a rent control measure in place.

■ Bloomfield's rent leveling board consists of three volunteer members, appointed by the township council, for a period of three years. The current members are James Walker, Robert Doyle and Juan Albarino. Township officials cannot recall the last time the board formally met.

— Sources: 2009 New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Rent Control Survey (the most recent available); Township of Bloomfield.

said it would be impossible to determine market prices for rental units expected to be built as part of a mixed-use development at Bloomfield Center.

Allen declined comment for this article, citing advice from his counsel. In November, Allen told Bloomfield Life that out of 42 leases scheduled to expire Feb. 1, only six were subject to 20 percent hikes. Allen said he was forced to raise rent to compensate for upwards of \$2.5 million in improvements at Troy Towers.

A studio apartment at Troy Towers is \$875 per month, while a two-bedroom, two-bath unit costs \$1,750.

There are 91 "true" five-family-and-up apartment buildings in Bloomfield comprised of approximately 3,600 units, according to the township. Factin mixed-use buildings with approximately 712 additional units, and the total increases to about 4,300. By comparison, Bloomfield hosts over 11,600 homes and condominiums.

The township does not maintain statistics on the number of individual renters in town.

The Bloomfield Tenants Organization (BTO) has seen a surge in new memberships, according to Trish Comstock, BTO president. Comstock, Lindahl and other volunteers have been distributing leaflets at all township apartment buildings and to renters in hopes

Third Place, Weekly under 6,500

Bloomfield Life

"Battle for New Rent Control Policy Looming"

Jeff Frankel

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SEE HOUSING PAGE 3

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Town to act tonight on 'weed' farm

By Joanne Degnan
Managing Editor

UPPER FREEHOLD — In a showdown that appears headed for court, Breakwater Alternative Treatment Center says it will move forward with its plan to grow medical marijuana in town even if municipal leaders pass an ordinance tonight (Dec. 15) aimed at keeping it out.

"We will use every means at our disposal to enforce our right to own and operate a greenhouse facility that complies with existing zoning regulations," the company said in a prepared statement. "Naturally, this means we will have to resort to judicial intervention and the appeals process if necessary."

The Township Committee is scheduled to meet at 6 p.m. in the Stone Bridge Middle School auditorium to hold a public hearing and adoption vote on an ordinance that prohibits any business in town that violates federal law. Marijuana is illegal under federal law.

The 2010 New Jersey Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act allows marijuana to be grown and sold under tightly regulated circumstances in order to alleviate the suffering of terminally ill patients and those with serious diseases such as multiple sclerosis. However, the six nonprofit groups approved by the state to cultivate and dispense marijuana have generally met stiff local opposition in their attempts to site facilities in their state-assigned regions.

Mayor LoriSue Mount has asked to meet with Gov. Chris Christie, whom she says was "handed a bag of mess" when he took office in 2010, shortly after the medical marijuana law was signed in the last days of Gov. Jon Corzine's term.

"I hope Gov. Christie sends this back to the attorney general (and) has the New Jersey Compassionate (Use Medical Marijuana) Act challenged in the courts ..." Ms. Mount said Monday night.

Ms. Mount maintains this is a state issue, and it is wrong for Upper Freehold taxpayers to be forced to litigate it. She said the governor's office has been receptive to her request for a meeting and as of Monday night was still in the process of trying to set one up.

Breakwater has filed zoning permit applications for four Upper Freehold sites it is considering as the possible location for its marijuana greenhouses, including two properties on Rues Road that are preserved farmland. The other sites, which are all zoned agricultural, but are not preserved, are on Route 526 and Route 539.

See MARIJUANA, Page 6A

W6: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Interpretive Writing

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The Messenger-Press

"Town to Act Tonight on 'Weed Farm'"

"Town Acts to Derail Marijuana Farm Plan"

Joanne Degnan

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

GRAYDON LAWSUIT

Jury trial begins in Hackensack

BY KELLY EBBELS
Staff Writer

During opening days at the trial for the drowning of Soo Hyeon Park at Graydon Pool, a clearer picture emerged of events that day and their aftermath: friends panicking, lifeguards unaware of any struggle for life, and a grieving family left "longing" for their son.

The Park family has sued the Village of Ridgewood for negligence and emotional distress following the death of their 13-year-old son on July 15, 2008, and has refused to settle at \$600,000, the village's highest offer so far.

The Park family – Soo Hyeon and his sister Su In, mother Youn Wha Jung, and father Seong Wook Park – came to Ridgewood from Korea, to visit for a few days before moving to Rhode Island, where Seong Wook was scheduled to begin a research sabbatical. They stayed as guests of the Kim family, residents of Ridgewood.

The Parks visited Graydon Pool on July 15 with 11-year-old Steven Kim and 14-year-old Peter Kim, childhood friends of Soo Hyeon and Su In. Around 2:30 p.m., while swimming in the deep end between the 12-foot raft and the high dive area with Steven and Peter, Soo Hyeon began struggling to stay afloat and then drowned, according to testimony.

After a judge this summer dismissed any wrongdoing by the Park and Kim families, the Parks' case against the village moved to trial in Bergen County Superior Court, where an eight-member jury is being led by Judge Estela De La Cruz.

The Park family, now living in Korea, testified this week of their distress.

"I just long to see my son," Youn Wha Jung said through a translator on Monday as she wiped away tears. "I just feel so

See DROWNING, page A5

W6: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Interpretive Writing

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The Ridgewood News

"Graydon Pool Lawsuit Series:
Jury Trial Begins in Hackensack:
Closing Arguments Set for Nov. 28"
"Jury Awards Family \$10 Million"

Kelly Ebbels

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W6: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Interpretive Writing

Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

Teaneck Suburbanite

COUNCILWOMAN CENSURED

Troubling times for Toffler

BY HOWARD PROSNITZ
Staff Writer

The council has censured Councilwoman Barbara Toffler for "leveling erroneous and unsupported" allegations against township manager William Broughton and for interfering with requests under the Open Public Records Act (OPRA).



B. Toffler

The council resolution was read in full at the meeting of Feb. 8. Toffler recused herself from the vote and Councilwoman Lizette Parker abstained. The event leading up to the censure vote was a motor vehicle car accident on Jan. 5 in which Toffler knocked the license plate off a car parked in front of Cross River Bank on Teaneck Road when she was backing out of a parking space. Surveillance cameras showed Toffler driving away from the accident. Later in the day, she was served at her home with two summonses, one for leaving the scene of an accident. Toffler contends that she was unaware that she had caused any damage to the vehicle. She noted that she has paid for the re-installation of the plate but that no other damage was claimed by car's owner.

SEE TOFFLER, PAGE 4

"Troubling Times for Toffler"

"Legality of Cancellation
Questioned"

"Toffler Sues Colleagues
over Censure"

Howard Prosnitz

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LYNDHURST

Should police go door-to-door in campaigns?

BY MICHAEL LAMENDOLA
Managing Editor

Some township residents are questioning why police officers and the township's police chief were personally involved in sending out literature and going door-to-door to solicit voters for Tuesday's \$37 million middle school referendum. Some are also calling language in a letter sent out by Police Chief James O'Connor inflammatory, claiming it has demeaning undertones that single out populations that are unwanted in the township.

In the two-page letter sent out to township residents by O'Connor prior to the vote, he begins by saying that he wants to tell the community about values; about what happens to a town when residents and town officials themselves have no value in their community.

"As Lyndhurst's top law enforcement officer, no one knows better than me that police can only do so much to preserve law and order," wrote O'Connor. "The safety of our community requires a population that values law and order. If Lyndhurst's population shifts to one that has no investment in services or public education, our quality of life will decline, as residents who share our values go elsewhere."

In the letter, O'Connor encourages a positive vote and emphasizes the need for the town's first ever middle school. He closes the letter by stating that in the past five years, property values have increased by \$30 million and violent crimes have dropped 50 percent, robberies cut by 46 percent and car thefts fell 57 percent.

"Now we have to complete this transformation for the better by offering quality public schools," wrote O'Connor. "If Lyndhurst is ever going to be able to attract and retain decent families who share our values, it is essential that we offer quality public schools. A quality school system requires a middle school."

Park Avenue resident Jeff Bollenbach said he received O'Connor's letter on Jan. 13 and was

to read Chief James O'Connor's letter, visit www.northjersey.com, Lyndhurst and then click "Residents question role of police in campaign for middle school."

SEE POLICE, PAGE A5

W6: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Interpretive Writing

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South Bergenite

"Should Police Go Door-to-Door in Campaigns?"

"Lyndhurst's State of Disrepair"

"District Ready for \$28M School Referendum"

Michael Lamendola



W6: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Interpretive Writing

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Parsippany Life

“Parsippany Animal Control Emphasizes Control, Not Welfare”
“The Feral Cat Problem: Trap, Neuter and Release or Destroy?”
“Euthanasia Rates Found to be High”

Elizabeth Martin

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

MUNICIPAL

Parsippany Animal Control emphasizes control, not welfare

BY ELIZABETH MARTIN
Managing Editor

This is the first part of a three-part story on Parsippany Animal Control.

Though it is a choice that few people want to contemplate, surrendering a beloved pet is occasionally a fact of life. When this happens, pet owners often turn to their local municipal shelter.

In Parsippany, this would mean visiting the Parsippany Animal Shelter, run by the office of Animal Control (PAC).

Animal Control in Parsippany handles a variety of issues, such as removing animal carcasses and dealing with residents' complaints about strays, in addition to running the shelter.

However, many residents may be not aware that the Parsippany Animal Shelter is not the same as privately run shelters or rescue groups operated by non-profits and volunteers. Recently, this fact has caused a great deal of distress to residents trying to make use of shelter services.

In November 2010, Parsippany resident Lynn Barbarite contacted the shelter, looking for help dealing with stray cats living near her home. She had been taking care of two stray cats, getting them neutered and vaccinated at her own expense, when another cat and her kittens showed up. Barbarite knew that she would not be able to care for them so she contacted Animal Control.

Barbarite was told by the shelter that the mother and her kittens could be surrendered for a fee of \$25 per cat, which "covers the cost of feeding/ware/spay/neuter/shots until they are ready for

adoption," according to an e-mail sent by shelter staff to Barbarite.

"I wanted to make sure I was taking them to the right place," said Barbarite. "He [Animal Control Officer Chris Drowicz] told me how successful their adoptions are and how they go to Petco, etc."

I asked him the direct question about how long before they put the cats down if they are not adopted and he told me that it usually isn't necessary, again telling me they had plenty of room and people every day [are] looking to adopt."

When Barbarite arrived at the Parsippany shelter, she explained her situation to the staff, mentioning that the mother cat had scratched her in the process of getting her into the cage for transport.

"One of the women immediately jumped on me and said that she had a problem with that based upon the wounds on my hand," said Barbarite, who said she had three small scratches on the front of her hand and two on her palm. "She said the law said that the cat had to be tested for rabies, so I said fine thinking that it was a blood test and we proceeded to the office where I began to fill out paper work which she filled in and I signed, unfortunately without my glasses on and really too stressed out to focus."

When Barbarite presented her Friends of Animals certificate to cover the cost of spaying, she was told by the shelter staff that this would not be necessary because to test an animal for rabies, the animal must be put down.

"I then pleaded for her as she did not have rabies. She is a sweet little thing that I was desperately trying to find a home for," said

Barbarite. "She told me I couldn't leave with the cat unless I kept her in a cage in my home for six months of observation and that the shelter would come check the cat every other day. My home situation did not allow for this."

Ultimately, Barbarite was unable to persuade the officers to give her the mother cat back, and she was euthanized.

The results of her rabies test were negative.

While rabies is a risk when dealing with stray cats, there are less aggressive alternatives.

"An animal that is not showing any kind of symptoms can be watched for a 10-day confinement period," according to Dr. Colin Campbell, New Jersey's Deputy State Public Health Veterinarian. He added that animal control officers (ACO) usually don't euthanize immediately unless the animal is showing symptoms of rabies or is deemed a hazard.

"Scratches are a low risk, but still a risk," for contracting rabies, said Dr. Campbell. "Bites are the highest - any break in the skin, or eyes. [But] a scratch is considered exposure."

However, even if Princess had bitten Barbarite, according to

township statute 91-9, the cat should have been examined by a veterinarian and kept in confinement either "in the owner's home, at a kennel, a shelter or under the care of a veterinarian for a period of 10 days."

Ten days is the incubation period for rabies in domesticated animals, meaning that if an animal has rabies, it's going to show signs of the disease within that window. This still allows plenty of time to vaccinate any human who came into contact with the rabid animal.

This protocol was not followed by Animal Control staff, and PAC declined to comment on why Barbarite was not given this option.

"My family and I have lived in

SEE ANIMAL CONTROL PAGE 6





Better Newspaper Contest 2011

W7: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Feature Writing

NJPA Awards

W7: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Feature Writing

Senna sees 'Randyland' the shot in the arm that Pacific Avenue needs

WILDWOOD - For more than a decade, curious adults and children have gazed at the locked doors at Pacific and Wildwood avenues, peering their faces against the glass to catch a glimpse at the odd figures, arcade games, and bizarre overgrown locals.

Randy Senna would love nothing more than to throw open the doors and invite them inside for a tour, but he said "red tape from city hall" blocks him at every turn.

Senna, 31, is a self-taught engineer and an avid collector of boardwalk and arcade nostalgia.

His collection ranges from thousands of pinball machines, video games, arcades and props from amusement and attractions up and down the Jersey shore, along with rare items from Disney World, where he once worked. The collection, including a number of remnants he calls "Randyland," fill both floors of the old Wildwood's building on Pacific Avenue, along with 20 storage trailers and has made him something of a local celebrity. He calls it Randyland.

In 1999, he purchased the building with a plan of using his unique collection to make up the



Randy dolls, about 200 life-size figures, are everywhere in the museum.

architect of a museum dedicated to the boardwalk experience in New Jersey.

"It is designed to bring back those great memories that people have from being at the shore," Senna said.

Senna said he saw potential in the former Wildwood's, located at the intersection of Pacific and Wildwood avenues. He compared Pacific Avenue to Disney World's Main Street.

"I worked in Main Street's operations and even Disney World knew they had to have an anchor store to draw people to the area. There isn't more here than the Emporium, Wildwood's main store could have Randyland," he said.

Senna said the key to revitalizing the street is giving people a reason to walk down the sidewalk.

"You have to give people a reason to come here," he said. "If there is something happening on Pacific Avenue people will come."

He noted that it is a 90 of a catch-22. "Investors and visitors stay away because of the crime, but if the majority of shops weren't abandoned and people were everywhere, then the majority of criminals would find another dark hole," he said.

He said he looks forward to projects like the Cedar Avenue entranceway, a connector from the boardwalk to Pacific Avenue, but added that unless the city's former "bikini bar" has something to offer other than stretches of abandoned buildings it won't draw visitors.

"If there is something unique and exciting that people want to see, they'll come whether they have to drive down a dirt road or a highway," he said.

Senna said he did not expect anyone in city hall to do back flips for someone willing to invest in Pacific Avenue, but he never expected he would run into so much opposition.

"It's like there has been a stone wall from the city from day one," he said.

According to Senna, Randyland initially couldn't open because of a city ordinance that restricts coin-operated machines to the boardwalk.

"They want to restrict arcades to the boardwalk, which I can understand, but what about all the amusement rides," he asked.

Senna said that Duff's, also located on Pacific Avenue, has an arcade. He also questioned why the city OK'd Landstrom's on Pacific Avenue since the ordinance restricts coin-operated machines.

"I think that the initial reasoning was that they thought an arcade off the boardwalk would bring a bad element," he said. "Considering what the street looks like now, what are people going to do if they come here to play games? Scare all the drug dealers away?"

He said that he switched business plans and instead of running an arcade, he wanted to open the building as a museum. However, those plans hit a bump when Senna was told that he would have to bring his building up to code and install a sprinkler system.

Mayor Eric Trivette Jr. said he'd like to see Senna's museum become a reality, but questioned the safety risks in the building.

Trivette said that regulations like sprinklers and fire exits are necessary if Senna wants to open the building to the public.

Senna agrees the city's claim that he needs a sprinkler system. He mentioned that when he contacted a company to install sprinklers, he was told that a system was "completely unnecessary."

"The guy getting paid to sell sprinkler systems was telling me that I didn't need one," he said.

"There is a clear walkway through the whole building and clearly marked exits," he said. "It isn't a hazard."

"It's as if there is a huge void," Senna added.

Senna's history with the city includes a lawsuit over property taxes. He's also battled with inspectors over his right to run a water-gun game he invented on the boardwalk. Inspectors called the Man's Wilderness Game offensive and tried to shut it down because it involved shooting water at animals.

The city lost that legal fight.

If visitors could only get a glimpse of the self-proclaimed museum of the Willy Wildwood built they'd see rows of pinball machines, slot ball alleys, water games, video games, carnival games, wheels of fortune, coin-necking games, phone booths, a polar bear and a 12-foot gorilla that used to call Ashby Park home. And that's only a glimpse.

He's wanted the building to respond to a storm and with a sense of his area. Senna can make the building go dark and the machines come to life. Their lights illuminate the darkness and the sounds are the soundtrack from any arcade on the Jersey shore.

The museum also holds items from Senna's own life story. His crib hangs from the ceiling as does his old Schwinn bicycle to his mother's crib to the specific "Crack's Saloon" drinking game he played as a kid.

Then there are the Randy dolls, a plastic army of 200 life-size figures Senna has dressed in an array of costumes he might have worn at the Jersey Shore or during his three-year hitch working at Disney's Magic Kingdom in Florida. There are Randy mannequins who sit on the lunch counter, Randy leads in the ice cream freezer and among the display of Disney's Tiki Room show. There is even an anatomical display with Randy playing the drums and other instruments while his mannequin "band" watches from the stands.

Senna compares the Randy dolls to how Walt Disney marketed Mickey Mouse.

"Randy is the every man," he said.

A 1978 graduate of Millburn Township High School, Senna is the son of a Rocco Senna, a lawyer, and Gladys Senna, a teacher.

"My parents indulged my sense and me and we went to the boardwalk every day," he says of parents. "They were very good to us."

Senna skipped college and taught himself how to fix arcade machines. An engineer, Senna worked in Walt Disney World and his own business company. Until recently he ran Flipper's Fascination, a type of electronic bingo, on the Wildwood boardwalk. Senna was known as Mr. Fascination for about 30 years, as he acted as the "master of ceremonies" at the boardwalk game. This past summer he put his business, into hibernation to care for his parents.

His newest venture is a retro arcade called, "Remember When" on the bottom floor of the boardwalk Mall.

Senna wrote two autobiographies and is nearing completion on a documentary film about his life. He also enjoyed his 30 minutes of fame when one of his collection show producers from the ABC hit reality show "Hoarders."

"My show turned out to be the only one without a Dumpster so it helped my position that there is no junk here," Senna said. "They call it hoarding, I call it collecting."

Strangers who recognize him from the show now ask him for autographs or to pose in pictures, he said.

Never been married and with no children, Senna said he is worried about what will happen to his collection when he's gone.

"If I had a brain I could sell these pieces for millions and live the rest of my life on a beach and say 'so long to Wildwood,'" he said. "But I didn't see and see these things for that I want them to preserve the boardwalk from our childhoods."

Senna said that he would welcome the opportunity to work with the city in order to get Randyland up and running.

"If the doc's work," he said of his museum of curious collectibles. "It is only a disaster to Pacific Avenue and Wildwood."

"It's Wildwood's loss," he added.

—Lauren Suit

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Third Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Wildwood Leader

"Senna Sees 'Randyland' the Shot in the Arm that Pacific Avenue Needs"

Lauren Suit

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W7: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Feature Writing

Second Place, Weekly under 6,500

Verona-Cedar Grove Times

CEDAR GROVE
Forty years later, runner reflects on life in the fast lane

BY ANDREW SEGEDIN
Staff Writer

As his peers would maul him and swim on the shores of Long Beach Island during the 1960s, Cedar Grove's Marty Liguori would run. He'd run a mile, he'd run two. He'd run for a short while and run again, his feet digging into the beach's soft sands - strengthening his 15-year-old legs. At first, Liguori was just trying to be good, then great. At no time did it ever cross his mind that, in just four short years, he'd be the best in the world.

Now 42, and reflecting on his life from his home in Cramerton, Fla., one would hardly be able to tell that this was a man who had traveled the world and - at a remarkably young age - was one of the best middle distance runners in the world and the best American ranked No. 1 in the world in the 1500 meters. Forty years later, he speaks of his accomplishments with the matter-of-factness of a man preparing when he last mowed his lawn.

The School Boy
Recalling his childhood in Cedar Grove, Liguori remembers seeing mountains, black cacti in hand, head down in the late afternoon board for New York City where they would perform with Broadway orchestras. Liguori appreciated it so early on that the strangers with the black cases were among the best in the world at what they did and the commensality of that has stuck with him.

"Being from Cedar Grove, you're pretty much from New York," says Liguori. "You think it to be the best in the world."

Being one of the best runners in the world was never a vision Liguori had, at least at a young age. Liguori had no experience with competitive running during his childhood attending St. Catherine School and had no intention of starting when he enrolled at Essex Catholic until he was told by a peer that the school's basketball coach liked by his players to stay in shape during the off-season by joining the cross country team.

After a relatively unassuming freshman campaign, Liguori decided to use his family's summers on Long Beach Island to train. At first, he'd run a mile or two two or three times a day. Eventually, he'd run 12 miles at a time, his feet heating into the sand. Liguori credits these summer days for strengthening his legs.

He credits his coach, Fred Dreyer for almost everything else. Dreyer himself was a four-minute miler - something that would be a rarity among current high school coaches. Under Dreyer's tutelage and his own hard work, Liguori became just the third athlete to break four minutes in the mile in 1967 - just three years after the legendary runner and future congressman Jim Ryun.

Now, decades later, Liguori dismisses the importance of that day.

"To me, it wasn't too big of a deal," says Liguori. "Even other people had already done it, but my coach said it would always be special and he was right."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARTY LIGUORI

Marty Liguori of Cedar Grove was the first to cross the finish line during the 1500 meters at 1969 NCAA Championships. That same year, Liguori received his first of three separate No.1 world rankings.

SEE RUNNER PAGE 45

“Forty Years Later, Runner Reflects on Life in the Fast Lane”

Andrew Segedin

W7: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Feature Writing

First Place, Weekly under 6,500

DOWNTOWN

Storm has retailers reeling

By Lindsey Kelleher
of The Item

The day after Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene struck Millburn the sun was shining and the sky was clear blue but not all is calm and peaceful in the township yet. Several business owners, employees and workers are cleaning up water, mud and other debris that the storm left behind.

Stores such as Buncher's Hardware Store and Futter's Shoes on Millburn Avenue received six feet of water in their basements.

"We had water flow through the ground level of the store. The driveway and backyard were totally destroyed," said an employee at Buncher's Hardware.

Richard Futter, owner of Futter's shoe store which will celebrate its 62nd year of being in Millburn this November, explained that by Monday morning Aug. 29, the day after Irene came to town, most to all of the six feet of water was pumped out of the shop's two basements.

"Now we have the mud to clean out," said Futter, "That will be the biggest nuisance of all

because it's dirty, heavy and no fun."

And what makes the mud difficult to clean up? Futter noted that most of it will have to be carried up the basement steps of the store and taken away from the building on a truck.

Several other stores in Downtown Millburn are also cleaning up mud that washed into their structures from Tropical Storm Irene. Paul Wayne, the owner's son at Bagel Chateau which is located on Millburn Avenue, said that store employees spent all of Sunday cleaning up mud that washed into the luncheonette.

"There was one inch of mud everywhere in the store," said Wayne.

Mud left from the rainstorm wasn't Bagel Chateau's only problem. Wayne explained that water flooded in Bagel Chateau's basement from the ground to the ceiling. The floor, refrigeration equipment, supplies and paper goods kept in the basement were either destroyed or damaged. The electricity down there has to be rewired, Wayne noted. He estimated that the storm caused about \$100,000 worth of damage to the bagel shop's basement.

Wayne compared the damage from Irene and estimated costs of it to that of Tropical Storm Floyd which hit the township in 1999. The only difference was that during Floyd, windows inside the Bagel Chateau were smashed by equipment floating through the floodwater.

"Economically, this hurricane was just as bad," he said.

Debra Camitta, co-owner of Curate and Joshua Schwerdt, an employee at Millburn Delicatessen, both located on Millburn Avenue, explained that the estimated cost of damage to their businesses is still being calculated.

Camitta noted that the bottom part of the wall inside her shop will most likely have to be repaired since it was damaged by two feet of standing water that flowed into Curate's first floor this past Sunday. The store also lost a lot of its merchandise due to flooding. Curate hopes to reopen within the next week or two.

"We're taking it a week at a time," Camitta said, "Depending on what we have to replace on the walls or if we have to replace the floors, it could be longer."

SEE STORM, PAGE A2

The Item of Millburn and Short Hills

"Storm Has Retailers Reeling"
"South Mountain Neighborhood Overwhelmed by Flood Waters"

Lindsey Kelleher
Andrea Hughes

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W7: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Feature Writing

Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

The Current of Mays Landing, Hamilton Township

Old school visit fills empty halls with memories

By **CLAIRE LOWE**
Staff Writer

EGG HARBOR CITY - Furniture was stacked on both sides of the hallway from Hamilton Hall into the Rittenberg School proper, and people stopped to comment on the empty feeling it gave them.

The bubbly pink and turquoise blue bathrooms were clearly outdated and the paint was chipping from the peach colored walls that lined the narrow hallways.

When the visitors walked into different classrooms, chatter erupted about the teachers they remembered standing at the chalkboards; and

this was the way the rest of the day played out at the farewell event Saturday, Jan. 29 for the Fanny D. Rittenberg Middle School, which will be demolished in March.

Superintendent John Gilly opened the event on the stage in Hamilton Hall, welcoming former teachers and alumni into the school where he once served as principal.

"This reminds me of a scene from 'Hosiers,'" he said to laughter.

Gilly said that as he prepared for the event on Saturday, mopping and sweeping the stairs and hallways himself, he knew Fanny was with

See **SCHOOL**, on Page 6



Claire Lowe

Egg Harbor City resident Henry Schoenlein, 50, a 1974 Rittenberg graduate; Northfield resident Jackie Schoenlein-Somers, 49, a 1976 Rittenberg graduate; Joan Schoenlein, 72, of Egg Harbor City, a 1955 Egg Harbor City High School graduate; and Margaret Hare, 74, of Cologne, a 1955 EBCHS graduate, all gathered for a tour of their alma mater on Saturday, Jan. 29.



"Old School Visit Fills Empty Halls with Memories"

Claire Lowe

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W7: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Feature Writing



Courtesy of the Ocean City Historical Museum/Special to the Ocean City Sentinel
Members of the Ocean City Police Department during the Prohibition Era.

PROHIBITION

THE FOCUS HAS ALWAYS BEEN ON OUR WET NEIGHBOR TO THE NORTH, BUT WHAT WAS IT LIKE IN OCEAN CITY, A DRY TOWN?

*"Mother's in the kitchen washing out the jug,
Sister's in the pantry bottling the suds,
Father's in the office mixing up the hops,
Johnny's on the front porch watching for the cops"*
— Prohibition song

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Special to the

On a foggy night in the 1920s, a run-running boat laden with alcohol anchored three miles off Ocean City's coast. A small vessel from the mainland made a beeline through the murky haze toward the mysterious boat. A man on the run-running boat handed off a crate of Canadian Club whiskey for cash, and the men on the small craft returned to the mainland, back in tow.

Times like that played out during Prohibition, a time from 1919 until 1933 when the manufacture and sale of intoxicating beverages was made illegal by the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The popularity of the HBO series "Boardwalk Empire," based on the book "Boardwalk Empire: The Birth, High Times and Corruption of Atlantic City" by area historian Nelson Johnson, brought a new world of the bootleggers and gangsters during Prohibition to the public consciousness.

Ocean City, a seaside resort founded by Methodist mission-

aries in 1879, has always maintained a dry policy toward selling and manufacturing alcohol.

Given the sobering influences of religion and morality were enough to dampen the hedonistic debauchery of their coastal neighbor to the north.

Paul Anselmi of the Ocean City Historical Museum said accounts of run-runners and speakeasies during Prohibition have persisted in Ocean City for years.

Even stories of former Mayor Harry Headley involved with securing illegal alcohol are floating out there.

"We couldn't prove it in a million years," Anselmi said.

"There was always a rumor that Headley positively was involved with run-running. They take a boat out to the shore that was bringing stuff from some other location. My guess was off the three-mile limit. I've heard stories."

Anyway, no matter how authentic they might seem, here's a kernel of truth, Anselmi said.

Ocean City wasn't immune to the side effects of Prohibition. Run-runners, their boats packed with alcohol, did trade with police and coast guards. Agents did raid properties housing booze and people died from tainted liquor. Even a few local authorities partook a sip of liquid courage and skirted the very law they were obligated to enforce.

Towns and states advanced their own prohibition laws. In 1909, Ocean City passed a law forbidding the sale and manufacturing of alcohol. The Ocean City Women's Temperance Union presented a public petition to the city in 1912 to repeal all that existed in paper than the "demon rum."

According to the Nov. 18, 1918 issue of the Ocean City Ledger, a contemporary newspaper of the Ocean City Sentinel, it once specifically passed their own "dry laws" including Upper Township, Alloway and Hammonton.

"The Anti-Saloon League reports as a result of wet and dry

Please see Prohibition in a Dry Town, page C8

A special thanks to the Ocean City Historical Museum, which is a gem in this town, for providing extensive help in research for this article. Make it a point to stop in and enjoy this free museum of Ocean City's history. It is in the Ocean City Cultural Community Center at 1735 Simpson Avenue.

Second Place, Weekly over 6,500

Ocean City Sentinel

"Prohibition: The Focus Has Always Been on Our Wet Neighbor to the North, But What Was it Like in Ocean City, a Dry Town?"

Eric Avedissian

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W7: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Feature Writing

Perfect strangers

Man's donation pays forward the gift that saved his son's life

BY ELIZABETH OGUSS
STAFF WRITER

Earlier this month, Jiro Okochi donated some of his bone marrow in a simple procedure not unlike a platelet or plasma donation. All he knows about the recipient is her age.

He hopes to meet her in a year, but already knows how she and her family might be feeling about what he did.

Four years ago, an anonymous gift of bone marrow saved the life of Jiro's 1-year-old son, Finn.

Finn was born with a rare sex-linked immune deficiency disease called Wiskott Aldrich Syndrome (WAS), in which the body's immune system attacks its own platelets. Platelets are the component of whole blood that help it to clot.

Jiro and his wife, Kim, could not give their son their own bone marrow, their DNA didn't match.

Of Finn's donor, they knew only that she lived in Michigan, that she was one-quarter Japanese, and that she had once given a wad of her cheek cells to Be The Match, a national registry of potential bone marrow donors operated by the National Marrow Donor Program.

For 70 percent of patients needing a bone marrow donation, the match does not come from a family member, according to Be The Match. "It's all DNA and nothing to do with desire, hopes, or blood relations," says Jiro.

The registry keeps donor and recipient unknown to each other until a year after the transplant, and only if both sides agree do they share the information. When their year had passed, the Okochis learned their son's donor was named Melissa Budd.

Budd had joined the registry almost on a whim, at a corporate blood drive a decade ago.

"I registered not knowing what it was about," Budd said in a phone interview with The Times from her home in Michigan. In 2007, when she got a letter from Be The Match, she contacted the Michigan blood bank to find out more.

"When they explained, it was a neat feeling," she said, but still, she was unnerved. All Budd knew about the patient was that he was "an infant male somewhere in the world."

She was 28, not yet a mother, and was "kind of naive about the way of the world. I didn't know how I would deal if it didn't work out. I struggled with that for a while."

At the time, Budd's mother was undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer.

"I couldn't do anything for her," she said. "It helped me a lot with the process in my own family." Budd's mother died 18 months ago.

In September of this year, the Okochi family met Melissa Budd for the first time at a Be The Match event in Atlanta.

FINN

Jiro and Kim had known that Kim could be a carrier of WAS. Two of her maternal aunts died of the disease before it was well understood, and her own brother, Mark, died at the age of 9, two years before the national bone marrow donor bank was started.

Kim's family heritage is Eastern European. Though her family is Catholic, other families she has met who have been touched by WAS have been Russian-born or Jewish. Kim says maybe her family was once Jewish and converted, no one knows.

The Okochis' first child was a daughter, Olivia. Finn turned out to have a severe form of the illness.

Finn calls WAS a "double-whammy blood disease"



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICK DENNY

because "not only do you have a low platelet count which could lead to internal bleeding, but you have severe immunodeficiency."

"Kids with WAS can have any of a variety of different genetic mutations involving [a] particular protein," said Richard O'Reilly, chair of the department of pediatrics at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, where Finn was treated. O'Reilly is also chief of the Bone Marrow Transplant Service at MSKCC.

"Some patients can do well until their teens," he said. "Patients like Finn have mutations that severely affect the capacity to make platelets that are functionally normal, and they have these immune deficits," he said.

Soon after birth, Finn's platelet levels dropped, Jiro



STAFF PHOTO BY ADAM ANIN

Jiro Okochi, top, donates bone marrow for an anonymous recipient, kept company by his children, Olivia and Finn, whose life was saved by the same kind of donation four years ago. Above, the Okochi family plays in the sunroom of their Montclair home on Saturday.

DONOR: CBS

First Place, Weekly over 6,500

The Montclair Times

"Perfect Strangers: Man's Donation Pays Forward the Gift that Saved His Son's Life"

Elizabeth Oguss

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION



Better Newspaper Contest 2011

**W8: Reporting, Writing &
Illustration –
Opinion Column**

NJPA Awards

Opinion

Need to Fight

Last week, the Township Council very reluctantly introduced two ordinances to set zoning for two more multifamily housing projects. The township had been sued by four developers under the Mount Laurel court decisions requiring municipalities to provide housing for low and moderate income families. Settlements were reached with two of the four developers. The courts approved plans for the development of 62 housing units on 4.275 acres at the intersection of South Orange Avenue and White Oak Ridge Road, the former Don's Drive-In, and the development of 11.5 acres with 226 units on Peach Tree Hill Road adjacent to the Kushner Academy.

Despite negotiations, no settlement could be reached with Squiretown Properties and Hillside-Northfield Partners, the developers who wish to build on the remaining two parcels, the former Duffrow's Nursery on West Northfield Road and a parcel off Old Road. These are the sites that the two ordinances will re-zone. A public hearing on the ordinances will be held on March 28 in Township Hall at 8 p.m.

Superior Court Judge Dennis F. Carey III awarded builder's remedies to the developers who had sued the township under the Mount Laurel court decisions. On the four acre Duffrow's site, the proposed zone would allow 18 units per acre, with no more than 80 units permitted in no more than four buildings. The buildings could have as many as 22 units per building. The 20 acre Squiretown site would be permitted to have a density of 11 units per acre and no more than 220 dwelling units in no more than five buildings. Each project would have to set aside 20 per cent of the total number of units for low and moderate income housing.

We thought that allowing 62 units on the Don's Drive-In site, which is slightly more than four acres, and 226 on the 11.5 acre Kushner site was an overuse of the land, somewhat akin to trying to put ten pounds of potatoes in a five pound bag but the Council felt that this was the very best deal they could make and that Judge Carey would order the town to accept even more. We are very glad that the Council has indicated plans to fight the last two proposals.

The Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) was created with the lofty goal of providing affordable housing in every municipality. It hasn't worked. What really happened was that municipalities lost the right to zone their own towns, as evidenced by the ordinances now being considered in Livingston. COAH created a chaotic road map that changed haphazardly over the years, leaving communities not knowing what their responsibility for low and moderate income housing would be or how they would be expected to meet it. Livingston's first development under COAH was the town house development on the former Howard Bank site across from the Livingston Mall. How many units for low and moderate income families were built there? Not one. The developers were permitted to sell their required responsibility to another town – in this case Linden – but were allowed to build at a far higher density than our community had ever seen before. In addition, the COAH regulations changed with each passing "round," costing the township a fortune in legal fees as our town leaders attempted to protect Livingston from over-development as best they could.

The future of COAH is uncertain. A bill to abolish the powerful Council was vetoed by governor Chris Christie in January. Christie called the Democratic-sponsored amendments to the bill unacceptable, saying it required ten per cent of all the new housing units in every municipality in the state to be affordable, necessitating that 25 per cent of the affordable housing obligation be met by inclusionary development, and legislated sprawl. Although the legislation was vetoed, it is clear that some sort of change is bound to be made. No one knows yet what it will be; but, we hope that it will restore some sort of home rule.

Livingston's first township manager, Robert Harp, fought long and hard to preserve Livingston as a single family residential community. He used every method in his arsenal to defeat plan after plan for apartments in our community and he was successful for many, many years. Livingston developed as Mr. Harp envisioned it – a community of single family homes. That is, until a group of greedy developers and COAH came into the picture.

Now with COAH's uncertain future and two more developments whose principals are not willing to reach an agreement with the township, we are pleased to see that the members of the Council are willing to contest the court's ruling. We understand the Council's frustration at being ordered to establish zones allowing the dense development in order to appeal the court's decision. We understand that the fight will be expensive; however, if we fail to undertake it and the housing developments are built, the town will be stuck with the results. Hopefully, we will be able to bring the developers back to the negotiating table and come up with a solution that is acceptable to all.

W8: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Opinion Column

Third Place, Weekly under 6,500

The West Essex Tribune

“Need to Fight”

Nancy B. Dinar

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

OUR VIEW
**We support the
Washington Street Mall**
But city should control BID

We support the Washington Street Mall and the merchants who do business there. The mall is the center of Cape May, which the city recognized when it decided to rehabilitate and revitalize it. The citizens recognized that when they agreed to bond for the improvements. And the merchants recognized that when they agreed to the formation of a Business Improvement District (BID), which included 42 properties on or around the mall.

We support the notion of shopping locally, and we have voiced that sentiment in this section of the newspaper on multiple occasions.

We like what the mall has become, and wish it continued success, especially in this coming holiday season.

What we don't like and don't support is what is taking place out of the sight of the shopping public.

We can't fathom the stupidity of the incident that took place on Nov. 3 involving the chairman of the Washington Street Mall Management Company and the actions that followed that at the BID meeting.

For those not familiar with the matter, the Washington Street Mall Management Company is the non-profit management company set up to handle the operation of the BID. The purpose of the BID, from its bylaws, is to serve the business community, to promote economic growth and employment within the district, and so on. Item 1 in Article II of the bylaws (Purpose and Powers) indicates the BID is a mechanism by which entities and individuals "can cooperate to promote business," as well as tourism, employment and so on.

Nowhere in Article II does it say one should favor one business over another or take actions that are adverse to one business in order to promote another.

In the Nov. 3 incident on the Washington Street Mall, within the Business Improvement District, a man and a woman were caught on video taking a sign advertising a dinner special off the side of the Ugly Mug Bar and Restaurant. The couple then entered the Pilot House Bar and Restaurant carrying the sign.

The people in the video were identified as then chairman of the BID Board of Trustees, Steve Smerzo, and his wife Pam. The Smerzos own Malone's Pub in the district and therefore are automatic members of the BID. Mr. Smerzo was elected by the membership as a board member, and elected chairman by the Board of Trustees.

As a trustee, the membership entrusted Smerzo with a certain level of responsibility for the operation of the BID. The other trustees then entrusted Smerzo with a greater level of responsibility, which was to guide the conduct of meetings.

The Smerzos were served with a citizen's complaint, but we were told the police could have issued the complaint based on video and photographic evidence. We were told Smerzo resigned as chairman at a BID meeting four days after the incident.

To be correct, the Nov. 7 meeting was the BID reorganization meeting and Smerzo chose not to run again.

The Smerzos have not been found guilty of the charges against them. The case was scheduled for Nov. 18 in Cape May Municipal Court, but the case has been rescheduled for Dec. 14. We'd be interested to see what defense they will present against video and photo evidence.

The truth be told, we're not eager to hear an explanation for what happened. The Smerzos' behavior on Nov. 3 was disgraceful and any excuse would be equally shameful.

Taking down an establishment's sign promoting its dinner special is a harmful act. You expect that kind of damage from drunks leaving a bar late at night... which is why the owner of the Ugly Mug got video surveillance in the first place.

Why would the chairman of an organization charged with promoting business and cooperation be trying to harm one of the businesses he was elected to promote?

The victim believes it was to help the owners of the neighboring Pilot House, which includes Frank and Doree Houlston. The Houlstons were not involved.

Regardless, Smerzo nominated Mrs. Houlston to be the vice chairman of the Board of Trustees. The simple fact is Smerzo wanted the nomination. He should not have nominated anyone for any position, which he did, and he should not have voted in an election where the victim of the Nov. 3 incident was running for a position.

That the board stood for any of this is another disgrace.

It is the right of Board of Trustees to remove a trustee for cause, but the BID bylaws do not contain a standard of what "cause" is. Perhaps action detrimental to one of the members of the BID is cause enough for removal.

We would think the perpetrator of such an offense would have the decency to resign in disgrace.

What's more, Cape May City's reaction has been muted and weak. Perhaps it's because they didn't read a public notice.

Too late for that.

The BID as a quasi-governmental agency has not been sending out regular announcements of their meetings. They have not been providing newspapers with their agenda, as do other boards and commissions. According to the City Clerk, they have not even been filing minutes of their meetings with her, which is required by city code (Chapter 505, Section 7).

The BID is autonomous in its day-to-day operations, but the city maintains an element of control. It should not be treated as a wind-up toy that once started should be left to run on its own.

If the chairman is behaving this badly outside the meetings, it leads us to wonder what is taking place inside the meetings.

Cape May City Council created the BID. It approves the BID budget, it can amend the BID budget, the BID must report to city council on its spending, and file audits with council.

Cape May City Council also has the authority to abolish the BID, something that sounds counterproductive, and would be contrary to the wishes of the people who supported the bond for the revitalization of the mall. Cape May City Council can withhold its approval of the BID budget, which would severely limit the BID's ability to spend money. We believe the city needs to act boldly.

The Washington Street Mall is part of the economic livelihood of Cape May and the organization behind it needs to be run professionally.

If the BID can't right itself, the city should do it.

W8: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Opinion Column

Second Place, Weekly under 6,500

Cape May Star & Wave

"We Support the Washington
Street Mall"
"Changes Need to Come
to LT Council"

Christopher South

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W8: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Opinion Column

EDITORIAL

Not much feedback on CM budget

Do most Cape May residents
care about their taxes?

The past couple of weeks we had some dialogue over the Cape May municipal budget. A group of concerned citizens addressed a letter to Cape May City Council, we commented on their ideas, and they responded to our comments. Since then, all we've been hearing is crickets.

We know the Taxpayers Association is on the job, and we look forward to hearing from them. We think a position letter from TPA would be something readers would look forward to.

In our story filed by reporter Cain Chamberlin (see page A1) it is reported that the introduction of the budget with a 1-cent tax increase was halted because there was no tie-breaking vote. That can happen when council members are on vacation during budget season. It's not a problem, however, since they cannot adopt the budget until April 4.

Lower Township also introduced its budget with one member on vacation, but the township decided to move forward with it despite at least one member wanting a lower tax rate increase.

What is important is that the governing bodies make their policies or positions on the budget clear to the electorate. We were criticized for seemingly not understanding that each journey begins with a single step. We believe there are times when a giant leap is necessary. Penny-ante changes can eventually add up over time, but they are not keeping pace with the economy.

We were criticized for raising issues that were meant to induce trepidation in our readers. Frankly, we believed we were raising some issues the public would raise if they had a voice. Sometime we wonder if they do.

In today's Star and Wave we have a single letter to the editor and that is from a fourth grade student from Virginia, who is practicing letter-writing, and who wanted to learn some things about New Jersey. We are tempted to write back and tell the child, while this might not be true of New Jersey, most of the people of Cape May don't like to write letters and express their opinions.

As we are reminded every Veterans Day, we did not create freedom of speech, but the media is its caretaker. We offer people a forum for which to make their views known but they don't like to use it. We should tell this fourth grader that people in Cape May would rather post their views anonymously than risk being criticized.

We have appealed to the public to use our "Letters" section to in the past with little response. We will continue to appeal for people to express their views.

Ironically, at one city council meeting the members of the press were chastised for not putting it in the paper when someone did something good. The truth is, often it's people simply being commended for doing their job. But if someone wants to write and commend someone or some group in our newspaper we would be happy to print those letters.

Contrary to some beliefs, we are not trying to suppress good news. Send us some.

First Place, Weekly under 6,500

Cape May Star & Wave

"Not Much Feedback
on CM Budget"

"There Ought to Be a Law"

Christopher South

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W8: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Opinion Column

Editor's Column

Separate together

I don't cry much, but when I do it's the gooey stuff that does it for me: A kind gesture. A hero's sacrifice. That commercial where the returning soldier climbs out of a Chevy and his little boy salutes.

I had a gooey moment on July 4, at the local park where we gathered for fireworks. My town is nothing if not diverse, and the scene around me was also like an ad — for Benetton. The family to our right was Orthodox. The mothers behind us wore Muslim head scarves. There were white families and black families and East Asians. If you wanted to do a story about America's religious and ethnic tolerance, it would be a great place to start.

Apparently I am not the only one who thinks so. I got a call the other day from a Europe-based news service that wants to interview me for a documentary about my town's reputation as a melting pot. They must have read the news stories about our Muslim mayor, who earned the backing of the large Orthodox Jewish community when he was appointed last year.

Because the news service has a, shall we say, complicated relationship with Israel, I wasn't surprised that the producer seemed focused on the Jewish-Muslim alliance. She even wondered whether what's happening in a New Jersey suburb could be a model for the Middle East. Maybe, I thought, although I don't quite see Benjamin Netanyahu and Mahmoud Abbas coaching Sunday soccer league.

I agreed with her that the town is unusually diverse. Lately the town has been largely (although not exclusively) defined by its large African-American and Orthodox Jewish communities. Its main shopping districts include a slew of kosher restaurants as well as African-American beauty salons. Blacks

and whites mix easily at the weekly farmer's market, at an annual street fair, and at the busy park that is the town's centerpiece.

But the picture is also complicated, I told her. There is tolerance, but not much interaction. Overwhelmingly, the Orthodox community sends its kids to Jewish day schools and *yeshivot*, while the black families use the public schools. Politically, this can get dicey, and every few years some Orthodox leaders get behind a slate of candidates for the school board, hoping to rein in spending — and taxes — for schools their kids don't attend. That can breed resentment among African-Americans and other non-Orthodox. Even the feel-good story of the Muslim mayor had an uncomfortable subtext: Some blacks felt his supporters slighted the African-American women who also sought the position.

It's not just politics. With kids in separate schools, there are fewer opportunities for people to mingle, meet, commiserate, and problem-solve. The civic fabric isn't torn, but it isn't closely knit either. As for social engineering, you can't beat a kosher diet for keeping Jews and non-Jews apart.

Because my kids went to day school before switching to the public high school, I've been able to straddle both worlds — and attest to what's missing. My kids, clearly in the minority as whites and Jews, mix regularly and comfortably with a rainbow coalition of friends. They have their synagogue lives, but also friends from an array of backgrounds. There's a looseness and even humor in their friendships that pundits can only dream of when they write about a "post-racial" America.

I also like to think they are ambassadors

for Judaism. Their classmates tend to be curious about our religious life. The education goes both ways.

Actually, those kids should be in the documentary, not me. Because my life revolves around synagogue and Jewish affairs, nearly all my friends (and I am lying about the "nearly") are white and Jewish. For all I gain in living a committed Jewish life, I also sense what I have given up.

How any of this applies to the Middle East is beyond me. Writing for *Tablet*, Lee Smith makes a convincing case that Israel succeeds precisely because it was founded as a haven for a religious minority — not exactly America's multicultural ideal. Unlike its neighbors, whose disenfranchised minorities live in fear and uncertainty, Israel has "safeguarded the lives of a regional minority with minimal oppression and maximum participation by other groups who are also citizens of the state."

If anything, the Arab-Israeli conflict suggests the region could use a little more separation — the Jewish state on one side, the Palestinian on the other. Without a clearly defined border, and with apologies to John Lennon, I find it hard to imagine Jews and Arabs living life in peace.

Many American Jews celebrate two Independence Days: the Fourth of July and Yom Ha'atzmaut. Two democracies, two very different models. And yet for observant Jews there are clear similarities. In both places they are challenged to live in ways that mark them as different than their neighbors — in worship, education, romance, political aspirations. Complete withdrawal leads to insularity and intolerance. Complete assimilation leads to oblivion.

In America, we seek a balance — gathering to celebrate what we share, even as we revel in the things that make us different. I only wish there were a few more opportunities for sharing.



Andrew
Silow-Carroll

Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

New Jersey Jewish News

"Separate Together"
"Bima vs. Bully Pulpit"

Andrew Silow-Carroll

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

Charter won't help Englewood

When the state approved 23 charter school applications Governor Christie said "this should be a moment of extraordinary hope" for the thousands of students trapped in failing schools. He calls charter schools one of the "building blocks toward a solution."

A Hebrew language immersion school for Englewood and Teaneck was one of the approved schools. Let the extraordinary hope begin. After all, the Englewood and Teaneck school districts struggled to improve students' test scores. Some students do achieve high scores and go on to top colleges, but a large portion don't fare that well.

There's no sugarcoating that the two education systems need to find a way to improve. For those unfamiliar with the communities, despite diverse populations, the majority of the students who attend the districts' schools are black and Hispanic and on the mid or lower end of the economic scale. An assortment of factors contribute to this so some type of reform is necessary. But taking money away for a school focusing on Hebrew is not one of the answers.

Hebrew is considered the language of Judaism, although the school's application makes it clear that the curriculum isn't religious. The issue of separation of church and state is perhaps an argument for another day. I'm concerned with separation of funding from schools that sorely need it.

It's hard to believe that the state really thinks this charter school will improve the education of the students stuck in failing schools. The majority, if not all, of the students who will attend don't use the public schools. Englewood Superintendent Richard Segall said when the district did a survey to gauge interest in a Hebrew immersion program only 15 families said yes.

There's a reason this charter school's attempt to create a Hebrew immersion program within the Englewood district was rejected multiple times already. It

SEE **PASSING THOUGHTS**, PAGE 12

W8: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Opinion Column

Second Place, Weekly over 6,500

Northern Valley Suburbanite

"Charter Won't Help Englewood"
"Akridge Deserves Better"

Sam Passow

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

A night of political theater

On Tuesday, Aug. 9, a group of college students from Korea visited Englewood Cliffs to meet Mayor Joseph Parisi Jr. and learn about how local governments operate. It's too bad they couldn't stay an extra day. They missed out on the mayor conducting some fine political theater.

A council meeting was scheduled for Aug. 10, but Borough Attorney Douglas Doyle emailed officials the day before saying he had a death in the family and couldn't attend. Usually in this case, municipal attorneys have a colleague fill in. But with "several significant issues" on the agenda which he didn't think his associate or the borough's labor attorney should handle, Douglas suggested that Parisi and Council President Robert Agresta have the Borough administrator/Clerk Susan Spohn poll the council on what they want to do.

The majority of the council, all Republicans, wanted to postpone the meeting until Douglas was available. Emails were exchanged suggesting alternative dates, but everyone had different vacation schedules. The majority wanted to meet Aug. 17, but two council members and the mayor, all Democrats, didn't want that. But as the Korean students learned, our local governments are Democracies so majority rules. Around noon on Aug. 10, Borough administrator/Clerk Susan Spohn posted that on the electronic message board outside borough hall.

I know that doesn't sound like good theater, but fear not, Act II is when it got really good. At approximately 4 p.m., Parisi emailed Spohn to have her tell everyone that the council meeting originally scheduled for that night was not cancelled. So even though the sign outside said there was no meeting going on inside, Parisi and his fellow Democrats took their seats. Approximately 20 residents were on hand for the anticlimactic finale as the administrator/clerk took roll call to start the meeting.

But oh, there was no meeting because they didn't have a quorum. The Republi-

SEE **PASSING**, PAGE 14

W8: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Opinion Column

First Place, Weekly over 6,500

Northern Valley Suburbanite

"A Night of Political Theater"
"Push for Hospital Is Indeed
Political"

Sam Passow

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION



Better Newspaper Contest 2011

**W9: Reporting, Writing &
Illustration –
Column Writing**

NJPA Awards

W9: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Column Writing

Who can afford all this goodness?

Let's all agree, shall we, that it is perfectly fine for people in business to say they are in business to make money?

Enough with these business owners and their holier-than-thou stories explaining that while they do have to charge money for their product, they aren't about the money at all.

They are about the environment or about making the planet better or about caring for the animals or about making the stars more energy efficient - anything, apparently, but making money.

It used to be just little companies who had a story to explain why you should support their business because they were better people and you would be better too. Now, even big chain businesses are trying to pass themselves off as green and caring - and why not? They are already ridiculously overpriced.

My nearly-12-year-old daughter Amanda and I have a little aquarium that we have done quite well maintaining. However, due to the fact we had an Angel fish grow to a tremendous size and start bullying all his tank mates, we had some unfortunate losses. When the Angel fish finally croaked, we decided to make the switch to goldfish.

Off we went to the local pet emporium because, unfortunately, the two little independent aquarium shops we used to visit have closed.

We had learned a great deal from those two business owners, so, when one of the goldfish we had picked out for our little tank flipped upside down after the store worker put it in the bag, I knew the fish may have been in shock.

"Are you sure it is all right?" I asked the worker dubiously.

Brusquely, she assured me it was fine and that I could always

**Audrey
Davie**

**FROM THE
FRONT ROW**



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bring it back if there was a problem.

Mind you, this was the person who did a mini-Spanish inquisition on me when I asked for the fish. How big was my tank, how many fish did I have in it, and so forth and then lectured me about how many fish I could have in the tank.

Setting aside the fact I have better things to do than return dead fish to stores, I was just annoyed. I am so sick of these pseudo-experts who went to a seminar and are now the fish police.

We took the fish home and - surprise - it died.

Armed with my receipt and my goldfish carcass, I returned to the big pet store.

The same worker was in the aquarium area. I showed her my dead fish and receipt and asked for a replacement.

She started to interview me again - how big was my tank, how many fish did I have in it, yada, yada, yada.

I was not pleased. I told her I was not going to go through all this with her again. I told her she sold me a fish that flipped upside down even although I questioned her about its health. It died and now I wanted a new fish.

She backed off, but couldn't help herself.

"The next time, you have to bring a water sample," she said. Really?

According to another worker, this particular pet emporium is concerned about the "total life experience" of the animal not

about money. (Clearly, they aren't about the total life experience of their customers since you are lucky if they have more than one register open.)

While I talked to Fishwoman, a man walked up and asked to buy 50 crickets. What was their total life experience going to be - entrée?

The store also was running a pet adoption day. Were they concerned about the total life experience of the poor kitties - or were they hoping the new pet owners would drop a couple of hundred bucks on overpriced pet gear on their way out of the store?

That's what gets me about this nonsense. Their goldfish are \$5 for heaven's sake, don't tell me it isn't about the money.

After that annoying experience, I started to pay more attention to all the morally superior marketing that is out there now. Worse, I may be the target audience.

I do fall for the labels that indicate something is natural - including soda.

A few weeks ago, I noticed a natural soda I hadn't seen before when I was at the supermarket. The little cardboard carrier had so many cutesy and smug comments on it. I would have had to take out my library card and borrow it for two weeks to get through it. And, at almost \$4 for four 12-ounce bottles, let me tell you, moral superiority is expensive.

I bought it and read the mini-novel length company story at

home. I was reading the label. I was told, because I care about what is in my soda. Further, I had apparently "come to the right bottle" and my soda even had a little vitamin C in every bottle. There were customer photos on the front and back panels. I was invited to send in my photo to be considered for placement on the carrier.

On another panel, a customer's observation, "Weeds are just flowers without an invitation," appeared. On yet another, I was informed my carrier was made out of recycled paper and given a diagram of how to make it into a hamster condo and asked to recycle it if I couldn't reuse it.

I also was informed on yet another panel the people at the soda company in Seattle, Wash., recycle whenever they can and even "recycle recycled stuff." They also replace all their bulbs with energy efficient ones, compost leftovers and bike to work.

But wait, there was more. On the bottom, I was informed above a bunch of reproduced autographs of their workers that these were "all the people that could have spit in your soda but didn't." I hadn't thought about that, but ewwww, thanks for bringing it up.

Finally, I spotted the list of ingredients. They included "natural and artificial flavors" and "Blue 1," whatever that is - hopefully, not spit, although presumably that would be a natural ingredient - and qualify as recycling.

I have decided I'm just not good enough for these companies and I'll have to go back to those big old nasty conglomerates which just want to execute the simple transaction of giving me something and taking my money. And, hey, it will probably be cheaper.

Third Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Citizen of Morris County

"Who Can Afford All This Goodness?"
"And the Bear Said This Is Too Hot"

Audrey Davie

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W9: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Column Writing

Second Place, Weekly under 6,500

Nutley Sun

The phrase 'going green' maybe new, but it's an old practice

"Going green" seems like a relatively new concept, doesn't it?

A reader sent me an interesting item that makes us realize how in many ways, our parents and grandparents had better earth-friendly habits than we do.

We may recycle our plastic milk containers, but remember when the milkman took back our glass milk bottles to be washed and reused? Or when we returned those chinking bottles in carriers we got at Garden State Farms (now Carvel on Franklin Avenue)?



OVER THE BACK FENCE

VICTORIA CHALK

And think how much less pollution there was from cars because families only had one. My mom used to pull my brothers to the old A&P on the corner of Franklin and William in a wagon. She washed cloth diapers for years, and hung our laundry across the backyard on a clothesline.

We passed clothes down from kid to kid rather than buy new things all the time. We had one small black-and-white TV, instead of several huge sets, and for many years, our food was blended and stirred by hand,

rather than with electric appliances. Re-heating food was done on the stove instead of in a microwave.

I still own the push mower that whirls pleasantly, and hedge clippers that snip quietly instead of piercing a tropical summer morning with annoying whining. Back in the day, pens were refilled and razor blades replaced, instead of throwing either item away. Streetcars took people where they needed to go without polluting the air, and kids rode their bikes so moms didn't have to add "taxi driver" to her list of skills.

We didn't need a signal beacon from satellites to smart phone to find restaurants. We

looked them up in a phone book. And cushioning fragile items in a package were taken care of with wadded up newspaper, rather than by using styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

All these reminders make me think taking re-usable bags to the grocery store barely makes a difference in the grand scheme of things.

This weekend, you've got a couple of entertainment choices, both in the same neighborhood. The Mike Luipenbeck jazz Group will perform at the Nutley Museum, 63 Church St., on Friday. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.

The next day, catch the Fourth Annual Beatles' Sing-Along at

Franklin Reformed Church, 45 Hillside Crescent. My sons and I are part of the pro band that will lead you through two hours of some of the most memorable music ever written. There are two shows - 4 and 8 p.m. Or catch the repeat show at 4 p.m. Sunday at Piano's Bar and Grill, 36 Broad St. in Bloomfield. Call 973-667-7055 for more information.

Doomsday prophets are predicting that Saturday will be Judgement Day. If that's true, I can't think of a better way to go out while singing my favorite songs with my sons backing me up.

Until next time...

"Phrase 'Going Green' May Be New, but It's an Old Practice"

"If Only It Was Trip Through a Field, with More Air and Space"

Victoria Chalk

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W9: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Column Writing

First Place, Weekly under 6,500

Verona-Cedar Grove Times

Geography - it can be a real name changer

Two subjects challenged me in elementary and high school. One was math, starting with simple arithmetic through to algebra and advanced calculus. In college, the slide ruler proved to be the tool that would eventually make me appreciate a simple solar-energized calculator.



Nancy Rubenstein
Believe Me

The second challenge was geography. Armed with a globe of the world, maps and textbooks, I could barely identify countries outside of our own hemisphere. Unlike mathematics - a relatively stable field of formulas, applications and rules - in geography almost every country in the world has changed its name.

With unpronounceable, multi-syllable new names that are difficult to spell or remember,

the list of "new" countries since 1990 is incredible.

From the USSR we got Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, just to mention the "stans." From Yugoslavia, Slovenia was replaced with Slovakia - and from Czechoslovakia, which must have been a spelling bee "gotcha," we got the Czech Republic.

As for cities, they're newly jumbled. Bombay has become Mumbai and Calcutta is Kolkata. I am unsure where East Timor is - or if there's a West Timor.

Geography was never my strong suit (actually not a suit at all, more of a void), yet I loved Sam Cooke's simplification in song in a tune called "What a wonderful world this would be." The lyrics include this line, "Don't know much about geography, don't know much trigonometry..." That was, and

still is me.

Our planet as it exists today has come a long way in image since the early explorer Magellan set sail to prove that the Earth was not flat. The planet Earth now has a population number Magellan would not have dreamed it could hold. It has more countries with odd names and crowded cities with weird names, but it also has a simple way to identify places like Kazakhstan and Kolkata. Without my keystroke to Google, I'd still be on the D list.

Geography is continuing to change. Borders move. People move. Names change. So much information is so easily available today, one might think we'd have already found solutions to sanely eliminating warfare, erasing hate, bullying and bias, along with so much anti-social behavior that prevails today. Instead, we found ways to rename countries but not ways to resolve the

problems that divide them.

Math, too, is changing. Memorizing the "times tables" is no longer necessary. We have pocket calculators to manage figures. We can go to a restaurant we locate using a GPS, dine, get the bill, punch in the percentage of a tip, then punch another key to divide the cost by the number of participating payers.

Actually Sam Cooke was right. It is a wonderful world. We simply have no need for personal math skills and we can no longer spell, pronounce or locate half the countries in existence. Trying to identify the leaders of those lands carries the challenge way further. Pronounce their names? Even CNN anchors stumble over them.

Google never looked so good.

- The writer lives in Cedar Grove.

"Geography - It Can Be a Real Name Changer"
"What a Revolting Development"

Nancy Rubenstein

W9: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Column Writing

One veteran's longest day



Last Call

STEVE JANOSKI

BY STEVE JANOSKI

The red cover is faded and tattered, its gold lettering slowly beginning to wear to the point of illegibility.

The pages have taken on a yellow hue, and small, dark smudges of fingerprints – dirt? blood? – festoon the corners.

It sits quietly on the table, with its owner of nearly seven decades having recently departed this world after 88 years, with the story of how it came into his possession known to but a few.

Frank T. Semeraro was born in 1922. Following the death of his mother, he had to quit school early to work on his father's garbage truck, and came up in a hard-core Paterson existence in the ear-

liest decades of the American Century.

His father had been wounded while serving in the Italian Army during the Great War, and had left that country just as Mussolini's shadow began to rise over Rome. As the storm of World War II began to gather, he was positive of one thing: he didn't want his son to go to war.

But, as the long fingers of fascism began to wrap around the globe, there would be few families who remained untouched, few children that remained unscathed. The Semeraro home on McBride Avenue was to be no different.

After the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, the young Semeraro, like so many others, decided that he was going to go to war.

He planned to join the US Navy so he could fight the Japanese, but an ill-fated fishing trip left him so seasick that he reconsidered that course.

He decided to leave it up to the government, and figured that when they drafted him, they'd send him where they needed him. When the US Army called in 1945, it decided that he was need-

ed in Europe, and so after boot camp, Semeraro was sent to England.

As 1943 wore on into the following year, rumors abounded over whether, where, and when the Allies would make their great landing on the European mainland to begin the final stage of the great battle to save civilization.

The plans for the landing, ominously named Operation Overlord by high command, were unknown to the troops on the ground...until the day that the call came.

And as they herded troops into the transports sitting along the coast of the English Channel on the morning of June 6, 1944, Semeraro wasn't sure where he was headed, but he knew that whatever was happening, it was big.

The seas were rough that day, and men vomited as the boats shook; a result, no doubt, of a brutal combination of seasickness and devastated nerves.

As they closed on the French beach, it's likely that the scene that greeted Semeraro was one straight from the depths of hell – steel abatis, known as "Czech hedge-

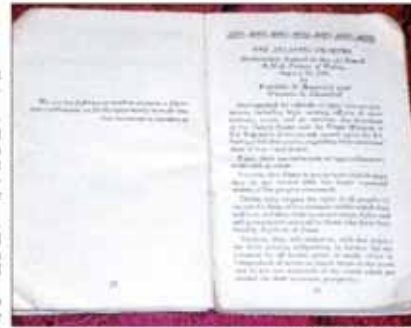


PHOTO BY STEVE JANOSKI

The small prayer book given to Frank T. Semeraro by a severely wounded man on Omaha Beach still survives to this day.

hogs," strewn across the sand as the great cement pillboxes of Hitler's fearsome Atlantic Wall rose into the heavens – but there was little time to take in the sight, for as they neared the shore, his landing craft was struck by a shell.

In an effort to save their lives, troops began streaming over the sides and into the water. Semeraro did the same, but realized quickly that his comrades, weighed down by their heavily-loaded packs, were sinking straight to the bottom and drowning.

Fearing this would be his fate, he pulled his knife and cut off his pack before desperately swimming for shore. Once there, however, there seemed to be no respite from the flurry of German bullets – until he saw one man waving him over.

The man was another American soldier, and had already dug out a small foxhole to provide cover. When Semeraro reached him, the soldier began giving him his rations, weapon, and the like.

"I've got to get back to the boats, I need medical attention," the man told him. It was then he noticed that the soldier was holding his stomach and intestines together with his hands.

"Just wait for the others," he told Semeraro.

Before he left though, he handed him a small, red prayer book, Army issue, 1943, with its title, "A Spiritual Almanac for Service Men," printed across the front in golden letters.

"You're gona' need this," he said, before disappearing back to the ships, never to be seen again. Semeraro stayed in that fox-

hole as long as he could on D-Day, listening to the gruesome bark of the German MG-42s as they mowed down American troops and turned the Channel's water red with their blood.

He held onto that prayer book later on as he fought his way off the beach and through the pillboxes and trenches of the Atlantic Wall, and then through the hedgerows of Normandy, where the Germans fought tooth and nail to try to keep the Allies from breaking out.

It stayed with him through the rest of his service, and after the war, too, as he established a family construction company, married, had children, then grandchildren, and then great-grandchildren.

The world would eventually come to know the ghastly horror of that day, and that beach – Omaha Beach – would come to join the ranks of places like Verdun, Antietam, and Iwo Jima as being amongst the most infamous killing fields in history.

And when "Grandpa Semeraro" (as he was known to all of us) passed away on Oct. 6, he joined all of the other spirits of the Greatest Generation who are slowly passing on to eternity, forever to be remembered as those valiant few who faced down true evil, and saved the world from unimaginable darkness.

This story was related to me by his grandson, Frank T. Semeraro, who is proud to share his grandfather's name.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

This photo, entitled "Taxis to Hell - and Back - Into the Jaws of Death," was taken on D-Day by Robert F. Sargent, and depicts the US Army's First Division landing on Omaha Beach.

Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

Suburban Trends

"One Veteran's Longest Day"
"Whitewashing America's History, Starting with Twain"
Steve Janoski

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W9: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Column Writing

'Keeping it real' with gang member

There were raised eyebrows among my fellow reporters and editors when I mentioned that I would be interviewing a gang member. Later I would remember my bravado at the time and shudder.

A few days later, sitting in a local diner across from a young man who I never would have thought was a member of a gang, I felt faint stirrings of trust that would continue to well up throughout the following hour. It was disconcerting because I was not a rookie, but there would be times in the next hour when I didn't know who the cat was or the mouse.

Later, after spending time with "L-man," which is not his real name, I began to understand how gang members manage to entice teenagers into the fold.

He looked no more than 20 years old, his confidence and demeanor clearly was of someone far more experienced and worldly. He stared directly at me, his milk chocolate eyes never wavering or looking down. What took me by surprise was the ability of this gang member to be so engaging, charming and flirtatious. But it was not long before his cell phone rang and the charming, silky voice turned icy cold.

"I'll take care of that (expletive) later," he said, clicking off his cell. Eyes steely, he immediately turned slightly toward the booth behind, making only a motion with his hand to one of his associates. No words needed to be said between L-man and the youth who stopped at our table. They merely exchanged a series of hand movements that appeared to be a ritual reserved just for gang members.

L-man nodded and the kid,

Reporter's Notebook

By Cheryl Hehl

wearing a baseball cap and sweat-shirt, headed out the door, climbed into a late model Escalade.

L-man smiled charmingly when I quizzed him on how he managed to pay for such an expensive car like an Escalade. For a minute or so he contemplates my question, leans slowly forward, arms folded on the table and stares deeply into my eyes.

"It's not the way most people think, you know. We don't have to hang on street corners, or hide anymore, our business is far more advanced and controlled than anyone knows," he said. When I asked him to go into more detail about what type of activities his gang is involved in, whether it involves selling drugs, or even murder, L-man chuckles and looks away for a few seconds. When he speaks again, his words are measured, careful and quick.

"Some of what we do is right out in the open, right under their noses. Our job is to look legitimate, do our illegal things in a legitimate way in legitimate places. We go where we can make money," he said, smoothly moving to another subject without ever incriminating himself or his gang even though he knows that I will not be using his gang name.

"We don't really even have to recruit, these kids come to us because they want somewhere to belong, feel needed and we give them that and more," L-man says.

I press him about the report just released by the state police on gang related activity, and he smirks knowingly. It is the first sign of cockiness he has shown.

"Yeah, I know about that report. It's like they are the paparazzi and we are the movie stars. They talk about gangs, write about us and we just shake our heads. They can chase us, but we are smarter, bigger and have a network that they can't penetrate," he said, motioning with his hand that we had to wrap up our time together.

"What about murder, have you ever murdered anyone," I ask bluntly. L-man stares deeply into my eyes and I see a faint trace of something that had not been there before. Was it pain or vulnerability? I wasn't sure. Though I was certain I touched a nerve, I was wrong.

"Every gang member gets blood on their hands sooner or later, but it's not always their fault. Its circumstances...rival gangs getting their toes stepped on for any number of reasons...turf wars...just bad circumstances," L-man said flatly, but with an edge that spoke volumes about the survivor he was and would continue to be.

Outside the Escalade pulled back into the lot, lights on and engine running. L-man glanced out the window, stood and smiled warmly. "Keep it real Lois Lane," he said while making the motion with two fingers that he would be watching me.

I was sweating when I left the diner, even though the radio said it was 19 degrees outside — and I never sweat.

Cheryl Hehl can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 124.

Second Place, Weekly over 6,500

Union County Local Source

"'Keeping It Real' with Gang Member"
"America Came Together in Face of a Horrible Tragedy"

Cheryl Hehl

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

When it comes to love of country, Philadelphia fans show true passion

By Len Bardsley

It is nothing new for Philadelphia sports fans to have to answer tough questions about when they have cheered and when they have jeered.

You probably have heard the stories of Eagles fans booing Santa Claus and cheering what turned out to be a career-ending injury to Dallas wide receiver Michael Irvin.

A new chapter in Philadelphia fans' cheering history began this week — and got a nod of appreciation from Mets players — when Phillies fans cheered the news of the capture and killing of Osama bin Laden.

It happened late in the game Sunday night, with the Phillies and Mets locked in a 1-1 tie.

The chants of "U-S-A, U-S-A, U-S-A" grew loud as word quickly spread through the sell-out crowd at Citizens Bank Park that the man responsible for the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 had been shot by American troops in Pakistan.

Mets third baseman David Wright was quoted saying, "I don't like to give Philadelphia fans too much credit, but they got this one right."

Phillies fans were seen high-fiving Mets fans as a bitter rivalry was quickly forgotten.

You can debate the idea of cheering over the death of any human being, but it is easy to understand the reaction in Philadelphia and appreciate the moment.

In a span of nearly 10 years that has brought us orange and red terror alert levels, Sunday night was a clear, black-and-white moment for Philadelphia fans.

It was about the idea of good winning over evil, a job well done, justice delivered and a mission accomplished.

Philadelphia fans are passionate about cheering for winners, and on Sunday, there was

no doubt who they felt the winners were — and they were not wearing baseball uniforms.

Driving Philadelphia fans was the idea of the best of the best, the United States military personnel, persevering through years of training and sacrifice to accomplish a very long-term objective.

Osama bin Laden had been cast as the ultimate villain by the United States, the face of terror, the mastermind behind the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. President George Bush basically put him on an Old West poster, saying he was wanted dead or alive.

It seemed for nearly 10 years, bin Laden mocked the United States from afar, far worse than any trash-talking sports rival, vowing to take down America's way of life one suicide bomber at a time.

That is what made Sunday night such a cathartic moment — at least one point on the spectrum of dread, one spark of terror, was extinguished, replaced by the bright feeling of unity and pride that created a glow around Citizens Bank Park.

It seemed almost fitting the news on Sunday broke into the sports world during a Phillies-Mets game.

It was nearly 10 years ago that I was covering a Flyers-Rangers preseason hockey game, on Sept. 20, 2001, for my former paper. It was one of the first professional sports events in Philadelphia following the terrorist attacks.

It would have been just another preseason hockey game with a few fights and players trying to make the roster, but President Bush was scheduled to give a speech to Congress on the terrorist attacks that evening.

The speech was played on the video board between the second and third periods, but was turned off when play was

ready to resume in the third period.

The fans started chanting "Leave it on, leave it on."

The fans got their wish and the entire speech was shown, with players from both teams watching from the benches.

There were chants of "U-S-A, U-S-A, U-S-A" that night as well, and when the 36-minute speech ended, the teams lined up to shake hands instead of playing the final period.

The fans applauded the moment as a flag was shown on the video board with a message saying the game would be called a tie after two periods "out of respect for where the United States was headed in the near future."

No one had any idea where the road would lead that night.

Sunday, Philadelphia and New York fans celebrated together again.

They knew that while the journey may not be over, the terrorist who started us on this path had reached his final destination.

Manasquan Hockey Alumni game

The annual Manasquan High School alumni ice hockey game, held in the memory of Jim Girard will be held on Saturday, June 25 at 3:30 p.m. at the Gold Coast Arena in Wall.

Any Manasquan Alumni who played hockey is invited to play in the game. The cost is \$20 admission is a donation to the Jim Girard Scholarship fund.

To play e-mail Jim Fagen at squanhockey@yahoo.com.

W9: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Column Writing

First Place, Weekly over 6,500

The Coast Star

"When It Comes to Love of Country, Philadelphia Fans Show True Passion"

"Want to Learn More About a Person? Play These Sports"

Len Bardsley

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION



Better Newspaper Contest 2011

**W10: Reporting, Writing &
Illustration –
Sports Writing Portfolio**

NJPA Awards

W10: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Sports Writing Portfolio

Third Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Item of Millburn and Short Hills

“Grosso Departs After Nine Years at MHS”

“White Steps Down After Stellar Run at Pingry”

“Lovi off to Livingston After 27 Years in Millburn”

Jim Connelly

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION



Rob Grosso, standing at far left, poses with his players and fellow coaches after Millburn High School's varsity boys soccer team captured a second consecutive Essex County Tournament crown in 2008 with a 6-1 rout of Columbia High School.

BOYS SOCCER

Grosso departs after nine years at MHS

Leaves to take post as head coach of Caldwell College men's squad

By Jim Connelly
of The Item

Rob Grosso is moving on. Grosso submitted his resignation last week after nine seasons as head coach of Millburn High School's varsity boys soccer team to accept a similar position with the Caldwell College men's soccer team.

"It was a very difficult decision for me to make," Grosso said. "It is hard to let go as I have developed so many good relations with my staff and players."

Grosso leaves Millburn with a 113-37-9 record. He guided Millburn to eight winning consecutive seasons after going 7-10-1 in 2002.

His tenure was highlighted by a three-year stretch (2007 through 2009) in which the Millers compiled 58-11-2 record, won three

Essex County Tournament titles (two outright and one shared), captured the 2008 New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association Group 3 crown with a 3-0 defeat of Macramtown High School and took runner-up honors in the following year's NJSIAA Group 3 Tournament.

A 3-1 win over Columbia High School in the 2007 county final gave Millburn its first county crown since 1994 when it shared the title with West Essex High School. Grosso's alma mater and its first outright crown since 1986.

The Millers made it back to back county crowns with a 6-1 thumping of Columbia High School in 2008. Millburn and Seton Hall Preparatory School shared the 2009 county title after playing 100 minutes of soccerless soccer.

Millburn's defeat of Moores-

town in the 2008 Group 3 final gave the program its first state crown since 1987. The Millers shared the 1987 Group 2 title with Monroe Township High School.

Grosso met with his new former players on March 3 to inform them of his decision.

"While a lot of the boys were shocked, they were also excited for me," Grosso said.

"They've been an important part of my life and I will miss them."

Grosso, a teacher in the Livingston public school system, will have a short commute to his new coaching position as he resides in West Caldwell.

Caldwell College, an NCAA Division 2 school, is a member of the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference.

Grosso replaces Jamie Nash as the team's head coach.

Nash, a 1997 graduate of the school and a former player for the Cougars, spent the last 11 seasons as the team's coach.

His final team went 5-11-1 overall and finished ninth in the 12-team NJCC with a 4-6-1 record.

Caldwell's CCAC rivals are Chemist Hill College, Elizabethtown College, Philadelphia University, Concordia College, Golden-Bassett College, Newark College, Holy Family University, Post University, Felician College, Wilmington University and Dominican University.

"This is something I've always wanted to do," said Grosso about the opportunity to coach on the college level.

Grosso's final Millburn team compiled a 9-7-2 record, ending a string of five consecutive seasons in which the team won at least 10 games.

Beginning in 2005, the Millers posted records of 10-5-2, 10-7-1, 20-3, 23-2 and 13-6-2. Grosso's 2003 team also won 10 games.

The replacement for Grosso will become just the team's third head coach since former head coach Pete Snyder, who has served as a member of Millburn's staff for the past few seasons, assumed the varsity job in 1985.

His first team went 5-11-1 overall and finished ninth in the 12-team NJCC with a 4-6-1 record.

E-mail: jconnelly@millburnhigh.org



Roger McGlynn, a captain of the 2008 Millburn boys soccer team, doused head coach Rob Grosso with the traditional victory shower after the Millers defeated Scotch Plains-Fleming High School 3-0 in the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 Tournament championship match.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Sign of good things to come

BY DARIUS AMOS
Staff Writer

After 16 minutes of unbalanced play in the first half, the Lady Scarlets needed just 54 seconds of the third quarter to right their ship and down longtime rival Fort Lee, 52-33, last Tuesday night.

With the win and subsequent games against Ramsey and North Bergen, Ridgefield Park finished last week with an overall mark of 5-2 – a quick start for a team whose goals include earning berths in the state and county tournaments.

The Scarlets broke a 15-15 halftime tie with Fort Lee using a defensive blitz that led to three steals and six easy points in the opening minute of the second half. Momentum as well as the lead snowballed from there, as the home team Scarlets scored 14 unanswered points.

"When I played in high school, we were always taught that the first four minutes dictate who's going to win. We said that tonight," Ridgefield Park coach Chris Blessing said. "We were in a neck-and-neck game at halftime and we said the next few minutes [of the third quarter] are going to set the tone. That was the last thing we said to [the team] at half-time."

"We did a good job with our guards – Stacey Sinclair, Star Kontogiannis and Katie Lane – they were our three top guards trapping at half court... In the first 54 seconds, we scored more points than we did in the second quarter (four points)."

Freshman Katherine Haines dropped eight points during that third-quarter stretch and played an even larger role on the defensive end. Her presence in the paint and shot-blocking ability thwarted any type of Fort Lee scoring attempt in the post. The 6-1 Haines scored 25 points and added a half-dozen blocks.

Haines, in fact, carried Ridgefield Park through a sluggish first half, one in which both teams struggled to find any offensive rhythm. Alone, Haines controlled the tempo in the opening quarter, scoring seven of the team's nine points. But with Haines starting the second resting on the bench, Fort Lee rallied and took away the Scarlets' momentum, and the teams went into the half knotted at 15.

"Katherine's a good player and she scored all but two of our points in the first half. She was successful for herself, but we weren't successful shooting as a team... So we challenged the kids – we need juniors and seniors to step up," Blessing said.

Ridgefield Park played like a



COLLEEN WHITE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman Katherine Haines scored 25 points in Ridgefield Park's 52-33 win over Fort Lee last week.

different team after halftime. Fort Lee was unable to respond to the Ridgefield Park press, which smothered the Bridgemen throughout the second half. Even the adjustments and inspired coaching by Stacie Zafiris were unable to overcome the Scarlets' firepower, which came from both sides of the ball.

Sinclair, the team's vocal leader and floor general, led the charge with her aggressive style of play. She scored six second half points, including four hard-earned, in-the-paint layups. The Scarlets, as a team, mirrored Sinclair's energetic performance, coasting the rest of the way to seal the win against Fort Lee.

"Stacey is a physical presence on the floor. She's not a big kid, but she'll run through a wall for you," Blessing said of the team's point guard. "This year, she has really found her confidence and she understands her role. Our girls respond to her and her leadership and play."

Behind Haines and Sinclair, Ridgefield Park has a roster that Blessing isn't afraid to use. The

Lane sisters, senior Katie and sophomore Kellie, and Kontogiannis, who starts in the backcourt, round out the team's main scoring threats. Though neither of the three had outstanding games against the Bridgemen, Blessing believes ultimately that the team's success will depend on them.

"It's going to be Stacey up top going down low to Katherine and Kellie. And we're going to have our shooters on the outside," Blessing said. "Our [offensive] philosophy is not to just go through Katherine. We have good shooters, and we really need them to step up. If they do, then we'll have a pretty good inside and outside game."

Asked if he expects his outside shooters to elevate their game down as the schedule moves forward, Blessing answered comparing the season with the team's win over Fort Lee.

"If it's anything like our first half, we're going to struggle," Blessing said. "If it's anything like our second half, we're going to be good."

W10: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Sports Writing Portfolio

Second Place, Weekly under 6,500

Ridgefield Park Patriot

"Sign of Good Things to Come"

"Scarlets Hitting Stride at Right Time"

"Bogota Rides to Victory"

"Scarlets Squad Bows Out"

Darius Amos

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W10: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Sports Writing Portfolio

First Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Ridgewood News

“Ridgewood’s Giovanetti, Olive Atlantic City-Bound”
“Jackson Resurfaces Big-Time in 10K Run”
“Bench-a-Thon Lifts Spirits of Grundy Family”

Brian Farrell

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

STATE WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

Ridgewood’s Giovanetti, Oliva Atlantic City-bound

BY BRIAN FARRELL
Sports Editor

HACKENSACK — Ridgewood High School head wrestling coach Torre Watson looked like he was trying to lose so wrestling right after Brandon Giovanetti punched his ticket to Atlantic City for the state wrestling tournament. Actually, it was the “Turn Twist,” as the happy coach repeatedly did a 360 with Giovanetti’s shirt over his head. Watson was that exhilarated.

And nobody could blame him, for his star junior had just earned a third-place finish at 130 pounds last Saturday in the Region 2 Tournament, making him worthy of a spot under the grand lights of Boardwalk Hall in the famed resort city. For fourth-place finishers, their season ends.

Giovanetti is competing in tonight’s preliminary round and, if he wins, the quarterfinals that follow by virtue of last-second victory. With two seconds left in his consolation bout against Paterson junior Joe Rizzello, he tied it at 1-1 with an escape.

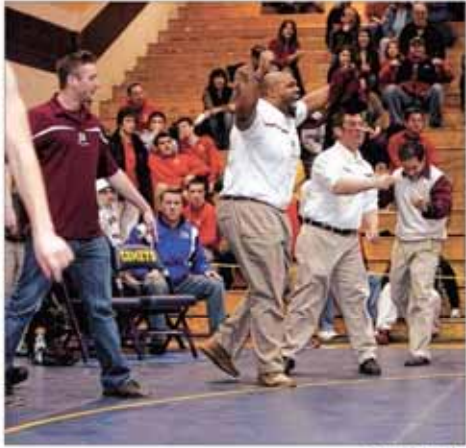
“I got everything I had in the last 20 seconds to tie it up, and I got it,” Giovanetti said.

Now came overtime, with both wrestlers visibly exhausted.

“I was dead tired,” said Giovanetti, “and I know if I shot, I would probably get caught underneath and waste all my energy, so I thought I would do a quick escape and take him down to the mat and spin behind real fast. I knew that would be a much more effective shot than having to shoot and finish with a single. I just pushed myself and got the quick subdown in the last 10 seconds, and that was my ticket to AC, right there.”

“For me, it’s the most exciting win of the season,” said the Ridgewood ace of the 3-1 victory. “Now I’m looking forward to having some fun, looking forward to wrestling some competitive kids.”

It was after a sweet win for Giovanetti, because he averaged



The Ridgewood High School wrestling coaching staff reacts to junior Brandon Giovanetti winning his third-place consolation bout in overtime at the Region 2 Tournament on Saturday. The victory snatched the 130-pounder to advance to tonight’s preliminary round of the state tournament in Atlantic City. From the left are Eric Jansen, head coach Torre Watson, Dave Tashian and Mike Rooney.

two losses on his 34-6 ledger that came at the hands of Rizzello, who beat him in the fifth-sixth-place consolation round in the county tournament by a 1-0 score. The exact scoring had seemed imminent in the region, and in a dual meet, 4-2.

“He (Rizzello) may have beaten me twice, but to me, those two losses don’t mean anything now,” said Giovanetti. “This was the real match that counted. I really wanted to beat him more than anything, and I did.”

Ironically, in last season’s region, Giovanetti’s brother,

who graduated last year, beat Rizzello, eliminating him from the tournament, after stopping a loss to him in the regular season.

And now, Giovanetti is in Atlantic City as a competitor for the first time, just like brother Ryan was his junior year.

Actually, Giovanetti averaged another one of his losses this season in the region tournament when he shot out Bergen Catholic junior Charlie Mitchell, 6-0 in the quarterfinal round.

On Giovanetti’s last-second maneuver to tie his match with

Rizzello, Watson said, “Brandon was in a defensive position; all he really had to do was escape and get one. We were trying to do that only in the period. He was trying to reverse Rizzello, because I believe he felt like he could get that position on him. He kept on trying for that, which kind of had us all on our heels for a second.”

“He fought through and was able to get himself (back),” Watson continued. “It almost looked like a reversal to all of us, we thought it should have been his (escape), but the ref ended up

only awarding one for an escape to tie the match up. But Brandon was just determined; he was so determined to get out of this tournament and beat Rizzello.”

On Giovanetti’s winning take-down, the coach said, “Brandon

was very strong on his feet and super aggressive. We know he could take Rizzello down, which is why we really wanted him to be able to get on his feet.

See ATLANTIC CITY, page C4

W10: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Sports Writing Portfolio

MHS FOOTBALL

An electrifying evening

Herbin's 5 TDs lead Mounties past St. Peter's

BY KEVIN MEACHAM
OF THE MONTCLAIR TIMES

Facing a dead end while running a quarterback keeper to his right late in the third quarter Friday night, with all the momentum headed against the Montclair High School football team, Khalif Herbin does what seemingly only Khalif Herbin can do.

In this case, Herbin smoothly spins around, sprints to the left sideline as fast as he can - which is faster than any player in a mansion St. Peter's Prep jersey - cuts back toward the unoccupied middle of the field, and like a flash of lightning, Montclair has scored again.

Herbin's 64-yard scamper in the third quarter was only the most breathtaking play of his Friday night, the dazzling 5-foot-7 senior quarterback scored five touchdowns Friday night at High Point Solutions Stadium on the campus of Rutgers University, and Montclair needed every one of them to hold off parochial powerhouse St. Peter's Prep, 43-41.

Montclair coach John Fiore spared no superlatives for Herbin, who ran for over 200 yards and also returned a kickoff for a score.

"He's one of the greatest football players in the state of New Jersey," Fiore said. "And I'm not talking about this year. I'm talking forever. We have a great tradition at Montclair, hundreds of years of football. We've got old timers who have been watching football for 50 years who say he's the greatest they've ever seen."

The always-humble Herbin, means-hile, directed his praise elsewhere.

"I give all the credit to our offensive line," he said. "They did a hell of a job tonight."

Dedicating the win to senior running back Aubrey Lewis III, who underwent knee surgery earlier this week, the Mounties came up with a grand effort on a big opening-night stage. After pointing toward this game all summer, their win over the highly touted Marauders could lay the foundation an exception-



PHOTO BY WIL YOUNG

Montclair High School quarterback Khalif Herbin (right) runs in a first-quarter touchdown behind the block of running back Stephau Marshall (5) during the Mounties' 43-41 win over St. Peter's Friday.

al season. "We knew we could beat anyone in the state," said senior running back/linebacker Stephau Marshall. "This just gives us even more confidence." And while it wasn't the Mounties' best game by any means - St. Peter's Prep racked up 34 points and bistered a tiring, cramping Mountie defense in the second half - Montclair (1-0) received a dominating performance from its offensive line-

men, giving Herbin and running back Marshall (11 carries, 60 yards, TD) room to run. "We just came out and brought it tonight," said junior offensive guard Brandon Taylor. "We all have the talent, and we did our jobs and did what we had to do." And on a night the Mounties also needed every spare point they could get, kicker Taylor Ullrich came up big, hitting all five of his extra points - includ-

ing a 35-yarder on Montclair's final touchdown that stretched the lead to nine, forcing St. Peter's to score twice in the final 139 seconds. Montclair led 14-7 at halftime behind an exceptional defensive effort led by linebacker Avery Ellis, and Herbin returned the opening second-half kick nearly untouched to make the score 21-7. But St. Peter's responded with touchdown drives of seven plays, 86 yards and four plays,

MOUNTIES • 83

Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

The Montclair Times

"An Electrifying Evening"
"Back on the Field"
"Pieces of History"

Kevin Meacham

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W10: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Sports Writing Portfolio

Trainer excited about Kentucky Derby prospects

Kelly Breen's 3-year-old
Pants On Fire won \$1M
Louisiana Derby

BY TIM MORRIS
Staff Writer

Kelly Breen has watched the race over and over and the result is always the same. The 3-year-old thoroughbred he trains, Pants On Fire, had what could best be described as the perfect race.

"I've watched the race many times, said Breen, who lives in Farmingdale. "He was firing that day."

Pants On Fire gave Breen the biggest win and payday of his career by winning the \$1 million Louisiana Derby in New Orleans on March 26. It was the first \$1 million purse win of Breen's career and, more importantly, earned him a trip to the Kentucky Derby on May 7.

"He's taking us to the show," said Breen, who is a 1983 graduate of then Cedar Ridge High School (now Old Bridge High School), Old Bridge.

This will not be Breen's first trip to the Kentucky Derby as a trainer. He was there in 2009 with two horses, Atomic Rain and West Side Bernier (who finished 16th and ninth, respectively). This year he is taking a horse that is peaking, as proven by his prep win in New Orleans.

The 1 1/4-mile Kentucky Derby poses an equal challenge for all because it is the first time the 3-year-olds will race that distance.

"Everyone is in the same boat," Breen said.

Although Pants On Fire is a speed horse (he won the Louisiana Derby from the front), he proved he has stamina as well.

"The horse is getting better," Breen said. "He handled the mile-and-an-eighth with no problem. The mile-and-a-quarter is within his reach."

Breen said Pants On Fire's Louisiana Derby win took the pressure off having to get in a big race in order to get into the Kentucky Derby. All he had to be concerned with in the weeks leading up to the Kentucky Derby was having his horse ready.

"It's a matter of knowing your horse and getting him to plateau for the race," he said. "It's exciting."

There is more to the Kentucky Derby than the race, as Breen knows.

"I can't describe it," he said of the atmosphere around the event. "It is like walking through the tunnel at the Super Bowl. This is our biggest race. To be a part of it is great. It's everyone in horse racing's dream."

It is a dream that started early for Breen. It was his trip to Monmouth Park in Oceanport as a 13-year-old that changed Breen's life. His father, Jackie Breen, a horse racing fan, took him there and, in a story told many times, the younger Breen went missing for about an hour, scaring his parents.

Breen wasn't really lost. He stumbled



BILL DENNER/EGG PHOTO

Kelly Breen, who has twice been the leading trainer at Monmouth Park, Oceanport, trained Pants On Fire, a horse that will race in the 2011 Kentucky Derby on May 7. Breen, who lives in Farmingdale and hails from Old Bridge, won his first \$1 million race with Pants On Fire of last month's Louisiana Derby.

upon the paddock area and was talking with the jockeys. They were small, like he was at the time, and he was able to relate to them. He became obsessed with riding.

It was at Hayner Farm in the Morganville section of Marlboro where Breen first learned how to ride. He moved from Baymar to the stable of Ralph DeSantis, just up the road on Route 79, for more riding.

"Every day before school my parents would take me to the farm and I would go back after school," he said.

By his junior year at Cedar Ridge, Breen "let everything go" for horse racing. He even gave up wrestling.

But a funny thing happened that summer before his senior year — he went through a growth spurt and being a jockey was out of the question. So Breen did the next best thing, he became a trainer, starting out as an assistant right out of high school at the age of 18.

He worked for trainers such as Charles "Scooter" Dickey and Ben Perkins Jr.

By the start of the 2000's, Monmouth

Park was Breen's home base. He quickly became one of the track's top trainers. He was the leading trainer in 2005 and 2006 with his horses finding the winner's circle 61 and 56 times, respectively, during those years.

A local connection helped to bring Breen into the big time in thoroughbred racing. Through a mutual friend he met George and Lori Hall, who summer in Atlantic Highlands and own race horses.

"I owe everything to George and Lori Hall," he said. "They gave me the opportunity."

The Halls, he said, believed in him and they are headed to the Kentucky Derby as a winning trainer-owner combination.

"I was winning races, I was on the rise and they gave me my shot," he said. "They let me be the coach. You need someone who has faith in you and gives you a chance to do what you can do. I feel blessed."

Breen said trainers have one thing in common; they have a competitive background in sports.

"I used to wrestle and I won a lot," he said. "I was captain of my soccer team. In baseball I would try and steal second base. I like to push it to the limit. It's the competition that keeps you going."

In addition to training horses, Breen maintains his competitive edge on the golf course. He lives in Farmingdale at the Eagle Oaks Golf Course. A perfect day for Breen is training his horses in the morning and playing 18 holes of golf in the afternoon.

On May 7 he won't mind giving up his afternoon on the links as Pants On Fire pursues what would be the pinnacle of Breen's career, a win in the Kentucky Derby.

The horse's jockey, Anna Nagravnik, hails from Monticello. The 23-year-old is one of the up-and-coming jockeys in the country and has been a winning rider throughout the country.

"Top jockeys know how to win," said Breen, who has a good eye for judging jockey talent as he does for judging thoroughbreds.

Second Place, Weekly over 6,500

The News Transcript

"Trainer Excited About Kentucky Derby Prospects"
"Accisano Still Bowling at 90"
"Higginson Puts Law Career on Hold for Track"

Tim Morris

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W10: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Sports Writing Portfolio

First Place, Weekly over 6,500

The SandPaper

“Old Sticks, Tricks the Rule at LBI Longboard Classic”

“Barnegat Light Beach Patrol Notches Dominant Win at SB Invitational”

“Young Gymnasts Bound for National Training Center”

Juliet Kaszas-Hoch

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION



Photographs by Jack Reynolds

STAMINA: (Left) SBPP's Kevin Walsh and Tracy Hammett compete in the busy race. Teammate Cindy Penette (above right) took second in beach flags.

Overall Title a First for an LBI Team

Barnegat Light Patrol Notches Dominant Win at SB Invitational

It's the more than two decades since the Ship Bottom Invitational Lifeguard Tournament began, an Island beach patrol had never won it — until this year.

Barnegat Light started the competition strong on Monday evening and never looked back, tacking up five top finishes in the race events, and placing second and third in two others. At the conclusion of the tourney, the north end squad was the definitive overall victor.

"These guys and girls have been working hard over-the-summer," said SBPP Assistant Capt. Scott Caffery. "My just won Lualaba (lifeguard tournament) for the first time, and this is the first time we've won this. All the hard work is paying off."

Barnegat Light's success, he believes, is due in large part to the patrol's experienced lifeguards; one guard is just 17 years old, but all the others are over 20, with a good number older than 30 or 40. And, as Adams added, "You can't teach our women. They're excellent."

The team from Paganine held on for second place, while last Ship Bottom team had for third with Sea Girt, Surf City, Basking Beach, and Beach Haven, in seventh, also represented LBI at the competition, held each year on Ship Bottom's 20th Street beach.

Bradley Beach, Island Beach State Park, Ocean Beach and Seaside Park comprised the remainder of the visiting

competition for the tourney, formerly called the New Jersey State Lifeguard Championships.

"We changed the tournament to the Ship Bottom Invitational," said SBPP Capt. Keith Stokes, in part because a number of the squads from farther out of the area — top lifeguard patrols from Sandy Hook to Cape May County — are so busy with their own tourneys, and it's become more difficult to schedule them all into this contest.

"We're thankful for the teams that continue to support us," said Stokes, "and all the teams that have supported us in the past."

Tournament announcer Matt Zion, a SBPP lifeguard, also thanked the local sponsors of the event, "as much as we'd like to see it be possible," and recognized Ship Bottom Councilman Ed English, head of parks and recreation, who came out to support the lifeguards on the evening, as a look north wind cooled spectators on the beach and chilled the surf.

Barnegat Light started the tournament by taking first in the line pull, the 1,000-foot double line and the paddle relay. Beach Haven placed third in the paddle relay, with off-island teams winning all other second- and third-place spots in the total three events.

In the evening's next race, the busy race, Barnegat Light again placed, this time taking third, while Sea Girt and Basking Beach captured first and second, respectively.

The team from the north end quickly

Continued on Page 63



INTENSITY: (Center) Swimmer Zach Kohl and pullers Nate Costello and Tommy Elwood of the Barnegat Light Beach Patrol took first in the line pull, one of five events the patrol won at the Ship Bottom Invitational Lifeguard Tournament last Monday evening. Barnegat Light also claimed first in the men's paddle on the strength of Nate Hammett's (above) performance, and took the overall title, the first time an Island team ever won the tournament.



Better Newspaper Contest 2011

**W11: Reporting, Writing &
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NJPA Awards

W11: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Robert P. Kelly Award



CITY WRITER THE OCEAN STAR

Incumbent Mayor Vincent Barrella [center], who won re-election, congratulated newly elected councilmen Bill Mayer [left] and Bret Gordon on their wins Tuesday night.

Beach voters pick Barrella

Mayor fends off challenge from GOP's Stephen Reid, voters elect two political newcomers to council

BY COLLEEN KING
THE OCEAN STAR

POINT PLEASANT BEACH — After a hard-fought battle for the mayor's seat, the tumultuous campaign season has finally come to an end with incumbent Mayor Vincent Barrella keeping his seat in a narrow re-election win.

Mayor Barrella was elected in 2007 as a Republican, but ran as an Independent this year on a slate with political newcomers Bret Gordon and

Phyllis Thomson.

The mayor won Tuesday's election by just 36 votes, defeating GOP challenger Stephen Reid, president of the local Republican Club. Tuesday's win marked the second time the mayor has defeated Mr. Reid at the polls in as many years.

Last year, Mayor Barrella survived a recall attempt in which Mr. Reid was one of the candidates to replace the mayor.

Mr. Reid waged his second campaign for mayor with a slate that included Bill Mayer — current bond counsel for the borough — and Andy Cortes as council candidates.

Mr. Gordon and Mr. Mayer

SEE **MAYOR** PAGE 2

Third Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Ocean Star

“Beach Voters Pick Barrella”
“‘Eyes and Ears’ of General Patton Speaks Now, Decades After WWII”

Colleen King

W11: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Robert P. Kelly Award

Second Place, Weekly under 6,500

Verona-Cedar Grove Times

CEDAR GROVE

Forty years later, runner reflects on life in the fast lane

BY ANDREW SEGEDIN
Staff Writer

As his peers would submerge and swim on the shores of Long Beach Island during the 1960s, Cedar Grove's Marty Liquori would run. He'd run a mile, he'd run two. He'd rest for a short while and run again, his feet digging into the beach's soft sands - strengthening his 15-year-old legs. At first, Liquori was just trying to be good, then great. At no time did it ever cross his mind that, in just four short years, he'd be the best in the world.

Now 62, and reflecting on his life from his home in Gainesville, Fla., one would hardly be able to tell that this was a man who had touched the world and - at a remarkably young age - was one of the best middle-distance runners in the world and the best American ranked No. 1 in the world in the 1500 meters. Forty years later, he speaks of his accomplishments with the matter-of-factness of a man preoccupied when he last mowed his lawn.

The School Boy

Recalling his childhood in Cedar Grove, Liquori remembers seeing missions, black cases in hand, heard buses in the late afternoon bound for New York City where they would perform with Broadway orchestras. Liquori appreciated at an early age that the strangers with the black cases were among the best in the world at what they did and the commensurability of that has stuck with him.

"Being from Cedar Grove, you're pretty much from New

York," says Liquori. "Your vision is to be the best in the world."

Being one of the best runners in the world was never a vision Liquori had, at least at a young age. Liquori had no experience with competitive running during his childhood - attending St. Callister School and had no intention of starting when he enrolled at Jones Catholic until he was told by a poor that the school's basketball coach liked his players to stay in shape during the off-season by joining the cross country team.

After a relatively unimpressive freshman campaign, Liquori decided to use his family's summers on Long Beach Island to train. At first, he'd run a mile or two two or three times a day. Eventually, he'd run 12 miles at a time, his feet heating into the sand. Liquori credits these summer days for strengthening his legs.

He credits his coach, Fred Dreyer for almost everything else. Dreyer himself was a four-minute miler - something that would be a rarity among current high school coaches. Under Dreyer's tutelage and his own hard work, Liquori became just the third athlete to break four minutes in the mile in 1967 - just three years after the legendary runner and future congressman Jim Ryun.

Now, decades later, Liquori dismisses the importance of that day. "To me, it wasn't too big of a deal," says Liquori. "Two other people had already done it, but my coach said it would always be special and he was right."



Marty Liquori of Cedar Grove was the first to cross the finish line during the 1500 meters at 1969 NCAA Championships. That same year, Liquori received his first of three separate No.1 world rankings.

"Forty Years Later, Runner Reflects on Life in the Fast Lane"
"Ordinary Guy in a Pokemon World"

Andrew Segedin

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W11: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Robert P. Kelly Award



MARION BROWN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Doug Bunza works at the Ridgewood Public Library as part of Ridgewood High School's Strategic Actions and Innovations for Learning (SAIL) program.

RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

SAIL program sets the course for students with special needs

BY JOSEPH CRAMER
Staff Writer

On the Friday before the Community Access Network's (CAN) third annual Access Ridgewood weekend, Ridgewood High School (RHS) Principal Jack Lorenz sat down in his office with organizers of the event to discuss the school's unique and innovative approach to special education.

At one point during the discussion, Lorenz noted that for students in special education programs, opportunities for experience in the working world are

limited too often by lowered expectations.

"I've always seen with special education kids in work study [programs] that they're put in menial tasks," he said. "I want them to be doing meaningful work. If they're just sitting around, they don't feel good at all."

It is this mentality that powers RHS's Strategic Actions and Innovations for Learning (SAIL) program, which has earned Lorenz the praise and recognition of numerous parties, most recently Bergen County's Department of Human Services, which will name him as an award recipient at their annual "Salute to Champions" ceremony on Oct. 28. The

ceremony recognizes the progressive efforts of individuals with disabilities and those who advocate on their behalf within their communities.

Now in its third year, the SAIL program challenges its students on two fronts: academically and professionally. Inherent in the program's identity, Lorenz said, is its internship program, which places its students in various positions around the school and community, such as at local businesses, Village Hall and the Ridgewood Public Library. Lorenz said some students even occupy positions within The Valley Hospital.

See SAIL, page A7

First Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Ridgewood News

"SAIL Program Sets the Course for Students with Special Needs"
"Village Mourns"

Joseph Cramer

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W11: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Robert P. Kelly Award

Occupy Wall Street movement inspires Red Bank discussion

Grassroots campaign for change spreads to Jersey Shore

BY KRISTEN DALTON
Staff Writer

Phil didn't want his last name to be known, but he did want the 40 or so people gathered at Marine Park last Saturday to know that the Occupy Wall Street movement for tax reform and job creation is gaining positive momentum.

Behind the crowd, he knelt down next to his son, hugged him and said, "Listen, this is good stuff. This is the kind of world you can have if we make this happen."

The New York City resident had been protesting on Wall Street in the financial district of New York City for five consecutive days before joining Red Bank's last-minute call for discussion—something he said he wanted to check out while in the area for the weekend.

"It's one of the best things this country has done in decades," Phil said of the movement. "We want reform. We want change and we're using the system to change the system."

The system: a democracy where the self-proclaimed 99 percent are visibly making their presence known across the country with hopes of drawing attention to how dysfunctional that democracy, arguably controlled by the theoretical 1 percent, actually is.

Red Bank was one of the many cities on Oct. 15 that set itself as a cornerstone for the national foundation of the Occupy movement.

"It's time that we come together and have some kind of dialogue about this, Wall Street might be where they work but Monmouth County is where they live," said Connor, one of the facilitators who organized the Occupy Red Bank discussion. Like Phil, he chose not to reveal his last name.

"They can ignore something when they're walking past it on the way to work, but when they come home at night and they see that it's not just there, it's not just these major cities, it's their hometowns and home counties too, we're hoping that really makes a statement," Connor said.

What started out as a small group of 10 people at 3 p.m. on a windy afternoon quickly grew into a larger gathering 20 minutes later. The event, organized by Connor and his girlfriend, Grace, was publicized on Facebook just two days prior.

"I don't have the answers," Connor said, "but I know people have the answers. Vertical leadership is a thing of the past. We need to learn from one another."



PHOTOS BY KRISTEN DALTON
The Occupy Wall Street movement inspired an Occupy Red Bank discussion on Saturday afternoon, Oct. 15, at Marine Park to discuss the current issues impacting the state of our nation.



Two of the estimated 40 people who attended the grassroots gathering wear T-shirts painted with political messages.

The purpose of the meeting was to create a local discussion about a national concern, he said, calling it "an experiment of direct democracy in Red Bank, New Jersey."

Helene Kugit, of Holmdel, sported a T-shirt with handmade lettering that read, "Campaign Finance Reform: Get Special Interest Money Out of Our Politicians' Pockets."

She said she found out about the gathering at the last minute but felt it was worth her while to attend.

"I didn't do this when I was younger, but now that I'm older, I just appreciate it so much more," she said, excited for her next stop to be Wall Street on Sunday.

Kathy McCrea, of Middletown, said that as a teacher in the late

stages of her career, her financial life is worse than it has been in previous years.

"It seems ridiculous that as I get to the end of my career, my income is going down."

One man said he was disgusted with what has been going on but reminded the circle of people that this process is a marathon, not a sprint.

Connor agreed and suggested the group further organize into different teams such as media, logistics and outreach. Meanwhile, a notepad was being passed through the crowd for people to sign in and provide their email address.

The media team would be in charge of creating chatter on Facebook, while the logistics team would organize future meet-ups.

"Obviously the occupation is really hard. We need to be publicly visible on a regular basis," Connor said.

The outreach committee would try to touch base with other Jersey Shore movements and possibly join forces, said Grace, who also suggested working with local politicians.

That idea sparked questions from a few people in the crowd who wanted to know why many of the major politicians have not acknowledged the movement.

A young woman in her 20s said though it's frustrating not to have their support, it's also helpful not to hear what they have to say.

"We don't want politicians to represent a movement that they don't actually represent," she said.

Connor said he invited representatives from the Democratic Party, whose offices are located just down the street from Marine Park. When he asked the crowd if anyone from their office was in attendance, there was only silence.

"Guess not," he said.

"Yeah, they'd be here if we were the 1 percent," Phil chimed in.

The sentiment of people at the Occupy meeting was summarized best by a woman from Bradley Beach, who shared with the crowd a recent metaphor by TV host and political commentator Bill Maher, which for her epitomized the state of the nation.

"He said the 1 percent is like a piñata showering us with goodies. But the only way to get the goodies is to beat the hell out of it."

Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

The Hub

"Occupy Wall Street Movement Inspires Red Bank Discussion"

"Help-Portrait: What a Photo Is Worth"

Kristen Dalton

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W11: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Robert P. Kelly Award

Second Place, Weekly over 6,500

The Coast Star

Who is answering your call for help?

By Katie Lobosco

JERSEY SHORE — When an emergency strikes and 9-1-1 is dialed, trained dispatchers answer the call. They are the first step in getting emergency responders to the scene, and their actions can sometimes be the difference between life and death.

Emergency dispatch consolidation & mergers send 9-1-1 calls to other towns, as well as the county

But emergency calls are not all answered the same way throughout the Jersey Shore. Sometimes, dialing 9-1-1 will send the caller to a regional dispatch center operated by the county in Freehold. Other times, the call will go straight to the local police department.

Regardless of how a borough or town handles its emergency calls, dispatch services do



SUZANNE GORA, The Coast Star

Wall Township resident Denise Dixon dispatched a call this week at the Monmouth County 9-1-1 Communications Center, located in Freehold.

See DISPATCH, PAGE 2

“Who Is Answering Your Call for Help?”

“County Dispatch Center at Full Capacity”

Katie Lobosco

W11: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Robert P. Kelly Award

First Place, Weekly over 6,500

Town Journal

“Race for Mayor Turns Testy”
“Resident Facing Luring Charges”

John Clyde

UPPER SADDLE RIVER

Race for mayor turns testy

Grupp upset by documents; Minichetti won't debate

BY JOHN CLYDE
OF TOWN JOURNAL

Upper Saddle River's mayoral race took an ugly turn last week.

In an apparent attempt to influence the Nov. 8 election, an anonymous courier delivered *Town Journal* a packet containing complaints from parents in 2006 and 2007 regarding the coaching style of Independent Mayoral Candidate Marshall Grupp.

Four residents said in formal complaints that Grupp was "verbally abusive" to his youth sports



Grupp



Minichetti

participants during practices and games, according to documents confirmed to be authentic through an Open Public Records Act request. They cited shouting,

throwing a clipboard on the ground and said that Grupp upset their children.

"We pay our public employees to work for all of us, not to conduct partisan opposition research ... These discredited personal attacks are another example of why Joanne Minichetti is unfit to lead our borough," Grupp said in a phone interview last Thursday. "Taxpayers of all parties are uniting behind our campaign, and our plan for change. I'm planning to

SEE TESTY, PAGE 4



Better Newspaper Contest 2011

**W12: Reporting, Writing &
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Arts & Entertainment
Writing**

NJPA Awards

W12: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Arts & Entertainment Writing

Third Place, Weekly under 6,500

Verona-Cedar Grove Times

“The Best Band in the Land”

Andrew Segedin

VERONA

The best band in the land

School proves talent sometimes comes in small numbers

BY ANDREW SEGEDIN
Staff Writer

Schools from across New Jersey came together last spring to compete in a band festival. When it was over, eight student bands received Gold ratings.

The top four were invited to play at the New Jersey State Gala Concert, a top destination for school bands.

The winners of the band festival were the members of Verona High School's Concert Band - representing a little more than 600 students. The runners up to Verona were relative giants Mount Olive High School, Randolph High School, and West Orange High School, with enrollments of 1,450, 1,600, and 2,000 respectively.

Verona High School's bands have become used to being out in the numbers game to other schools - many of which are two and three times their size. Unlike many competing high schools, Verona doesn't have a "air ensemble" - which is usually comprised of the best musicians from a school's various instrumental ensembles. Verona has one marching band, one concert band, and one jazz band, meaning that, in order to win, each band must be strong from top to bottom - and they are.

If the "Hickory" competition was ever appropriate, it's now outdated. With dozens of titles and awards accumulated over the past decade, Verona bands have transformed into a favorite in most competitions, a real-life Hickory High that, after winning a championship in the underdog, struggled and rattled off half-a-dozen more.

The question remains, however: How has a town of 13,000 been able to create a band dynasty?

The answer begins with Max Marden, a Verona teacher who has the unique perspective of teaching students to first put their instruments together as fourth-graders and then conducting several of them years later in the high school's jazz band.

Marden conducted jazz band as a sophomore at Eastern Michigan University. Today, outside of




PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN BELLILLIAN

Series of the Verona High School Marching Band huddle with marching and concert band director Erik Lynch, center, and jazz band conductor Max Marden, bottom row, far right. Photo was taken after Verona's Festival of Bands on Oct. 1.

SEE BAND PAGE 14

Autism-friendly play at theater

By Lindsey Kelleher
of The Item

Sometimes children have a limited attention span. For children on the autism spectrum or who have other developmental disabilities, their attention span and social abilities are different from those programs who are not affected by such disabilities.

Children affected by autism or other related disabilities may have a difficult time watching movies or going to theater performances and may be frightened by loud noise or bright lights. Some children, explained Paper Mill Playhouse Director of Education, Lisa Cooney, may be afraid to go into a room they have never been inside of before the show. Other autistic children may need to walk around after they have been sitting still for a certain length of time.

"According to the autism experts, 20 minutes is about the maximum time we can give these kids to pay attention," said Cooney.

Not all theaters have shows that accommodate families who have children with autism. The Paper Mill Playhouse, however, hopes to change that.

The Paper Mill Playhouse, along with Autism New Jersey and The Douglas Developmental Disabilities Center at Rutgers University, will have its first sensory-friendly theater performance, on Sunday, June 11, at 10 a.m., in the Brookside Drive theater. The theater is one of the first in the United States to put on a sensory-friendly performance of a play.

"We feel that all kids should be exposed to live theater," said Cooney.

This performance of "Stone Soup & Other Stories," will be performed by the Virginia-based theater group Professor Pappas. Stone Soup will tell several folk tales from around the world. Some of these short stories have a life lesson at the end such as "The Goose and the Golden Egg," which is about a princess who is in love with the most common chicken.

The princess's parents who see the king and queen want their daughter to marry "the greatest being in the world," explained Stephanie Carr, the managing director for Professor Pappas.

The princess's parents soon realized that they went on a long journey, perhaps too long of a trip to find what type of prince they wanted for their daughter. What they were looking for was in their own backyard since the mayor, squire and princess could be helping together, Carr explained.

Other folk tales such as the African folk tale, "The Long One," had to be rewritten so they could be performed in a more sensory-friendly way.

"It focuses on the problem-solving strategy of the rabbit trying to get back into his house," said Carr.

"The situation is more that it's an interesting situation rather than a scary one," she said.

Cooney noted that children with autism do not necessarily understand body language and sarcasm which is why some of the scenes have been changed slightly for the performance.

"They (the children) are much more literal," said Cooney.

The actors will also speak softer and in a more straight-forward tone. According to Cooney, the stage crew will manually adjust the sound so it is lower and at a consistent level, and the lights in the auditorium will be at a lower half setting.

During an open house event on Friday, June 10, from 3 to 6 p.m., called "Meet Your Host," families will receive a welcome book with pictures of scenes from that show and an audio of the performance directed at their concerns.

"Meet Your Host," will allow parents to see their pictures to explain the event to their autistic or developmentally disabled child or children before the performance the following day. Children will also get to see the inside of the theater event.

Other signs of the audience book will have pictures of the theater with the street in the background, the admission ticket, and the parking attendant.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MILLIE MOORE PHOTOGRAPHY

The Professor Pappas Players act out a scene from "Stone Soup & Other Stories," which is a collection of folk tales from around the world. Pictured from left to right are Robyn Convis, Robert Rivera, Harry Patrick Christian, and Megan MacIntosh Lawrence.

"We feel that all kids should be exposed to live theater," said Lisa Cooney, Paper Mill Director of Education.

Madison resident Beth Ganti hopes to attend the performance with her family. This will be the family's first time watching a theater show together.

"It's going to be a really fun experience for my whole family in a stress-free environment," said Ganti, who noted on the Paper Mill's Advisory Committee for this performance.

Watching Stone Soup will give her 8-year-old son a chance to have a theater experience, and Ganti noted that the open house before the performance will give her time to show him where people sit for the show and to explain the play process, such as that the actors are pretending.

Cooney said that about 200 to 300 people are expected to attend "Stone Soup & Other Stories." In the future, Cooney noted that the Paper Mill will have other sensory-friendly performances including one in October and another one April.

Contact Lindsey Kelleher at lskelleh@nj.com

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JUNE 7TH GRAN

MA

DON'T

REASONLY, THE ADDRESS IT WOULD BE EMBARASSING

It's Three Dog Night at the + Creedence Clearwater

Atlantic City certainly brings to more than its share of legendary live venues, it's the fact that a lot of you can have a good time seeing up the three dogs before each show. The venue is a major draw, and the fact that it's a major draw is also brought on some of the most successful "communities," who help recognize the live performance of separate past and present. This week the two-night headlining program presents some of the best.

Johns Hopkins Live, featuring Friday at Trump Plaza, featuring a collection of musicians who work with successful locations of music legends. Not to mention, the Beatles, Willie Nelson, Shakin' Steve, Jerry Lee Lewis, The Beach Boys and more.

The main cast of Johns Hopkins is captured by the very talented Johns Hopkins (J.H.P.) Live, Bruce and Mike, along with the location, whose work has contributed the group an acknowledge members of music of importance.

The group has several members, stage and behind the scenes to include the original Broadway Production of "The Sound of Music" in concert. It's a great time for the Age of Television and Live TV the show.

Johns Hopkins Live, performed at Trump Plaza's historic "Theater district" on a regular basis to the early years of this decade's music — an experience which would be distributed if not for the experience of these performers. With a 925 ticket to catch up some of these performers, you're sure to have a great time. It's one Johns Hopkins Live!

W12: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Arts & Entertainment Writing

Second Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Item of Millburn and Short Hills

"Autism-Friendly Play at Theater"

Lindsey Kelleher

W12: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Arts & Entertainment Writing

First Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Ridgewood News

“Real Estate Finds the Right Market”

Kelly Ebbels

MUSIC

Real Estate finds the right market

BY KELLY EBBELS
Staff Writer

Real Estate, the beachy, sweetly melodic four-piece band that is three-quarters Ridgewoodians, is spreading their wings in more ways than one.

They take off next week for a month-long tour of North America and Europe in celebration of the release of their second full-length record, “Days,” out on Tuesday – their longest tour in their four years as a band together. But Real Estate’s journey began long ago, before high school, when they and other friends started practicing in basements and attics around their Ridgewood houses, carefully watching older local musicians and slowly setting their sights on



PHOTO BY SHAWN BRACKBILL/COURTESY OF REAL ESTATE

Real Estate, featuring former Ridgewood residents, from left, Alex Bleeker, Matt Mondanile and Martin Courtney, will release their second album on Tuesday.

performing shows for their friends.

Ten years later, band leader Martin Courtney is singing of teenage dreaming, strolls down old streets, and careless ways that

were “not so unwise” after all.

When Courtney linked with his friends Matt Mondanile and Alex Bleeker as they finished college, they coalesced under their band

name, inspired by Courtney’s recently acquired certificate in real estate sales.

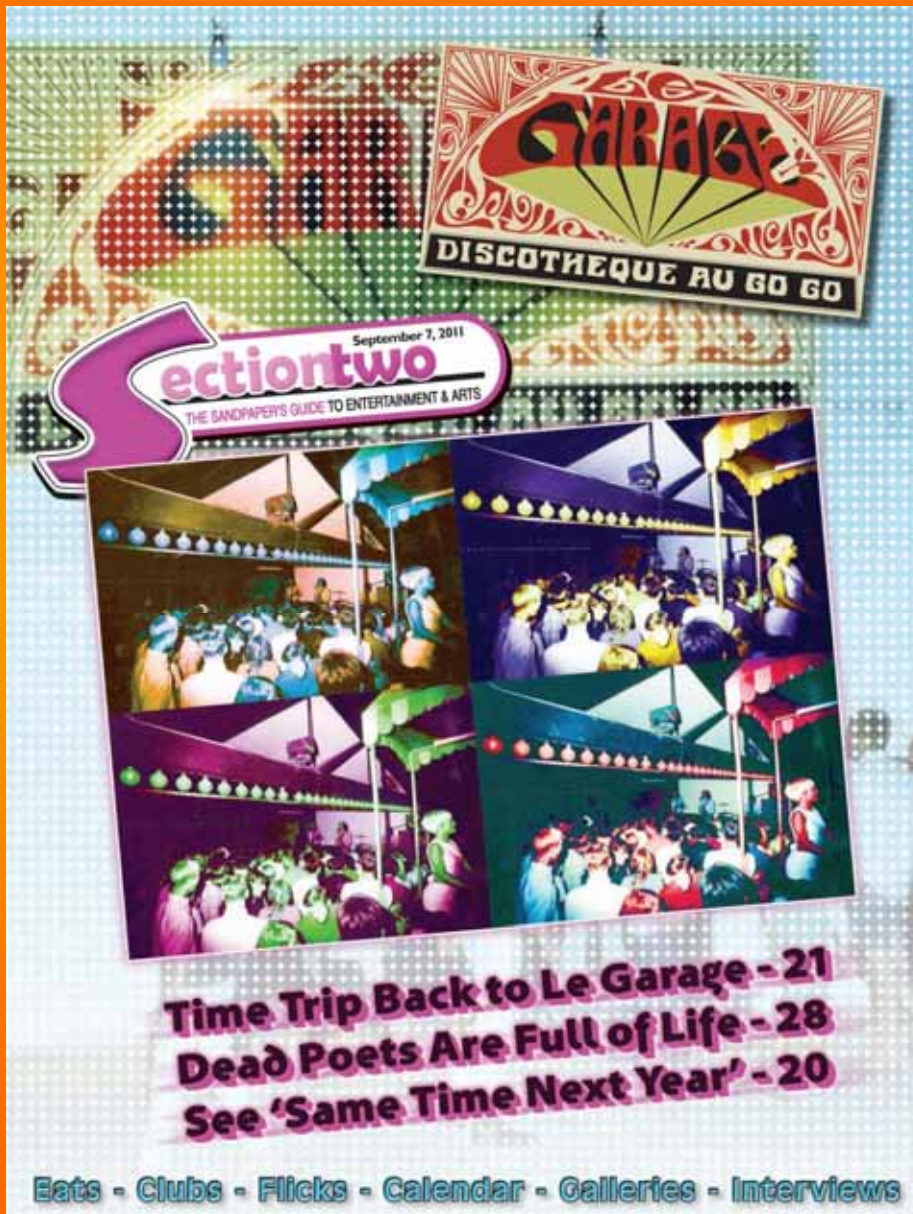
The group has gained acclaim over the past three years, after their first eponymous full-length record received the prestigious “Best New Music” nod from reputed music website *Pitchfork*. Though Courtney, the band leader, and Mondanile and Bleeker have all relocated to Brooklyn, their roots and inspiration are still in Ridgewood. Songs like “Municipality” and “Wonder Years” find the band singing wistfully of days gone by.

“There are a lot of songs about when we were 17 or 18, like at the end of high school. I don’t know why,” Courtney said. “I guess I’m just naturally a nostalgic person.”

Now under the major U.K.-

See **REAL ESTATE**, page A12

W12: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Arts & Entertainment Writing



Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

The SandPaper

"Early Pop Music Scene
Grew to Island-Wide
Proportions"

J.D. Watson


Jeffrey Kuhlman, cover

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W12: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Arts & Entertainment Writing

Second Place, Weekly over 6,500

The Montclair Times



A MUSICAL GAMUT

'Saturday Night' sideman

Montclair trombonist and conch shell player Steve Turre has been performing for more than 2 1/2 decades on 'Saturday Night Live'

D3

THE MONTCLAIR TIMES

Arts

YOUR BEST SOURCE FOR LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

SECTION D • THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2011

INSIDE: Arts Calendar D2 Movie Times D4 Dining Out D16

The image shows a newspaper cover featuring a photograph of trombonist Steve Turre playing his instrument. The text on the cover includes the title 'Saturday Night' sideman, a short bio, and the newspaper's branding 'The Montclair Times Arts'.

- "The Jazz Series 2011: 'Saturday Night' Sideman"
- "On the Air"
- "'Montclair Comes Out for Kids'"
- "Rising Star"
- "Teaching the Next Generation"

George Wirt

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W12: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Arts & Entertainment Writing

First Place, Weekly over 6,500

Atlantic City Weekly

"Salute to Mr. Soul"

Jeff Schwachter

FEATURE

Salute to Mr. Soul

Celebrating what would have been music legend Sam Cooke's 80th birthday — from an Atlantic City perspective.

By Jeff Schwachter

A BANNER WITH THE NAME SLAPPY White on it hung across Kentucky Avenue all summer.

The late comedian and actor (who died in Brigantine in 1995) was booked for the entire season at Atlantic City's famed Club Harlem. On this particular summer night, however — July 24, 1964, to be precise — hanging above the banner was yet another banner. It read: "Sam Cooke."

The 33-year-old soul pioneer, who was on the verge of cementing his place as one of the greatest entertainers in the world at the time, was booked at the club from July 23 to Aug. 3. It was his second consecutive summer at the club.

After years of enormous recording success with songs he had written, recorded and performed around the world, now-classics such as the monumental hit "Swiss Miss," "Cupid," "Wonderful World," "Swingin' the Night Away" and "Chain Gang," to name but a mere few, Cooke was invigorated by the rise of the Civil Rights movement at the time, and had penned what would become the movement's anthem following his death, "A Change Is Gonna Come," just months before.

Sadly, Cooke wouldn't live to see the end of the year — one of his most accomplished and prolific.

The line of patrons waiting to get inside Club Harlem on this Friday night — a well-dressed crowd of both blacks and whites — stretched south down Kentucky Avenue towards Atlantic Avenue the street, as on most summer nights, there was also a line waiting to get inside Crane's Little Belmont, a lounge where Sammy Davis Jr.'s mother tended the bar. Davis was slated to appear at Club Harlem a few weeks after Cooke.

Cars and taxis whizzed by dropping off club-goers.

Elsewhere in the city, Ramsey Lewis was at the Wonder Gardens, the Cole Bros. were at The Golden, and, stoned from Puerto Rico, Dizzy Gillespie and the Dizzy Gillespie Orchestra was booked at the "Around-The-World Room" on Albany Avenue.

The Steel Pier was advertising the Beatles "dancing their first full-length hilarious action-packed film" on Aug. 3.

Like several night spots in Atlantic City at the time, Club Harlem offered an assortment



Sam Cooke, pictured at a 1962 recording session, courtesy of AMCO Records.



of entertainment with summer-long acts that year such as Larry Steele's revue "Smart Affairs of 1963," which the headline act that week would essentially star in; the "Larry Steele Gals," a group of gorgeous young dancers that worked seven days a week during the summer, usually until the next morning; Slappy White as emcee; and Johnny Lynch and his Orchestra.

Club Harlem actually housed two showrooms — one up front, the cocktail lounge, where Chris Columbus led the house band behind Willie "Gator Tail" Jackson on this July night, and the main showroom in the back where patrons paid a cover fee to see the headlining acts.

A week of shows went by before Atlantic City Press columnist Ted Schall offered a review of the scene happening over at Club Harlem on the July 28, 1964 edition. The tiny piece, entitled "Harlem HL," reads: "Larry Steele has mixed, blended and baked an entertainment-rich cake which he serves with a flourish at the Club Harlem in his 'Smart Affairs of 1963' [show]. Recording star Sam Cooke provides a delectable and flavorful icing. Ingredients follow a recipe of fast-fate-and-legend for the hard-working, well-dressed line of girls and boys; dance and cavort about the Harlem stage with unbelievable energy." Schall adds that the "lovely statuette show girls add interest in the glamour department, helping to pace the show between solo spots."

The columnist singled out show girl Pat Harris for her "dancing segment" during a

"Caribbean spectacular," and a few other acts and ended with: "Topping the bill is recording star Sam Cooke, who is at home in any mode [and] has the happy faculty of sweeping his audience with him into whatever mood his song dictates and during most of the stint, the mallets provided at the Harlem's tables beat out a rhythmic accompaniment to his vocalizing."

Cooke appeared at Club Harlem with a band that included tenor, guitar and bass guitar (one of which was played by Bobby Womack, likely the bass, according to Cooke's award-winning biographer and music writer Peter Guralnick), with Lynch's band filling in the holes for Cooke's act.

At the time, Cooke, who would have been 80 on Jan. 22, 2011, was at the height of his career. Nobody in the Club Harlem audience that summer would have guessed that he was only months away from his tragic, early death.

A gospel sensation as a young man growing up in Chicago before venturing into the world of mid-1950s pop music, where he had unmatched success — and respect — as a black recording artist at the time, Cooke, according to Guralnick's 2003 biography, the *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year, *Dreams Awake: The Triumph of Sam Cooke*, was a complex man.

Known for his majestic, almost angelic voice, which never hit a bad note, Cooke was "one of the most phenomenal successes in the history of show business," at the time, as the Press described him in a July 30, 1964 profile and

interview with the singer. He was not only a pioneer in the realm of soul music — he essentially created it — but a visionary when, by the time of his death on Dec. 11, 1964, had started his own publishing and recording companies, realizing the importance of owning his own songs. It was something that was very rare in 1964, especially for a black artist.

Months before the Club Harlem shows, in January 1964 Cooke, an avid reader of James Baldwin and other modern voices of the time, according to Guralnick, recorded a song that he had just written at the end of 1963. It would become one of his most popular songs, even though he rarely performed it live.

Inspired by and in response to the "protest singers" of the early 1960s and the whole *Mohammmah* scene, Cooke penned "A Change Is Gonna Come." He performed the song on the *Tinseltown Show* in February 1964, and according to Guralnick, who describes the events during the show taping in spectacular detail in his book, it was a milestone for Cooke, his bandmates, his friends, his manager at the time Allen Klein, and for America.

The larger role that Sam Cooke played in the Civil Rights movement of the mid-to-late 1960s, Guralnick says during a recent phone interview for Atlantic City Weekly, "was in writing a song that became the theme song for the Civil Rights movement, 'A Change Is Gonna Come,' which has persisted to this day as an emblem of change and as a ... symbol of the movement as it's continued."

The single was never released during Cooke's lifetime, but it was no secret that during his last two years alive he was becoming increasingly aware and responsive with regard to America's Civil Rights movement and the segregation and racism that perpetuated it. In the autumn of 1963, Cooke was arrested in Shreveport, La., after refusing to leave a "Grand New Holiday Inn," where the "man at the desk" said there were "no vacancies," even though Cooke had called earlier and made reservations for he and his wife Barbara, according to Guralnick's book.

Following the historic March on Washington on Aug. 28, 1963, featuring Martin Luther King Jr., as well as a host of musicians, Cooke was given a copy of the new *Frederator* July



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KELLY EBBELS/THE RIDGEWOOD NEWS

The Hamza family, from left, Omar, Mahmoud, Yusuf, Jihan, Zeyad and Aisha, watches reports from Egypt.

Crisis in Egypt hits home

BY KELLY EBBELS
Staff Writer

As the world watches Egyptians rebel against President Hosni Mubarak, Ridgewood residents set forth their own stories of the way the immense and volatile uprising has affected their lives.

In Egypt

Alex Ortiz, 24, a Ridgewood resident studying Arabic literature at the American University in Cairo, was not interested in trying to take a flight back to the United States once protests escalated. Since the uprising began early last week, he has kept a close eye on how the action has unfolded and, with access to a private Internet line, has used social media to keep family, friends and followers updated.

Via a Skype phone call on Thursday morning, Ortiz said that he was "a little rattled, but fine."

Some of his friends and colleagues – foreign and local journalists and civilians – have been arrested and beaten: Ortiz himself was beaten up by police on Wednesday while he was walking down what he thought was a safe street.

Luckily, he was escorted out of the mob scene by a military police officer who took him back to a station and treated him "very



CHRIS PETERS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tamer Bayoumi is concerned for family members living in Egypt.

professionally," but Ortiz claimed that the police and government supporters were "the same institution."

"I think what we're witnessing now is a sign that the government will not go quietly into that dark night, despite the brutal and very excessive force - that has been well-documented - and despite the international pres-

sure, and despite the brave and dedicated demonstrators that continue to hold Tahrir Square this morning," he said.

On Jan. 25, the first night of the protests, Ortiz launched a live video feed via justin.tv of the clashes between demonstrators and police.

One of his videos, called "cairo," has so far been viewed almost 70,000 times. While the scene at Tahrir, or "Liberation," Square is difficult to make out – all that is visible through the darkness are flashing lights and the silhouettes of trucks and people – its booming gunfire tells the story of the barrage from police as they lashed back against protesters below his student apartment. Ortiz has since been contacted and interviewed by several U.S.-based radio stations, including CBS News, Pacifica Radio and public radio in South Dakota.

On Thursday at an InterContinental Hotel where journalists are stationed, government supporters encircled and broke past army soldiers stationed at Video Cairo, a local production company that international news organizations such as Reuters and Bloomberg have been using to broadcast. At one point, Ortiz feared the police were on their way to his own hotel to search for and seize video cameras.

"What is absolutely crucial is that the rest of the world, particularly America, find out

See EGYPT, page A7

Third Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Ridgewood News

"Crisis in Egypt Hits Home"

Kelly Ebbels

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W13: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Special Subject Writing

Second Place, Weekly under 6,500

Verona-Cedar Grove Times

"Police 'Like' Social Media Sites

VERONA

Police 'like' social media sites

BY MOLLIE GRAY
Managing Editor

About a year ago, Capt. Mitchell Stern was looking to enhance the way in which the Verona Police Department shares information with the public.

He was the architect behind the department's website, which provides access to everything from the police blotter to tips on how to avoid identity theft.

Seeing how Facebook and social networking sites in general were becoming so popular, he brought the idea to his chief about starting a Facebook page for the Verona police as an extension of the website.

Now, whether he's in his police uniform or pajamas, Stern can let

hundreds of people know almost instantaneously if there is a road closure they should be aware of, or what street parking rules are in the event of a snowstorm.

"I'm trying to put out there anything the townspeople can use," Stern said. "If one more person can be aware of something than before, it's a benefit."

It turns out Stern and the Verona police are not alone.

Local organizations, community groups and schools are using social networking tools such as Facebook and Twitter to modernize the way they communicate and reach people in the community.

Residents can log onto these sites and find everything from announcements about fundraising events to school closings to snow

advisories. And those who post the information are recognizing the advantages in using these sites, which are virtually free of cost.

Statistics on Facebook show that 50 percent of active users log on to Facebook in any given day, and people spend over 700 billion minutes per month on Facebook.

There are over 900 million objects that people interact with, including pages, groups, events and community pages, and there are more than 200 million active users currently accessing Facebook from their mobile devices.

The Nielsen Company, which measures consumer activity, reported around this time last year that the average Facebook user spent seven hours on the site per

month. Twitter.com stats show the website had 175 million registered users with 95 million tweets written per day as of last September.

With that much activity, it's no surprise local agencies are beginning to use those channels to reach a wider audience.

Stern has been leading the Verona Police Department's technology initiatives, and is behind the department's presence on the web. Stern has a strong background in technology, working on computers in the private sector for major companies like Panasonic, Prudential and Cram & Forster. He said designing websites had always been a hobby of his, and



The Verona Police Department's Facebook "wall" includes weather and traffic alerts.

SEE SOCIAL PAGE A4

Mollie Gray

W13: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Special Subject Writing

GLEN ROCK VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS

Nighttime crews answer the call

BY RICHARD DE SANTA
Staff Writer

"Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat,
nor gloom of night..."

While the words begin a famous phrase about mail carriers, the imagery applies equally to the dedicated teams poised to rush to the community's injured, infirm or stricken while most of the town sleeps.

They are the Glen Rock Volunteer Ambulance Corps (GRVAC) night crews - an intrepid squad-within-a-squad whose dedication and expertise are brought to bear in situations that, for many, are all the more frightening when occurring in the "gloom of night."

With six crews of three or four members each splitting the duty from Sunday through Friday - and taking turns covering Saturday nights once a month on a rotating basis - they along with the Glen Rock Police are first to the scene in night-time medical crises.

According to GRVAC President and borough Councilwoman Mary Jane Surrigo, "Our night crews are a very close-knit group of people. They're the ones who get up out of bed in the middle of the night and respond to anything, from a general weakness or illness complaint to a CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) call."

With shifts running from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m., "they must always be ready to respond, which means when there's a snowstorm, and there is some doubt that they can shovel their cars out fast enough to get to the building (headquarters), they actually sleep there, in the drill room, until their shifts are over," she said. Some members sleep in their corps uniforms just



MARION BROWN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Glen Rock Volunteer Ambulance Corps members Michael Bendett, Tom Ludlum and Andrea Sattler practice preparing an accident "victim" for transportation to the hospital.

to save a few minutes, or keep a jumpseat nearby.

Most members have day jobs, and all have significant daytime responsibilities.

"They know that one or two calls through the night will rob them of needed rest," Surrigo said. "But they seem to get used to it, and go about their day despite the sleep deprivation."

A "typical" call takes about an

hour, from getting to the building, going to the scene, assessing and treating the patient, transportation to a hospital, and return to the GRVAC building. But crews' labors go well beyond actual responses.

"On arrival back, they log in data about the call into our EMS (Emergency Management Services) charts system, and also re-stock and clean up the ambulance - sometimes bleaching virtually all surfaces if nec-

essary," Surrigo noted.

Then it's back to their cars to head home, and if it's early enough, back to bed. If not, it's directly on to work or other daily activities.

Longtime corpsman and Wednesday night crew chief Victor (Rusty) Dagenais describes membership as a "lifestyle" more than simply a rite of volunteerism.

SEE CREWS, PAGE 6

First Place, Weekly under 6,500

Glen Rock Gazette

"Nighttime Crews Answer the Call"

Richard DeSanta

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W13: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Special Subject Writing

Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

The SandPaper

“Warm Muzzles Find Arsonists”

Pat Johnson

Forest Fire Service Deploys Loyal Detectives

Warm Muzzles Find Arsonists

By PAT JOHNSON

On March 24, a former Stafford Township volunteer firefighter, 19-year-old Ryan Duffane, was found guilty of intentionally setting nine fires throughout Burlington and Ocean counties between March and August of 2010, including the 540-acre fire that was set on Chocomaile Road in Barnegat Township in which a state forestry firefighter was injured. The investigation that led to Duffane's arrest was a cooperative effort of state, county and local law enforcement agencies.

At least one of the officers could wig his tail about the conviction.

K-9 officer Tanner is a Labrador retriever used to locate arson fires. Tanner is under the command of the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Forest Fire Management. His immediate superior is Glenn Liepe, Division C forest service warden K-9 handler and trainer.

Tanner is trained to indicate to his master by standing stock-still once he locates an area where matches, lighters or auxiliary fuels were used. He is the first dog in the United States trained to locate matches or lighters that are used to set wildfires.

Tanner was on the case in the Chocomaile fire and contributed to the body of evidence that led to Duffane's capture, said Liepe. The fact Duffane was a firefighter made for bigger news, but "we don't care who it is, we'll arrest anyone," Liepe said.

According to the DEP Compliance and Enforcement Highlights Report, during a five-year period ending in 2010, there were more than 50 suspicious fires in the Barnegat/Stafford Township area. The Forest Fire Service, Ocean County Prosecutor's Office and local law enforcement all work together on these investigations. According to the DEP, the Forest Fire Service's scent-tracking dogs and hidden surveillance cameras are of primary importance in gathering evidence. The service started its canine program in the fall of 2004 and modeled it after Virginia and West Virginia fire service canine programs.

The canine program's mission is to reduce the incidents of wildfires not only by assisting in investigations, but also by participating in forest fire information programs. In 2010, the canine unit took part in more than 100 fire prevention programs and assisted in 14 wildfire investigations.

It also assists in missing-person searches.

On Friday, Liepe brought his K-9 unit, including Tanner and two bloodhounds, EO and Citrus, to Cape Field Airport, the New Jersey Forest Fire Service's Air Attack Base on Route 72 in Clatsworth. The three dogs waited not so patiently in the van while Liepe talked to a reporter about them.

Citrus is a 2-year-old red bloodhound from Canada. EO, also a red bloodhound, is the Forest Fire Service's most valuable tracker. A trail by EO is the area of a wildfire



ON TRACK: K-9 unit handler Glenn Liepe takes the lead of bloodhound Citrus as the dog sniffs out a "suspect." EO and Citrus are part of Liepe's family.



Photographs by Pat Johnson

in Atlantic County led to the arrest and conviction of four juveniles who admitted to setting 16 different wildfires during a six-month period.

Liepe said most of the bloodhounds that come into law enforcement are donated. "We get them from rescues. Bloodhounds are rare when they are puppies but not so rare once they get a little older, start drooping and chewing the furniture. Right about when they get surrendered is just when we need to start training them, so it works out. But it's a shame they get surrendered, because they have big hearts and get very attached to families."

All three dogs live with Liepe and his family in Galloway Township.

"They destroy everything, eat the couches, slobber everywhere; you will pass up with it," said Liepe affectionately.

Dogs are at Home

Out in the Pine Barrens
Getting into the K-9 vehicle with three highly keyed-up dogs is just part of the job, said Liepe. The loud barking means they knew they were going to work.

He took them out to the edge of the Pine Barrens off one of the cycle and/or mountain roads. The two bloodhounds continued to bay as Liepe set the stage for a demonstration of Tanner's ability to locate matches or lighters that are used to set wildfires.

Liepe walked away from the track to the edge of the woods with a disposable lighter and flicked it near some fallen pine trees. He didn't set anything on fire, just the scent of the fuel would draw Tanner like a bead

on a string.

Once Liepe opened the door and gave the command, Tanner came bounding out of the truck. "Tanner will go crazy for about 10 minutes," said Liepe, but on his command the young Lab put his nose to the ground and zigzagged across the shoulder of the roadway. He quickly zoomed in on the scent and found the spot where the lighter had been flicked. He "indicated" to his handler by standing stock-still over the spot. "Did you see the way he spun his body around?" asked Liepe.

Tanner's reward was a high-pitched "hey, hey, hey," from his master and a few ravenous moments of playing tug-of-war with a well-loved sock.

Liepe said firefighters easily locate the source of a fire in the Pine Barrens since they have fire towers at strategic points, study wind charts and can see the direction a fire is traveling. On the ground, the easiest way to know which way a fire traveled is to look at pine cones, the side of the cone that is more heavily blackened indicates the direction the fire came from.

"Sometimes we run Tanner to verify what we already have found out," said Liepe. "If he was used as evidence of a set fire - could be metals, lighter, footprints or broken branches - we keep everyone out of the area until we bring the dogs in to get the scent."

"Anyone who lights a match around a lighter or propellant leaves a scent behind. The problem is in getting a good start. The bloodhound will scare a trail and lead us from

one place to another clue - that might be to a vehicle, tire tracks or bicycle tracks, or someone who walked in a house. It gets us from the fire towards the general public."

"When we show up at a person's house, that doesn't mean we are getting the person who set the fire, it could be someone who was back there jugging, but maybe they saw somebody else. Oh yeah, I saw a couple of kids. It's a tool to get us from the fire to where the public is."

For tracking, you can't beat bloodhounds, said Liepe as he explained how they track. "They are scenting off dead and dying skin cells that are falling off you every day, billions of them. That's what the dogs are sniffing, the trail of dead skin cells. Even if you were to wear protective clothing or scent-masking products like human urine, you are still breathing out dead skin cells."

"And it's not just the nose that makes the bloodhound a great tracker," he continued. "It's the whole dog, their folds in the skin that trap the scent toward the nose, their skeleton, and their brain. You know how we can enter a room where someone made coffee and it smells good for a few minutes but then you don't smell it anymore? That's how our brain works; it identifies the scent and forgets it. But not the dog's brain; the dog will smell the same scent at 8 a.m., at 10 a.m. or 2 p.m."

"It's amazing what they can do. I can take them to a place with 20 people and have them scent a person who will then hide, and he'll check out some 10 people and go look for that missing person. I can run him

on a trail through 100 people and he'll separate every smell."

"The hounds are my babies," said Liepe as he let Citrus out for a trial run and a photo shoot. But "he's not my best tracker. EO is the best."

Last year during a search and rescue in Galloway Township, EO made a life-saving find locating a special needs person who had wandered away from his home in the middle of the night. The trail was a mile long and took EO 23 minutes.

But Citrus, with his mental folds and his typical bloodhound-sneaking face, would be better for photos.

The photographer would be the last person to had guy that Citrus was going to find. A used Kleenex from a pocket was the clue put in a plastic bag for Citrus to sniff after the photographer hid himself behind a dirt pile on the edge of the woods.

Liepe kept Citrus on a long lead.

"We always have to have them on a lead because they will just follow their nose and cross a road; they don't pay attention to traffic at all."

Citrus would see the photographer if he just lifted his head, but he never looked up since his nose is a better indicator than his eyesight. In the time it took for the photographer to hide, Citrus was sniffling through the pine trail and over the dirt mound. A foot away from his patch, his nose was still on the ground.

"He might jump up on you," warned Liepe, but the dog merely circled his find and looked to his master's treat-baggy pockets. Liepe got the full-body bag. "Good boy,"

Continued on Page 36

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W13: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Special Subject Writing

The sun keeps wine cool



STAFF PHOTOS/PIERFRANCESCO BACCARO

The Manhattan Wine Company on River Road will now use the sun's energy to keep its stored wines cool. About 100 solar panels were installed on the company's roof, said Matt Tornabene, president, pictured below.

Clifton wine company installs solar panels



By Adam Greenberg
Staff Writer

CLIFTON – The Manhattan Wine Company began reducing its carbon footprint and energy bills last month with the installation of a solar power system.

The 33.88 kilowatt photovoltaic (PV) system took one month to install, said Manhattan Wine Company President Matt Tornabene.

The River Road wine storage company, houses about 15,000 cases of wine for private and commercial wine enthusiasts

and sellers in one 6,000-square-foot room and two 2,000-square-foot rooms.

For 24 hours a day, seven days a week, each storage room must maintain refrigeration at approximately 55 degrees Fahrenheit, as well as maintain proper humidification and be lighted, Tornabene said. The panels and solar system will help reduce energy consumption by 25 percent, Tornabene said, adding the savings on "thousands of dollars a month" in

SEE SOLAR, PAGE 6

Solar power technology explained

By Adam Greenberg
Staff Writer

CLIFTON – Solar power is a newer renewable energy initiative being pushed hard throughout New Jersey, being explored seriously by the City of Clifton and being undertaken already by several businesses and residents in the area, but confusion still lingers on what it is and how it works.

Solar power can essentially be broken down into two groups, said Gerry Heimbuch, vice president of Commercial Projects with The Solar Center, an installer of solar energy systems.

Photovoltaic cells (PV cells) harness light energy and turn it into direct current (DC) electricity and the less common solar thermal energy (STE) is used for water heating.

"Photovoltaic accounts for 95 percent of all installations in this part of the world," said Heimbuch. "[The Solar Center] did some solar thermal installations previously, but not so much anymore."

Heimbuch said the heart of any solar powered system is the solar panels and those panels come in two varieties: standard efficiency polycrystalline panels, which account for 85 percent of installations, or higher efficiency and higher priced monocrystalline panels.

Whether a property uses PV cells, STE, polycrystalline panels or monocrystalline panels depends primarily on the type and size of the property, said Heimbuch,

SEE TECHNOLOGY, PAGE 6

Second Place, Weekly over 6,500

Clifton Journal

"The Sun Keeps Wine Cool"

"Incentives Offered to Businesses"

Adam Greenberg

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W13: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Special Subject Writing

NORTH JERSEY Recreating Bull Run 150 years later

Local "Billy Yanks" brave 100+ degree heat to take part in first major battle of Civil War reenactment

BY STEVE JANOSKI
Staff Writer

They come from every nook and cranny of the country, most of them wearing Civil War uniforms, but some in modern clothing. They are here to take part in the first major battle of the Civil War reenactment, and they are here to do it in the dog days of a blistering heat wave.

It is here, in an historic area, that the Union and Confederate armies met in the nearly unrelenting heat of a sweltering Virginia summer to recreate the First Battle of Manassas, which was to become the opening move of America's Civil War.

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Civil War reenactor Mike Benge of West Milford speaks with a member of the militia during the 150th anniversary reenactment of the First Battle of Manassas, which took place on July 21 and 22. Benge has been reenacting for 16 years, and was the President, as well as the chief medical officer and head field officer for the event.



Looking over the shoulders of Union soldiers as the Confederate lines begin to close in on them during the most heated part of the Manassas reenactment in Virginia. Reenactors' can be seen coming up in the distance.



Members of the 89th New York in the midst of battle on the afternoon of July 21. The reenactors braved temperatures well in excess of 100 degrees to take part in the event, all while dressed in wool clothing and heating their own food.

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First Place, Weekly over 6,500

Suburban Trends

“Recreating Bull Run 150 Years Later”

Steve Janoski

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION



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**W14: Reporting, Writing &
Illustration -
Environmental/Health &
Science Writing**

NJPA Awards

'Solar farm' planned for former landfill

Fenimore dump will be cleaned up first by firm

ROXBURY TWP. – Residents familiar with it, and local environmentalists, consider it a blight on the face of the township.

A Clarksburg firm has purchased the former Fenimore Sanitary Landfill from the township, however, and has plans to turn the once-useless property into a solar farm.

Abandoned in 1979, the Fenimore site comprises more than 60 acres and 1 million tons of solid waste that was never properly capped or closed.

"For the past three decades, it has sat there, dormant but by no means benign, at the foot of Mooney Mountain, forgotten but by no means gone, a festering threat to human health and the environment," according to Strategic Green Energy, the firm which is undertaking the project.

Leachate from the landfill collects in untreated ponds and runs directly into a local stream, according to Richard Bernardi, the firm's founder.

Scores of chemical drums litter the site. The soil and groundwater have been polluted beyond acceptable levels. It has been ranked among the top sites in New Jersey for highest potential greenhouse gas emissions and leachate pollution.

Strategic Green Energy (SGE) is in the final phase of producing a plan to remediate and properly close the landfill.

"And thus, we will right a longstanding wrong inflicted on the citizens of Roxbury. We are well on our way in this endeavor, working under the strict supervision of the state Department of Environmental Protection and local government," Bernardi said, on the firm's Web site describing the project.

"It is no small task, and will cost us in excess of \$10 million. But it can – and should – be done," he wrote.

"In turn, we are asking to transform this site – unacceptable for residential or commercial development – into a solar panel farm. SGE is seeking a federal grant toward that end. The taxpayers of Roxbury and Morris County will pay nothing," he wrote.

"While Gov. Chris Christie and the NJ Sierra Club are often at odds on environmental issues, they are in complete harmony on this one. Renewable energy, and particularly building solar panel farms on landfills, is at the top of the list of the governor's key energy

PLEASE SEE LANDFILL, PAGE 2

W14: Reporting, Writing & Illustration –
Environmental/Health & Science Writing

Third Place, Weekly under 6,500

Roxbury Register

"Solar Farm"

Mike Condon

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W14: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Environmental/Health & Science Writing

NEW WORLD FOR BOY WITH AUTISM

By PHIL GARBER
MANAGING EDITOR

MOUNT OLIVE TWP. Billy Scorentini celebrates two birthdays; one is the day he was born, the other is the day he was re-born on Oct. 8, 2008.

Billy is 15, autistic and non-verbal. For most of his life he was in a world where he could not speak or otherwise express himself, a world where most everyone assumed he could not think very well, let alone read.

But on Oct. 8, 2008, Billy's world changed forever. That was the day he began to use a program known as facilitated communication. Now, with the help of a specially trained facilitator, the youth can tell the world what he is feeling, what he wants and what he needs.

It seems like a relatively simple process. The boy types out his thoughts, while the facilitator assesses on his arm just enough to help him overcome the disconnection between his mind and his motor skills.

But without the facilitator, Billy could not control his hands enough to type. Facilitators are trained to learn how to apply pressure and support depending on the person's emotions or physical condition.

Billy uses the keyboard in school and at home for everything as mundane as telling his mother what he wants for dinner to being able to clearly tell a doctor what hurts.

New World

"Billy has a life now, he has relationships with other children, with neighbors and his grandparents," said his mother, Patty Scorentini. "Now I know he likes the color blue and basketball and football and he can tell me when I put too much peanut butter on his sandwich."

The facilitated communication program is offered through Celebrate the Children, a school for autistic youths with facilities in Budd Lake and Wharton.

Billy and his mother travel from their home in Ramsey each day to one of the facilities, where the youth works on his communication skills with



Billy Scorentini, 15, has been using a special communication program to overcome limits caused by his autism. From left, are language facilitator, Lisa Romaine; Patty Scorentini; and her son, Billy.

>>>RELATED STORIES

Autistic boy uses his own words to communicate and Autism Awareness Month is here.
Please see pages 3 and 4.

his facilitator, Lisa Romaine.

Scorentini said she had heard about facilitated communication when Billy was younger. But teachers and the boy's speech therapist were not very familiar with the approach and discouraged her from using the system.

Scorentini said her son was always very active and she knew in her heart that his mind was active. He enjoyed videos and watching television.

When he was 4, rather than use facilitated communication, Billy's teachers used picture exchange communication or PEC cards to help him communicate.

The cards have various images from pictures of hot dogs to a child walking. Billy shows the card to explain his needs and by the time he was 5, he had collected a thick book filled with PEC cards.

But his difficulty with motor skills made it hard for him to point to the right card and teachers sometimes wrongly assumed Billy could not understand. But his mother

instally, when he was 9 or 10 years old he was learning materials appropriate for a 3 or 4 year old.

"The shock was how well developed he was cognitively," Scorentini said. "I didn't know he knew as much as he did."

Almost overnight, Billy went from learning about colors and shapes to being introduced to eighth grade materials.

When the boy started at Celebrate the Children, he was considered on a second grade level. By the end of 2006, he was in the eighth grade and had written a report on the Holocaust.

Scorentini said her son was always very active and she knew in her heart that his mind was active. He enjoyed videos and watching television.

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But his difficulty with motor skills made it hard for him to point to the right card and teachers sometimes wrongly assumed Billy could not understand. But his mother

knows better. "He was able to rifle through all the cards and say where he wanted to go or that he wanted a bath or a pretzel," Scorentini said. "He had to have a lot going on."

He works on facilitated communication at home with his mother for as many as 10 hours a day. Sometimes he works with his father, Bill Sr. and his sister, Samantha, 17.

"He's in charge of his life now," Scorentini said.

As he has learned to express himself, Billy also has lost many of the trademark mannerisms of autism.

For instance, he no longer engages in "stimming," a self-stimulatory behavior. It is a common stress coping mechanism for people with autism.

Romaine was certified in facilitated communication in 2005 through one of the leading programs in the field at the Facilitated Communication Institute at Syracuse (N.Y.) University.

A certified special education teacher, Romaine also has qualified as a certified trainer to train other facilitators. At Celebrate the Children, Romaine has trained 25 aides in facilitation who work with 25 children, ranging from 7 to 21 years old.

She also has trained a number of parents.

PLEASE SEE WORLD, PAGE 3

Second Place, Weekly under 6,500

Mount Olive Chronicle

"New World for Boy with Autism"
"Boy with Autism Offers His Comments, in His Own Words"

Phil Garber

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W14: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Environmental/Health & Science Writing

***Dumping Doughnuts:
Mess on Newton Lake Docks***



by Mark Swanson

Ah, a sunny summer afternoon. Taking your young children or grandchildren to Newton Lake to feed geese and ducks on a shady riverbank can be fun, even idyllic, relaxing and entertaining.

Imagine the surprise of Camden County Park officials this week when they saw that someone has been giving the local geese and ducks at Newton Lake a little more than some bread crumbs and corn.

Piles of apparently day-old doughnuts were found dumped on a concrete fishing dock along N. Newton Lake Drive at Colford Ave. The spot is known locally as the “second lake” in the Newton chain, between the Bettleswood Ave. bridge and the White Horse Pike in Collingswood.

One unidentified local resident reported on Monday morning that she had picked up enough doughnuts at the site to fill a large green trash bag – so many doughnuts that she could hardly lift it into her car. She estimated the numbers at several hundred doughnuts.

The woman said she had come across the doughnuts while walking her dog early on Monday. She was not sure whether this had been the first instance of doughnut dumping at the lake as she does not always walk her dog along the lake.



photos by Mark Swanson

NOT FUNNY: It almost sounds like a joke, but imagine being stopped by geese looking for a buck for coffee to go with their doughnuts. If some unidentified doughnut dumper keeps it up, it could well happen.

By the time Camden County environmental education coordinator Maggi A. Liebe arrived later that morning, there was still a pile of at least 50 doughnuts – glazed, cream and jelly-filled, powdered and various kinds of chocolate ones.

Liebe set out immediately with a shovel, dustpan and plastic bags to clean up the last of the dumped doughnuts. Her office is not far from the site of the dumped doughnuts at 520 N. Newton Lake Dr.

She said she was sure that someone was well intentioned in trying to feed the geese and ducks at the lake, which has lately been

(Continued on page 2)

First Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Retrospect

- “Dumping Doughnuts:
Mess on Newton Lake Docks”
- “Newton Doughnut Dumping
Could Be Dumpster Diver’s Doings”
- “Retrospect, Residents Credited with
Breaking Doughnut Dumper Case”

Mark Swanson

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W14: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Environmental/Health & Science Writing

Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

The Montclair Times



STAFF PHOTO BY ADAM ANK

These deer wandering through Rosedale Cemetery on Orange Road on Friday, Oct. 28, are frequent visitors, according to groundskeepers.

‘Not a miracle answer’

Deer contraceptive unlikely to replace hunting

BY DAN PROCHILLO
OF THE MONTCLAIR TIMES

Upper Mountain Avenue resident Susan Bernico sees more deer in residential yards in northern New Jersey than she did growing up in the Poconos. But in that part of Pennsylvania, “there were plenty of farm fields and forests” where deer could freely roam and forage without encountering people or development, said Bernico, a science teacher at Hillside Elementary School.

According to Montclair Animal Control Officer Jared Sweet-

man, he and his colleagues respond to one or two calls a month about injured deer and two or three calls a month regarding dead deer.

Spotting a healthy deer in Montclair is such an everyday occurrence that, for many residents, the awe and appreciation have worn off.

“It is becoming a more common thing,” Sweetman said. “It is not a shock anymore. It’s like seeing a raccoon in your garbage.”

Sightings are routine near Montclair’s hilly western border, by Eagle Rock Reservation, and

on the township’s south side, Sweetman said.

In an effort to reduce the area’s deer population, Essex County has permitted hunts in county-owned reservations, allowing hunters into Eagle Rock, Hilltop and South Mountain reservations in winter.

Since 2008, those hunts have culled 1,089 deer, including fetuses, according to County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo Jr.

There is another way to rein in the deer population, but it is

DEER • A1

“‘Not a Miracle Answer’”

“Deer Contraceptive Unlikely to Replace Hunting”

Dan Prochilo

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

Medical marijuana out of reach for City man with epilepsy

By Tony Gicas
Staff Writer

CLIFTON – A frustrated City native continues to fight a severe medical condition whose symptoms are extinguished by a natural, yet controversial, drug which he may not be able to possess legally until 2012.

Unfortunately for 23-year-old Tim DaGiau, an epileptic who has suffered from violent seizures since he was 10, that drug is marijuana and state law prohibits him from purchasing, possessing or using it while in New Jersey.

DaGiau spent a decade enduring every medical procedure and medication Western medicine had to offer. He tried 12 different medications and underwent two brain surgeries. Both avenues, he said, ended in failure and the last surgery left DaGiau paralyzed on his left side for several months.

It was not until his senior year in high school, as an 18-year-old, that he tried to treat his condition utilizing marijuana, a method which he used regularly while attending college in a state which granted medical marijuana use.

"My seizure patterns diminished to nearly zero - a reduction from about 15 per month - and I turned around my life," he said. "The absence of social anxiety allowed for me to become heavily involved and assertive."

Sixteen states have legalized the use of medical cannabis and,



PHOTO COURTESY OF TIM DAGIAU

Tim DaGiau, who suffers from epilepsy, said marijuana was the only medication that was able to stop his numerous seizures while attending university in Colorado. Now that he's back in New Jersey, where marijuana for medical use is not legal, his seizures have returned.

although it remains a hot-button issue around the country, it is not yet available to New Jersey patients, like DaGiau, who say they benefit greatly from its use. However, according to recent reports, it could be some time, likely 2012, before prescriptions are honored.

Shortly before former Gov. Jon

SEE DRUG, PAGE 4

W14: Reporting, Writing & Illustration –
Environmental/Health & Science Writing

Second Place, Weekly over 6,500

Clifton Journal

"Medical Marijuana Out of Reach
for City Man with Epilepsy"

Tony Gicas

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS MONTH



PHOTO COURTESY/JOHN HUGHES

Alzheimer's disease affects more than just the patient; families and caregivers are also severely affected by the disease. Rutherford resident John Hughes' father, Ray, was recently diagnosed with Alzheimer's. He now needs round-the-clock care by the family and caregivers. Ray Hughes (right) is shown with John's brother Rick.

It takes a village to care for Alzheimer's patients

BY KELLY NICHOLAIDES
Staff Writer

Caring for Alzheimer's patients takes a team — spouses, children and private nurses share in the round-the-clock care the patient needs. Alzheimer's takes its toll on the patient, as well as the caregivers, as the disease progressively steals the patient's memories and ability to care for themselves.

"They eventually become like a child...they need more frequent directions, help with identifying and eating meals and going to the toilet," says Sparkle Indaraj, director of Nursing at Good Shepherd Adult Medical Daycare in Lyndhurst, where approximately 40 Alzheimer's and dementia patients are part of the facility's 100 daily patients. "We also help them maintain a sense of dignity. We have a beauty parlor in the facility, and we focus on nutrition, hydration, toileting, safety, comfort and orienting patients into their environment."

"We provide transportation to and from the home. If they don't have family, we provide services like taking them food shopping, monitoring medications, day trips and activities. [Our services] are therapeutic," adds administrator Jacqueline Escalante.

There is no cure for Alzheimer's—a disease that steals one's memories

and slowly renders them unable to care for themselves. According to the Alzheimer's Association, a worldwide research effort is underway to find new treatments. Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia, a general term used to describe various diseases and conditions that damage brain cells. Although there is no cure, slowing the disease progression is possible through medication.

Because people are living longer, there's a dramatic increase in Alzheimer's disease, according to Dr. David Isralowitz in Rutherford. The biggest issue is figuring out when the condition is mild cognitive impairment as opposed to early Alzheimer's.

"The key is to find a population of people and start drug trials in earlier stages of the disease, before extensive damage to the brain occurs," Isralowitz says, noting that trials on advanced cases have been very poor. "Huge studies are being done on what is normal aging and memory loss and what is cognitive impairment. It's more than forgetting where you left your keys...When can we predict who will develop Alzheimer's so we can do trials and try to stop the disease from occurring?"

Mild cognitive impairment may represent early Alzheimer's, if left untreated. Treatments available follow the rule of one thirds: one third

get help, one third are stable and one third get no benefit from medicines. Prevention is key, because reversing the disease is impossible, he explains. The key to preventing mild cognitive impairment from developing into Alzheimer's is keeping the mind active, he notes.

In advanced cases, it becomes the disease of two people: the caregiver and the patient.

"The caregiver can become a patient who needs help due to exhaustion," Isralowitz says, adding that the caregiver is usually an elderly spouse, son or daughter.

Seeing his father, Ray Hughes, 84, diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in the beginning of the year, Rutherford resident John Hughes has seen the disease slowly steal his father's memories.

"Dad lived alone so we think he was able to conceal his early symptoms," John says. "He first showed signs of the disease over the past two years. He became more and more forgetful and we began to get reports from his neighbors of late night wanderings. Then hallucinations began and we were forced to take away his car keys for his safety and the safety of others."

Today, Ray Hughes lives in a geriatric dementia ward of a psychiatric hospital. "He is unable to care for

SEE ALZHEIMER PAGE A4

W14: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Environmental/Health & Science Writing

First Place, Weekly over 6,500

South Bergenite

“It Takes a Village to Care for Alzheimer’s Patients”

Kelly Nicholaides

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION



Better Newspaper Contest 2011

**W15: Reporting, Writing &
Illustration –
Business & Economic
Writing**

NJPA Awards

W15: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Business & Economic Writing

ECONOMY

Finance workers feeling the heat

BY KELLY EBBELS
Staff Writer

With the financial markets rocking and reeling, it has been a stressful couple of weeks for Ridgewood residents who work in finance.

"To see that much wealth lost in a week, you can see that on people. It's not pleasant," said Dave Ferrara, who works at a hedge fund in midtown Manhattan, as he waited for the train at the Ridgewood platform Wednesday morning. "You see some glummer faces. People are definitely not as happy as they were two weeks ago."

The markets have weakened over the past weeks as bad news has triggered renewed worry among investors. In late July, during the debt ceiling crisis in Congress, news was released about the

'This [week] was a real shock wave, as far as financially, for retirement funds, for everybody.'

Peter Stoehr
Ridgewood commuter
who works in finance

lackluster recovery this year: While economists had predicted a better forecast, growth in the first quarter of 2011 was only 1.3 percent.

That, combined with a clearer picture of the weakening of major European countries, a reduction of the United States' credit rating, and a realization that the Federal Reserve Bank has few cards left

See **ECONOMY**, page A6

Third Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Ridgewood News

"Finance Workers Feeling the Heat"

Kelly Ebbels

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W15: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Business & Economic Writing

Second Place, Weekly under 6,500

Glen Ridge Voice

"Faring Well?"

Faring well?

Commuters begin paying charge to ride community shuttle

BY ERIN ROLL
of Glen Ridge Voice

Tickets...tickets, please.
Local jitney passengers pulled out their monthly passes and ticket books for the first time Monday, as community shuttle fares officially debuted during the morning rush.

The fares were supposed to start Feb. 1, but a one-week grace period allowed riders time to adjust to the new system. The start date was also delayed by recent winter storms.

Glen Ridge announced last month it would begin charging fares to utilize the jitney. The service had operated free of charge

ever since its debut nearly a decade ago.

Three payment options are available: a \$25 monthly pass, a \$20 book of one-trip tickets or a \$3 on-board cash fare.

The borough reports 160 monthly passes sold as of Monday morning, according to Michael Rohal, borough administrator.

The number of ticket books and/or individual tickets sold to date is not yet known, he said.

Notices were posted at the Ridgewood Avenue station Monday reminding commuters of dates/times to purchase tickets and passes.

SEE SHUTTLE, PAGE 3

Erin Roll

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W15: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Business & Economic Writing

CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

Signs of revival downtown

BY KELLY EBBELS
Staff Writer

Two old friends were strolling down East Ridgewood Avenue last month, shopping bags in hand. They had just purchased sneakers, and before heading to grab lunch, they planned to go around the corner to get another pair of shoes repaired.

The women hailed from Englewood, where their own athletic shoe store had recently closed down. They enjoyed shopping in Ridgewood immensely, they said, from the flower plantings to the friendliness of people to the diversity of stores. "I see all these interesting places here," said Betty Frank. "It all looks so well pulled together."

Yes, they noticed some empty storefronts. "But Englewood has that too," said Louise Schwartz.

Ridgewood's Central Business District (CBD) may not be at the top of its game, but in examining local rents, sales and vacancy rates, it seems things could be worse. Last winter, the downtown was suffering, with more than 40 empty storefronts; this year, the number has inched toward 30 - with many of those properties now spoken for as soon-to-open new establishments.

Some notable names - Artventure and Cardventure, Bernard's Sporting Goods and Happy Tuesday - have closed. Lisa Williamson, co-owner of Happy Tuesday, said it was simply time to move on; they had tried to get out of their lease last year, but were roped in until June.

"It's just too difficult. Foot traffic is not what it was years ago, and the bills are just too high," Williamson said. "We're done."

Still, moving in has been a fresh crop of brave new owners trying to distinguish themselves - an American tavern, a French patisserie, a burrito joint, a tailor, a gown boutique - while other established businesses, such as Ridgewood Coffee Company, now under new ownership, and Fratelli, now rebranded as Osteria La Fiamma, have invested in major facelifts. Businesses are reporting that sales have nosed upward since last year; new owners said that working with Village Hall on opening shop has been



MARION BROWN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Peggy DePaola, one of the first customers at the new House of DeCicco salon, receives a hair treatment by owner Louis DeCicco on Wednesday. Assistant Paula Phelan looks on. Below, shoppers on Ridgewood Avenue are undeterred by heat wave.

surprisingly easy; and Ridgewood's restaurants are bustling in the evenings, at least on the weekends.

"People that drive by here must think this place is a little enclave," said Walter Boyer, co-owner of Bookends and chair of the retail committee for the Chamber of Commerce. Slowly, it seems that downtown is beginning to crawl back to life.

Rents are equalizing

In the quest to fill empty storefronts, a key to fixing the picture in the CBD was adjusting rents. According to real estate agents and business officials, the numbers have finally begun to fall.

Bill Gilson, a longtime real estate agent in the village whose company owns many downtown storefronts, said that, on the whole, Ridgewood's rents have come down between 20 and 25 percent - from an average of about \$45 per square foot to \$35 per square foot. For the average 1,200 square foot storefront, it equals about \$5,500 in monthly rent.

There was initial hesitation, he said, since the economy tends to fluctuate, and many landlords had



hoped things would bounce back sooner - hence the dismal picture in 2009 to 2010. "They had weathered the storm before, and many of them were holding out," he said. But most landlords, he estimated, have now realized a more permanent shift has taken place.

"The landlords have really internalized the economy," Gilson said.

Rent reductions are not the case across the board, and there are still storefronts that have been empty for years. Tom Hillmann,

owner of Hillmann Electric and president of the Ridgewood Chamber of Commerce, said that some landlords - many who live away from town, or who are multi-generational owners - still aren't budging.

"The smart landlords have compensated with rate reductions," Hillmann said. "But there are some, especially the ones who live out of the area, that seem to have lost touch with things. ... I don't understand why they don't understand what's happening."

Some have argued that Village Hall must have a heavier hand in correcting the situation. Tony Damiano, owner of Mango Jam and chair of the Ridgewood Guild, said he would favor a town ordinance requiring that any landlord whose storefront is vacant for longer than a year must either reduce rent or pay a fine.

Mayor Keith Killian said such a plan "would have some legal challenges to it."

"If the landlord maintains the property and meets all the ordinances, I don't think the government can tell him what to do with his property in terms of lowering the amount of rent he charges," he said.

See DOWNTOWN, page A4

First Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Ridgewood News

"Signs of Revival Downtown"

Kelly Ebbels

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W15: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Business & Economic Writing

HO-HO-KUS

Tasti D-Lite store expected to open in September

Borough attorney gives approval; no ordinance against franchises

BY KAREN KLEIMANN
OF TOWN JOURNAL

A new tenant is moving into Ho-Ho-Kus and bringing warm-weather frozen treats to residents.

Tasti D-Lite, a New York-based frozen dessert franchise, is opening shop at 622 N. Maple Avenue in the vacated store next to the Ho-Ho-Kus Pharmacy.

Vincent Errigo and Donna Sabatini bought the franchise and went to the Planning Board on April 14 to provide information about the business, however, the board received an objection from a resident stating that there was an ordinance prohibiting franchises in Ho-Ho-Kus, said Planning Board Chair John Hanson.

He added that Borough Attorney Dave Bole investigated and found the "objection didn't fit with the ordinance." Clarifying that there was no ordinance prohibiting franchises, Hanson provided the example of Bank of America and a few others that might be considered franchises.

The applicants had to present further testimony and answer additional questions about their

business on May 5 before the Planning Board unanimously approved the new business.

"We found that the applicant fits the guidelines for the ordinance, providing parking for employees," Hanson said. "It's a dairy operation and is considered an acceptable business."

The Ridgewood couple were officially approved as franchise owners by the corporate Tasti D-Lite and are working to put the store together for a "September opening target," Errigo said.

The hours are expected to be 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week, he said.

"The store hasn't been touched yet ... but we're taking steps in the right direction," Errigo said.

The space is about 900 square feet, and it will have tabletops and a counter on the inside, benches outside and self-serve style stations where patrons can get their own frozen dessert with toppings, he said.

The franchisers still need to be certified in food handling; they will be working with the health department to make sure everything is up-to-date with codes, and with PSE&G to evaluate lighting and energy needs.

"We have contractors bidding on the store to get everything started," Errigo said.

Before becoming a franchise owner, Errigo worked in a special firm as a computer technician.

After he left, he said "I thought it would be nice to go into business for myself."

While he and Sabatini lived in New York City, they used to stop in the store, and the idea to open a franchise stuck.

Tasti D-Lite was founded in 1987 on the Upper East Side of New York by a woman hoping to create a frozen dessert that was healthy without excess calories, fat and carbohydrates, according to information provided by the company.

Later, the store was sold by independent wholesalers, which launched the frozen dessert brand into the eyes of celebrities and health-conscious individuals who enjoyed the "guilt-free" dessert.

Since 2008, under new ownership, Tasti D-Lite launched a franchise model, with 50 stores



MARION BROWN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ridgewood residents Vincent Errigo and Donna Sabatini are expected to open their Tasti D-Lite frozen dessert franchise at 622 N. Maple Avenue in the vacated store next to the Ho-Ho-Kus Pharmacy sometime this September. The store will offer a variety of different flavors everyday, as well as coffee and tea drinks, fruit smoothies and other frozen desserts. Above, the open storefront soon to be the home of the Ho-Ho-Kus franchise of Tasti D-Lite.

open across the country and internationally, according to information provided by a representative of Tasti D-Lite.

The motto for all the stores is "a good for you frozen dessert," Errigo said. "It's not ice cream and it's not yogurt, but it is low in calories, fat, sugar and carbohydrates. It's very healthy compared to other shops."

He said that when he and Sabatini explored areas in Bergen County, he thought, "there's no better place to have it - as people [here] are very health-conscious."

"Without a doubt, this area needs this kind of place," he said.

Mayor Tom Hunderfuss said the new store is just "one more piece to add in developing the downtown" and the "healthier dessert will provide some variety" as the borough doesn't want "too many

of the same things ... and this will certainly add to some choices."

Errigo said that Tasti D-Lite makes more than 100 flavors, and a small cup will be about 1.5 grams of fat, 14 carbohydrates and between 70 and 100 calories.

He said the shop will have vanilla and chocolate flavors and a variety of different flavors per day.

Errigo said there will also be coffee and tea drinks, fruit smoothies, frozen desserts made available for cones or cups, shakes, cakes and pies - all made from Tasti D-Lite dessert products.

"I was one of those people who thought, 'how good could this really be?' but it really is that good, otherwise I wouldn't be putting my money into it," he said.

"I'm a true believer," that Ho-

Ho-Kus won't be dissatisfied, Errigo said, and with "100 flavors, there's a lot of choice."

Tasti D-Lite will also have available on the main website, "flavor alerts" where a text message or e-mail will be sent when a "favorite flavor" is available at a patron's nearby Tasti D-Lite, Errigo said.

"We have no reservations about this franchise," Chamber of Commerce President Andrew Ripps previously told *Town Journal*. "There's a vacant spot that's now filled with a viable and good feature. We hope there will be more commercial areas coming into Ho-Ho-Kus."

He added that "though it's a franchise, it is homegrown, and I think the owners will bring in some local character."

kleinmann@northjersey.com

Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

Town Journal

"Tasti D-Lite Store Expected to Open in September"

Karen Kleimann

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

'I was one of those people who thought, 'how good could this really be?' but it really is that good, otherwise I wouldn't be putting my money into it. I'm a true believer ... with 100 flavors, there's a lot of choice.'

VINCENT ERRIGO

CO-OWNER OF THE NEW TASTI D-LITE
FROZEN DESSERT FRANCHISE
IN HO-HO-KUS

W15: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Business & Economic Writing

Second Place, Weekly over 6,500

Town Journal

"Pearson Gone in 2014"

John Clyde

UPPER SADDLE RIVER

Pearson gone in 2014 1,200 jobs to leave borough

BY JOHN CLYDE
OF TOWN JOURNAL

Pearson Education announced on Sept. 19 that it will relocate its entire Upper Saddle River workforce of 1,200 in 2014. Hoboken and New York City lured the textbook publishing company, which is the borough's largest business, with tax incentives.

The Mack-Cali Realty Corporation property that Pearson leases at 1 Lake St. generates about \$876,000 in taxes, which is slightly less than 2 percent of the borough's \$44.5 million in tax rev-

enues, according to Gene Lepore, the borough's tax collector.

The Edison-based realtor would continue to pay property taxes on the site if it was vacant after Pearson's lease expires in 2014, Borough Administrator Ted Preusch said.

But the property's assessed value could be impacted if Mack-Cali does not find new tenants.

"Fortunately, the building is very desirable, located in a prime location, with easy access to major highways and offers two separate

SEE PEARSON, PAGE 13

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STAFF PHOTO BY JOE CAMPOREALE

An employee at Sparkie's Brick Oven Pizzeria rings up two customers on Oct. 20 in Closter. Economists say the recession is over, but small business owners in Closter don't necessarily share that same statement.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY

On the road to prosperity?

While recession may be over, small businesses still hurting

BY STEPHANIE NODA
Staff Writer

The recession is long over, economists say. According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, the recession that lasted 18 months officially ended in June 2009. The past two years have been considered a post-recession era.

So is the recession truly over? Not likely, says a community of small business owners in the downtown area of Closter.

"I don't agree that it's over," said Scott Hill, owner and manager of Scott Hill Tattoo. "I have experience, at least in my own field, knowing what brisk sales and slow sales are within the industry. It's definitely slow."

Business owners of downtown Closter have seen the changes that the community has faced during the hard economic times. Jim Vlantec, owner of a florist shop

SURVIVING THE RECESSION
A look at how downtowns are doing

named The Empty Vase, has run his store for eleven years. During his long time in the floral business, he has seen a huge change since he started his business back in 2000.

"We see a difference in the area since I've opened," said Vlantec. "I can see that there are a lot of people out of work."

Esther Chung has seen the decline of shoppers in downtown Closter firsthand. Chung, an employee of a gift shop called Morning Glory, remembers the days when the parking lot near to the shop was full of cars; now, a few mere stragglers fill the spots.

"In this parking lot, there wasn't space at all before," said Chung. "This was about two years ago. Now I feel like I see a lot of spaces."

Specialty stores, such as Morning Glory and Scott Hill Tattoo, have it harder during this "post-recession" era, since their products are not amenities that are necessary to survive through the day. Customers are not willing to spend as much money as they have in the past, which even includes budgeting special events in their lives.

"Last year, we had some goody bags for birthday parties," said Chung. "But less people are having

a birthday parties at all."

Scott Hill has noticed a decline in customers above the age of 30 within the tattoo industry. Hill attributed this decline toward customers figuring out what they truly need to survive on a day-to-day basis.

"There's definitely a line in tattoos about spending a couple hundred dollars for a tattoo," said Hill. "You have to walk that line of whether or not you're going to eat, pay for your gasoline, pay for your children, and all the other things that are really important in life, or get a tattoo."

Despite the decline in the over 30 crowd, Hill has also found that business from the younger generation, such as people their 20s, have actually turned a successful profit during the recession.

"Tattoo in general are a really good business for when the economy is not so good," said Hill. "It's the kind of business where people spend their money on a purchase that is going to last the rest of their life."

Although stores in Closter agree that the economy has still not recovered from the recession, it is hard to say whether sales have been going up or down. Summer is traditionally a slow season for businesses; the winter season is the true season for shoppers, which will provide a better judge of how many consumers are still out buying products.

SEE ECONOMIC, PAGE 9

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W15: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Business & Economic Writing

First Place, Weekly over 6,500

Northern Valley Suburbanite

- "On the Road to Prosperity?"
- "Store Owners Say It Is More Than Economy Stalling Growth"
- "Some Business Owners Say It Could Be 5 Years Before Sales Return to Previous Levels"
- "Banking on a New Strip Mall"

Stephanie Noda





Better Newspaper Contest 2011

**W16: Reporting, Writing &
Illustration –
Education Writing**

NJPA Awards

W16: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Education Writing

Third Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Item of Millburn and Short Hills

SCHOOLS

Millburn cited in federal fraud investigation

Sports equipment company execs allegedly billed districts for safety services not provided

By Andrea Hughes
of The Item

Millburn has been named as one of 26 public school districts involved in a multi-year fraud scheme by Circle System Group, Inc., a company that provided sports gear and recreational services to the district in the past. Two former executives of Circle System were arrested May 11 and charged with fraud in an indictment signed by U.S. Attorney Paul J. Fishman. They surrendered to the FBI and U.S. Department of

Education Office of Attorney General before appearing in federal court last week. Mitchell Kurlander, former chief financial officer of the company, and "de facto" Chief Executive Officer Alan Aboufian, Kurlander's father-in-law, are charged with one count of mail and wire fraud conspiracy. Kurlander is also charged with nine substantive counts of mail fraud and 12 additional counts of wire fraud, according to a press release from the U.S. Department of Justice. In addition to retaining more

than \$800,000 through duplicate payments, the indictment alleges that the company made gifts to athletic directors and coaches and made up for the cost by charging for goods or services the schools never received. The indictment alleges a lawsuit for the Millburn schools' athletic director's son was "fraudulently rescinded." The bar was billed as new football helmets that were not provided, although the district was charged \$200. Three Circle prior quotes went to Millburn, two in May and June

of 2006 and the other in October 2006, are also cited in the indictment as evidence for three of the 22 counts of mail and wire fraud the officials face. Each count carries a 20-year maximum prison term and a \$250,000 fine for the former Circle executives. "In some instances, the school athletic officials were not aware that the items were being fraudulently billed to their schools as other products or services," while in other instances, these officials were aware that this was happen-

ing," the indictment states. In some instances athletic officials paid for the items themselves in special "P" accounts and the costs were later recognized fraudulently, according to federal officials. Millburn Director of Athletics Tom D'Alessio told The Item of Millburn and Short Hills he has no comment at this time. Superintendent of Schools James Crisfield reviewed the indictment last week. "It seems to be a very serious matter," he said. Crisfield

added that he will confer with the school district's attorneys to determine next steps. He confirmed that the district had provided documents to federal officials as part of their ongoing investigation. Board of Education President Michael Birsberg said The Item that the board had been looking into the issue for a couple of years, but was not provided with proof of the district's involvement until the indictment was unveiled. SEE INVESTIGATION, PAGE A1

"Millburn Cited in Federal Fraud Investigation"

"Residents Support D'Alessio"

"Athletics Director Supporters Speak Out at Meeting"

Andrea Hughes

W16: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Education Writing

SCHOOLS

Principal is getting to know GRHS

BY RICHARD DE SANTA
Staff Writer

In an era when incoming executives are often hard-charging "change agents" eager to put their stamp on things in a hurry, John Arlotta embodies a more thoughtful approach to a new assignment.

In his first weeks as new principal of Glen Rock High School, Arlotta has been doing a lot of listening and learning, getting a handle on what makes the school tick and meeting as many teachers, staffers and even students as possible in July.

Amid that process, he took time out for a July 20 interview with the *Glen Rock Gazette*, also attended by School Superintendent David Verducci, in Arlotta's office just off a Hamilton Avenue lobby abuzz with renovation work.

Arlotta is a former mathematics teacher who considers himself an educator first and foremost, despite the administrative progression that culminated in his most recent post as assistant principal of academic affairs at Cranford High School since 2004.

Noting that it's easy in his role to get bogged down in the details of his office, and hence distanced from the daily lives of students and teachers, Arlotta makes a concerted effort to avoid that, and is determined to spend ample time speaking with faculty members and also in classrooms as the 2011-12 school year unfolds.

"I've never forgotten what it was like to be a student, and even as a principal, I still see myself primarily as a teacher," he said. "While staying on top of the additional responsibilities, you really have to guard against becoming isolated, and irrelevant to what students are doing and thinking, and what teachers are trying to accomplish."

He also spoke of his interest in mentoring new teachers, and helping them through the periods of difficulty and self doubt that all experience.

SEE PRINCIPAL, PAGE 13

Second Place, Weekly under 6,500

Glen Rock Gazette

"Principal Is Getting to Know GRHS"

Richard DeSanta

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W16: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Education Writing

First Place, Weekly under 6,500

Ramsey Suburban News

“Home Economics, Shop Change with the Times”

Marsha Stoltz



CHRIS PETERS/FILE PHOTO



FILE PHOTO

From left, a child development class at Waldwick High School in progress; students at Eric S. Smith School in Ramsey in a 1968 home economics class; a Mahwah High School student sanding the arms of a chair he is building.



PHOTO BY MARION BROWN

SPECIAL REPORT

‘Home economics,’ ‘shop’ change with the times

BY MARSHA STOLTZ
Of Suburban News

None of the students were exactly following instructions, but then again, none of the teachers were insisting that they do so.

John Facio's applied technology class assignment seemed straightforward: assemble a vehicle propelled by a mousetrap. Yet none of the cars at the five work stations at Indian Hills High School in Oakland looked like the diagram. One student was trying to figure out how to substitute armored-tank treads for the CD wheels. Joey and Mike said they were trying to do "something different" but weren't sure how to make the rear axle wider than the front's

and still be able to attach the wooden dowels to the side of the trap.

"They don't get an A just for doing it perfectly," Facio explained as he walked among the groups of students, observing and offering advice only when asked. "They get a good grade if they can analyze what they did wrong, why the car doesn't work, and how to fix it."

In Tom Deangelis' foods class at Ramsey High School, one team had not heard his

What used to be simple electives are now complex "practicums" in which students are challenged to apply what they've learned in academic classes to practical situations.

instruction to divide their health bar recipe in half and were looking unhappily at their baking pan overflowing with ingredients.

"OK, what are your options?" Deangelis prompted. "You've doubled the recipe. So what adjustment do you make? Baking time? Different-sized pan? Bake in two batches?"

Welcome to the new world of what were formerly known as "home economics" and "shop."

What used to be simple electives are now complex "practicums" in which students are challenged to apply what they've learned in academic classes to practical situations.

And along with a change in focus has come a change in terminology. Home economics courses, for example, now have names like "life skills," "lifespan design" and "culinary arts," while industrial arts has a more technological bent.

Subject matter has changed, as well. Ramapo High School in Franklin Lakes and sister school Indian Hills offer not only cooking and baking, but global, gourmet and contemporary food courses.

SEE CHANGE, PAGE 2

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

Skipping breakfast imperils many students

With this article, The Times debuts a series on food- and nutrition-related issues confronting Montclair students and schools.

BY GEORGE WIRT
OF THE MONTCLAIR TIMES

Nutritionist Jodi Godfrey shakes her head whenever she thinks about it.

A growing number of American youngsters start their day in school without what most experts agree is the most important meal of the day: breakfast.

"It's like having a car with no gas in it," Godfrey explained. "You can push it down hill, but that doesn't mean that it is actually working."

For Godfrey, the importance of a good breakfast comes from its very name.

"After 8 hours of sleeping, you're breaking a fast," Godfrey explained. "Your body needs fuel. Without fuel, it's just not going to function properly ... From our necks down, our bodies can break down muscle and fats. But our brain can't do that. It has to be fueled by food.

"Without breakfast, your brain isn't on."

Godfrey is part of a throng of parents, school activists and educators who are concerned that the performance of too many Montclair students is adversely affected by empty stomachs, or stomachs filled with the wrong kinds of food and drink.

Without breakfast, Godfrey said, the brain won't have the capacity to remember things, to recall facts or to store information.

Groups such as the Newark-based Advocates for Children of New Jersey argue that children who have a good breakfast score higher on standardized tests and make fewer trips to the school nurse.

ACNJ is so concerned about the issue that last month it launched the "Food for Thought School Breakfast Campaign" to expand "innovative approaches" to get more youngsters to eat solid meals before they start school.

"A good breakfast is critical to academic success," said Watchung School Principal Guy Whitlock.

"We're not talking about a can-

FOOD • A3

W16: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Education Writing

Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

The Montclair Times

"Food for Thought: Skipping Breakfast Imperils Many Students"

"Free Lunch Day a Big Hit at MHS"

"Chef Puts Veggies Center Stage"

"Indeed, It's True: Montclair Kids Need Exercise, Too"

George Wirt

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W16: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Education Writing

Second Place, Weekly over 6,500

Sea Isle board to state: Shut our school district

By MARY RUDLOFF
Sentinel staff

SEA ISLE CITY – The Sea Isle City board of education is asking the state commissioner of education to close the Sea Isle City school and send all the students to Ocean City. On Feb. 15, the board voted 7 to 1

to send a letter to the commissioner, asking the state to force the financially tapped out district to close its school.

At present, fourth graders through high school students attend Ocean City schools.

School Business Administrator Tom Grossi – who holds the position

for both Ocean City and Sea Isle City, announced on Feb. 15 that Sea Isle City will not have the funds to open the school's doors in September 2012.

A forced consolidation with Ocean City, ordered by the state, is the only way to solve the problem, Grossi said.

Sea Isle school solicitor Mark Toscano explained that, while the two school districts could voluntarily agree to send all Sea Isle City students to Ocean City, the major stumbling block is Sea Isle City's tenured teachers.

If the two districts voluntarily merge, Ocean City would be legally required to take on all of Sea Isle City's tenured teachers. It is an expense that, as the subject was discussed over the past three years or more, Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Taylor has repeatedly explained Ocean City school district cannot afford.

If the state orders the consolidation, the state would have the option negate that requirement.

"The effect of an (state) ordered consolidation could eliminate the requirement of Ocean City to take the tenured staff," Toscano said late last week. "If the consolidation is ordered, Ocean City does not have to

Please see Shut Down, page A2

School board says district going broke

By MARY RUDLOFF
Sentinel staff

SEA ISLE CITY – The Sea Isle City Board of Education voted Feb. 15 against going for broke – literally.

The school board members acknowledged the reality that, by the end of the 2011-12 school year, the district will no longer have the money to keep the Park Road school open.

School Business Administrator Tom Grossi said that, in preparing for the 2011-12 school budget,

review of surplus funds, state aid and the 2 percent cap on budget increases made the dire situation clear.

"There is no way, we believe, the school can run for the 2012 school year with the funds the district will have," Grossi said.

At present the school educates preschool through third grade students, with a total enrollment of about 50 children at most. From fourth grade on, students attend Ocean City's schools.

Please see Broke, page A2

Ocean City Sentinel

"Sea Isle Board to State: Shut Our School"

"Sea Isle Crowd Tells Board Not to Close School"

"Request to Close Winding Way Through State"

"Sea Isle President: Writing on Wall"

"Sea Isle Wonders: Is State Playing Politics"

"Sea Isle: No Response"

Mary Rudloff

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W16: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Education Writing

First Place, Weekly over 6,500

Union County Local Source

'Viral' comments anger public

Union teacher's Facebook remarks set off firestorm of backlash, national coverage

By Cheryl Hehl
Staff Writer

UNION — The high school is investigating claims that special education teacher Vicki Knox posted disparaging comments about homosexuality on her public Facebook page.

Last week Knox, 49, of Union, was escorted off school property until the district can figure out whether the teacher was in violation of any school policies.

One thing is certain: The issue of what Knox did is multi-faceted, involving a myriad of legalities, including whether Knox was protected under the First Amendment.

On the other hand, there is the issue of whether, as a teacher, Knox had an obligation to keep her comments to a private Facebook page where only her "friends" could read her opinions, and not students, parents and members of the community at large.

It did not take long for news of the Facebook incident to go viral. In fact, within a day the media in general, including radio, television and the internet had provided their spin on the story. But the facts in the story remained the same.

It began when the high school put up a poster recognizing Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender His-

tory month. According to Knox's Facebook page, the teacher strongly objected to the poster, commenting that "homosexuality is a perverted spirit that has existed from the beginning of creation."

"The display should not be in the high school. UHS is not the setting to promote, encourage, support and foster homosexuality," she said, among other remarks, some of which *LocalSource* chose not to print.

The Facebook thread went on for dozens of pages, with Knox defending her stance, saying that homosexuality is a "sin that breeds like cancer."

In turn, because the teacher's Facebook page is not private, but rather one where anyone can respond to her comments, a heated exchange ensued with those who objected to her view on the subject.

Over the weekend, a parent who saw the thread contacted an attorney, John Paragano, who's practice is located in Union. Paragano is a former township committee member in Union.

Paragano said Thursday that he immediately pulled up the Facebook page and copied more than 30 pages of comments before the page was shut down. After that, he sent a letter to School Superintendent Patrick



Union High School has been the center of spreading controversy in the wake of a teacher's disparaging remarks on Facebook aimed at homosexuals.

Martin to alert him of the situation.

"It has come to my attention that a Union Township Public School teacher has made public comments regarding her disdain of homosexuals, lesbians and transgender persons," Paragano said in the letter.

He points out that although the first Amendment protects speech and the right of individuals to express their opinion "however hateful," he suggested with the current environment of bullying in and
See TEACHER'S, Page 3

"'Viral' Comments Anger Public"

"Protesters Face(book) Off at Union High"

Cheryl Hehl

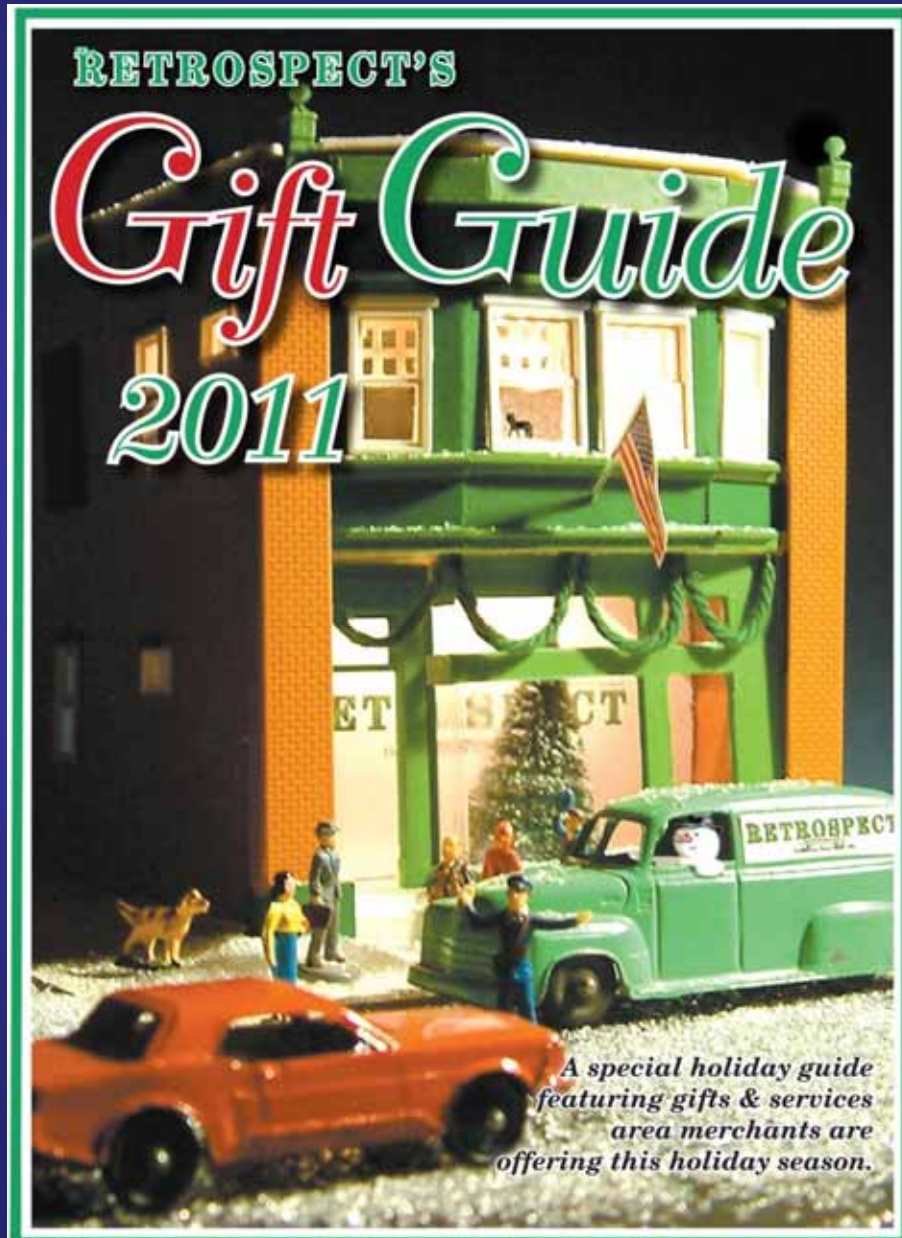


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NJPA Awards

W17: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Graphics & Illustration



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The Retrospect

“Plasticville Publishing”

Mark Zeigler

NJPA
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W17: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Graphics & Illustration



Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

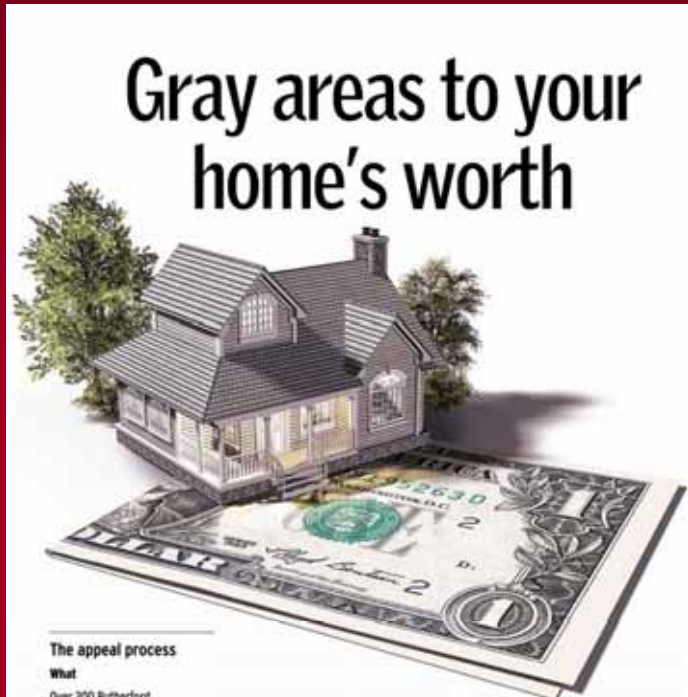
New Jersey Jewish News

“Larry David” (illustration)
“Contrary to Type” (story)

Dayna Nadel

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W17: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Graphics & Illustration



Gray areas to your home's worth

The appeal process

What

Over 300 Rutherford homeowners are appealing their home assessments this year in hope of lowering property taxes.

The argument

Rutherford homes were assessed at the height of the market in 2006. Homes have dropped 20 percent in price according to recent sales. Tax appeal arguments are based on recent home sales, not taxes.

The market

Out of 225 Rutherford homes up for sale in July 2010, 87 were foreclosures. Foreclosures can't be used to argue tax appeals.

What's at stake

Rutherford stands to lose hundreds of thousands in tax revenue if residents win. The overall value of the town will also drop.

What's next

Residents will hear from the county within 60 days. If homeowners don't like the result, they can appeal the town.

In today's market, the formula is not so simple

BY DANIEL O'KEEFE
Staff Writer

Over 300 Rutherfordians were in Hackensack over the last two weeks appealing the assessments on their homes hoping to lower their taxes. Many walked away unhappy with the outcomes as the assessor fought off many appeals, dismissing many residents' evidence as unconvincing.

"It's nerve-wracking," said one woman named Jean as she sat outside with dozens waiting their turn. It was her first time appealing her taxes and she's trying to get her assessment reduced by 20 percent. After two and a half hours she and more than 60 other people were still waiting in the hall.

Tax appeals are up all over southern Bergen County this year, but Rutherford leads the pack with over 300 residential appeals on the 6,930 households in the borough. The numbers climbed so high that Denis McGuire, the newly appointed tax assessor in Rutherford who has also worked in Lyndhurst, North Arlington and East Rutherford, recommended the council hire an additional firm to handle this year's case load.

Rutherford underwent a revaluation in 2006 at the height of the real estate bubble. The value of the average assessed home shot up from \$185,000 before the revaluation to \$448,000 afterwards. Coupled with steep tax increases during those same years many residents, particularly the owners of older and smaller homes, saw a dramatic

increase in their taxes. According to Zillow.com, homes in Rutherford are now selling for more than 20 percent less than they did in 2006. Tax appeal arguments are based on sales, not taxes.

McGuire, Rutherford special tax council Jim McCarthy, Bergen County Board of Taxation Commissioner Paul T. Fuder and a representative from Realty Appraisal, the additional firm Rutherford hired, were all in the hearing room on Wednesday, July 20.

One woman who has seen her taxes double since she bought her home in 2003 accepted a deal from the town to lower the assessment of her home from \$538,000 to \$500,000.

"I took the offer because we could only see comps [comparable sales] dated to

SEE APPEAL, PAGE A4

Second Place, Weekly over 6,500

South Bergenite

"Gray Area to Your Home's Worth"

Jaimie Julia Winters

NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W17: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Graphics & Illustration

2011

was heavily defined by the Bay Weather Tractor accident in January. The tractor ran on the gas pipe and the still burning fuel tank caused the only fatalities, but many more in the Bay Weather area.

Residents never got a response this year from the weather. It started in January when everyone was still digging out from the 2010 Christmas blizzard. Snowmelt after snowmelt led the area well into March.

In August, the area was shaken by an earthquake and just a week later, Hurricane Irene slammed the East Coast and North Jersey. In October, while residents were still coping with the damage left in the wake of Irene, a historic 5.0-magnitude quake struck and was felt across the area.

From being in debt with new tax law signs, taking big hits on tax appeals and having to deal with the state with tax, local towns struggled

financially this year. North Arlington narrowly avoided a state takeover while Lodi and other towns in most departments and Housing the New Jersey Homelessness Commission for not paying the state back taxes. Carlsbad cut staff in an effort to help taxpayers. East Rutherford and Newark officials say the same is about to happen. Some good news out of 2011. A new company moved to North Bergen, Hudson

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—Michael Lamendola
(Photo: Staff)

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY

500 digging out from nearly 30 inches of snow from the December 2010 blizzard. Residents are still coping with the damage left in the wake of Irene, a historic 5.0-magnitude quake struck and was felt across the area.



Lodi officials have been a proponent to construct a \$25 million middle school at Morris Hill off Route 166. The facility was to be funded by \$10 million in bonds from the school district and \$15 million from the town and both Lodi and the school district have approved the plan.

Lodi students start the year off by setting up and getting an "office school year." Parents had to purchase the year and some areas that only offer with a small Lodi office, but students were given access to the office.

FEBRUARY

A 10-foot length of the pipeline that had been the root of the crisis at the site of the pipeline. The pipeline was found under the weight of accumulated snow, and the pipeline was found to be in poor condition. The pipeline was found to be in poor condition.



The U.S. Census Bureau released statistics from the 2010 Census that show population growth in all four counties was lower than expected. Lodi had the lowest population growth from 2000. While there was a drop in all four, the figures showed stability for the area.

East Rutherford Chief Executive Officer gave the award of the year to the community. The award was given to the community for its efforts in rebuilding the area and supporting the area.



MARCH

East Rutherford is set to be a 100th anniversary. The town is celebrating its 100th anniversary and is planning to have a series of events to mark the occasion.



The Rutherford Board and Council announced a resolution that gives the Rutherford Board and Council the authority to issue bonds to fund the area's infrastructure.

Joe Krizan, chief executive of the Homeowners Regional Council of America, says that the area is a great place to live and work. He says that the area is a great place to live and work.



APRIL

A record number of the area's residents are still coping with the damage left in the wake of Irene, a historic 5.0-magnitude quake struck and was felt across the area.



Residents back to the area of the Bay Weather Tractor accident in January. The tractor ran on the gas pipe and the still burning fuel tank caused the only fatalities, but many more in the Bay Weather area.



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The Lodi Public Office is located in the heart of Lodi. The office is located in the heart of Lodi. The office is located in the heart of Lodi.



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First Place, Weekly over 6,500

South Bergenite

"The Year in Review"

Michael Lamendola

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION



Better Newspaper Contest 2011

**W18: Reporting, Writing &
Illustration –
Fresh Approach
to Routine Reporting**

NJPA Awards

CEDAR GROVE

Ordinary guy in a Pokemon world



ANDREW SEGEDIN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Competitors young and old packed Cedar Grove's TimeWarp Comics on Dec. 10 to compete in a Pokemon City Championship.

BY ANDREW SEGEDIN
Staff Writer

As a 24-year-old still (relatively) fresh out of college and living in the Greater New York City area, I like to think that I have a somewhat decent grasp of what is "in". Whether it's going to see the newest released movies or skimming through *Digg* looking for current events, I try to - at least at a basic level - appraise the inner twelve-year-old in us seeking to be perceived as "cool". I have succeeded in implementing some of the things my peers may see as "cool" into my daily life. For instance,

I have a diverse and extensive DVD collection ranging from 1990s teen dramas to Andy Warhol's take on master classics.

I could, theoretically, travel the Eastern seaboard using only my knowledge of public transit.

In the time it takes you to tie your shoes, I can lather, shave, and walk out the door with a six-ounce shadow.

However, after five minutes in Cedar Grove's TimeWarp Comics during the Pokemon City Championships on Dec. 10 - I quickly realized that, to many of the children in attendance, I was just like any other gorilla who couldn't tell the difference between a Magneton (the cannon-wielding Pokemon) and a Moltres (the marshmallow-wielding cooler). I was a relic.

The task of keeping current

with what's popular falls on the shoulders of TimeWarp's Jim Williamson who spent the day behind the register managing sales, his staff, guest judges, and the tournament's 100 participants - many of whom were barely tall enough to see over the counter.

TimeWarp, according to Williamson, first jumped on the Pokemon bandwagon when the games and cartoon came stateside in the late 1990s.

Though Pokemon, as a brand, hit a lull about eight years ago, TimeWarp kept buying merchandise.

In 2003, when Nintendo was looking for places to hold local tournaments, TimeWarp stepped in as a local venue and has hosted tournaments, as well as "leagues" in which local kids come to hang out and practice, ever since.

In years past, TimeWarp's tournaments have typically attracted 60-80 participants. With the day's turn out, Williamson and his staff were forced to move racks of merchandise to the front windows of the store - accommodating rows of tables for the day's competitors.

Walking through said rows of competitors, most of whom silent and focused in battle, I was jarred out of my trance when one child flipped over a card and shouted "Pewerstrike!"

"I just did 120 damage," cried another - which was, of course, all Greek to me.

Quickly and purposefully I bled to where a person of my

Poke-knowledge belonged - with the parents. Many of these parents traveled hours from upstate New York and out west in Pennsylvania so that their children could participate. As their children run over to update them on their current standing or to beg for one of the high-priced cards behind the counter, most of them shrugged - not knowing what to make of any of it.

I spent a few moments with my adopted peers, reveling in my own ignorance, before meeting John Conti - a Little Falls resident who was volunteering during the event as a Poke-Professor or, as the rest of us would call it, a judge.

Conti, like many of the other parents in attendance, didn't know the first thing about Pokemon up until a few years ago when he learned the game as a way to bond with his son. Now, he rattles off rules and statistics faster than I can write them all down. Most importantly, he says, the game has introduced his son to many friends.

"It's a social thing," he says. "It's a very nice group of kids."

The social aspect of the game is what attracted Brandon Saleh of Verona three years ago. A H.B. Whitehorse Middle School student, Saleh came to TimeWarp with a friend one day to buy a pack of cards. Over the years, he's received help from Poke Professors in building his deck - or repertoire of best cards - and has made some friends along the way.

"It's fun," says Saleh. "It's com-

petitive. It's a game you want to keep on playing."

Saleh is one of a number of local kids who come to the store on Tuesdays and Saturdays to participate in "leagues".

Beyond the social aspects of the game, there are prizes to be won for top players.

Frank Diaz of Mine Hill finished No. 3 in the world championship tournament in 2010. Currently enrolled at Villanova University, he still travels around to various tournaments to accumulate championship points and invitations to larger events. His family and friends have traveled across the country, compliments of Pokemon as Frank and his brother, Michael, competed against other Poke-masters.

Aside from the free airfare and hotel rooms, Frank has also earned thousands of dollars in scholarship money for placing high in various regional, national, and international events - leading me to wonder if, somehow, I had missed something beyond the difference between trainer cards and energy cards.

As I prepared to leave following the tournament's fourth round, I caught myself staring at the cards on which I had missed - which seemed to shimmer beneath the shop's glass case.

"Maybe I should buy a few," I thought.

After all, it seems to be what the cool kids are doing.

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W18: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Fresh Approach to Routine Reporting

Third Place, Weekly under 6,500

Verona-Cedar Grove Times

“Ordinary Guy in a Pokemon World”

Andrew Segedin



W18: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Fresh Approach to Routine Reporting

REMEMBERING A TRAGEDY

'It was almost unbelievable'

Postal employee killed four people in October 1991

BY JOYCE VENEZIA SUSS
For The Ridgewood News

In 1991, I was the Bergen County reporter for The Star-Ledger; my husband and I had moved to Ridgewood two years earlier. One morning that October, I half dozed and listened to a radio newscaster talking about reports of a shooting in Ridgewood. I barely listened, assuming he was talking about the community in Queens ... in New York ... because there was no way a shooting would happen in our community ...

The ringing telephone roused me awake.

"Joyce, you'd better get downtown fast," said my husband, who had left minutes earlier to walk to the train station. "There are all kinds of police officers at Grand Union, and I don't know what's going on, but I'm not

allowed to walk up Franklin Avenue."

In that instant, it became clear that the shooting was in our Ridgewood. I dressed quickly, grabbed a notebook and ran into town a few blocks away. The rest of the day was spent reporting on a bloody rampage that many

never Ridgewood residents may not even know about.

The statue of the postman outside the Ridgewood Post Office attracts a fair amount of attention from people walking up and down East Ridgewood Avenue. But a few feet away, a small stone with a brass plaque is a solemn reminder



MARION BROWN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

On Saturday morning, employees who worked at the Ridgewood Post Office in 1991 have planned a short private ceremony at the memorial plaque to remember their colleagues.

of an October day 20 years ago, when the suburban tranquility of the Village of Ridgewood was shaken by a horrific incident that became the lead story on the national news.

The plaque lists the names of four people who were killed by Joseph Harris, a fired postal employee who vented his rage against his former co-workers. Another plaque in the post office lobby also pays tribute to the fallen.

Harris began his killing spree at the Wayne home of his former postal supervisor, Carol Ott, who had filed a harassment complaint against Harris several years earlier that ultimately led to Harris' dismissal in 1990. Harris killed Ott with a samurai sword, then fatally shot her fiancé, Cornelius Kasten.

In the early morning hours of Oct. 10, 1991, Harris then went to the Ridgewood Post Office and barricaded himself inside with an arsenal of weapons. Two employees – Joseph VanderPauw and Donald McNaught – were shot as they arrived for work on the overnight shift.

Harris, garbed in ninja-style clothing, had an arsenal of

See TRAGEDY, page A7

Second Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Ridgewood News

"It Was Almost Unbelievable"

Joyce Venezia Suss

W18: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Fresh Approach to Routine Reporting

First Place, Weekly under 6,500

Bloomfield Life

“Tripucka Remembers Stadium
That Started It All”

Jeff Frankel



JEFF FRANKEL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Frank Tripucka credits William Foley, Bloomfield High School's legendary football coach during the 1930s and 40s, for allowing him to enjoy a long, successful career in organized football.

Tripucka remembers the stadium that started it all

BY JEFF FRANKEL
Staff Writer

For the second time in his life, Frank Tripucka has seen the Foley Field grandstands come crashing down.

When he was a little boy Foley had wooden stands, before concrete bleachers were erected during the Great Depression. Totting along his trusty red Flexible Flyer wagon, the young Tripucka would collect the discarded wooden remnants and bring them back to his Spring Street home for his family to use for firewood.

“(The original wooden structure) was really rotting away,” Tripucka recalled Feb. 28 over lunch at the Nevada Diner.

The 84-year-old football great witnessed the end of another era in the athletic facility's life Feb. 24 when excavators began ripping down the 75-year-old concrete structure.

Tripucka is supportive of the progress, although he certainly cherishes his memories of Foley's heyday. He and his wife, Randy, Bloomfield High School sweethearts, donated \$10,000 in 2009 to kick off private fundraising efforts

to replace the bleachers. Discussing the field's rich history and bright future brought a spark to Tripucka's eye as he reminisced about his glory days.

Tripucka is best known as the Denver Broncos' first quarterback when the franchise played its inaugural season in the upstart American Football League (AFL). He threw the first touchdown pass in AFL history, a 59-yard reception by Al Carmichael against the Boston Patriots, on Sept. 9, 1960.

That moment would have never occurred, he said, without William Foley, Bloomfield's resident sports guru during Tripucka's time in high school. Tripucka's mother did not want her son playing high school football. Baseball and basketball were acceptable, but football was a different story.

“My mother said, ‘No way.’ She didn't want me to play football,” Tripucka recalled. “Foley said, ‘Let me talk to your mother.’”

The rest is history. Not only would he play high school football, he would go on to Notre Dame, backing up Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Lujack. Tripucka would be named the Fighting Irish's starter after

Lujack's graduation, and the team finished the 1948 season with a 9-0-1 record, placing Notre Dame second in the national standings and securing All-American honors for himself.

The Philadelphia Eagles came calling after graduation, drafting Tripucka with the first pick in the 1949 NFL Draft. But he was traded to the Detroit Lions before the season. After one year with Detroit, he played three seasons with the Chicago Cardinals.

From 1953 to 1959 he toiled in the Canadian Football League, playing primarily for the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

With the AFL's formation in 1960 Tripucka headed to Denver, originally as an assistant coach. By the preseason, however, it was evident the Broncos were having quarterback issues. So Tripucka suited up, became the team's first starting quarterback and played with Denver for the ensuing four seasons.

In addition to the first touchdown pass, Tripucka will be remembered as the first professional quarterback to throw for

SEE TRIPUCKA, PAGE 3

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

Marking your territory



STAFF PHOTOS/MICHAEL LAMENDOLA

Following last week's 15 inches of snow, it was hard to find an on-street parking space anywhere, but a driver on Lincoln Place in East Rutherford had the right recipe. Outfitted with super-sized tires, the driver's pickup truck found an approximately three-foot high snow pile suitable. Other residents aren't always so lucky and use everything but the kitchen sink to reserve spots after they dig out.

As snow deepens, so do the disputes in a battlefield over parking

BY MICHAEL LAMENDOLA
Managing Editor

There's a conundrum: OK, there must be road construction. Past the next snow pile, there's a garbage can. Must have forgotten it was trash day. After the next pile however, it's a beach chair sitting in the middle of a freshly shoveled out parking space. "Now things are getting a little weird," you say to yourself as you pull into your driveway.

But as anyone accustomed to ample off-street parking may tell you, they've never before been caught up in such a frenzy as the 2011 wars for clean on-street parking spaces. 2011 may be considered the mother load of instigating the parking spot war as seven accumulating snow events have battered the area which began with a post-Christmas blizzard that shed, in some spots, 29 inches of snow locally. Last week's storm dumped another 15 inches in South Bergen.

While most police officials say using general household items to reserve spots is essentially against

the law—it's considered blocking the roadway—there's not much they do to enforce it. Town laws say nothing specific about the act, nor do state statutes. Police contend it's more of a peacekeeping effort when altercations over spots arise, ticketing those that are not properly parked during snow emergencies and hoping that as many people as possible utilize off-street parking during snow events so streets are unobstructed for plows, so that they have the ability to plow directly to the curb.

Marking territory

A ride through South Bergen on the day of or days after any of the previous snow storms have found cleared spaces littered with everything from garbage cans and cones to lawn chairs and foldable tables. Spackle buckets are another popular placeholder. In Carlstadt, Detective John Cleary said the weirdest thing he's seen is Christmas lawn ornaments.

"There is no state statute on, in

SEE PARKING, PAGE A7



A resident hauled two benches to a newly dug out parking space on Mountain Way in Rutherford the morning after last week's storm. Police say although frowned upon, the practice has become all too common and most towns handle objects in the roadway differently.

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Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

South Bergenite

“Marking Your Territory”

Michael Lamendola

NJPA
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W18: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Fresh Approach to Routine Reporting



Supplied Photo

The Valley of the Shadow of Phil Jersey Groundhog Chapter Takes Trip, Strengthens Bonds

By MICHAEL MOLINARO
The freezing sun finally let up at Gobbler's Knob as the Jersey Groundhog Chapter Circle filed its way through the several thousand-person crowd to the stage as the prognostication would soon commence.

It is a path I would have followed earlier had I applied for press credentials ahead of time. Attempts to receive them upon arrival at the press house to the rear of the Knob were in vain. As luck befell, I had tried convincing a middle-aged female photographer I met at the

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

venue—donning a fluorescent yellow Vaseline press poncho that made me feel even more unprepared—to take me into the press pit with her on her back so I might get a better shot with the hand-mounted Nikon I had borrowed from work. She escaped me somehow, though I met her at the fence between audience and press pit. With her conversation as a distraction, I attempted to sneak under the fence but was blocked away by security as men roasting crowd members laughed at me. They take their Phil very seriously, “round three parts, and not just folks visiting the show.” I had my stomach on the slippery ground, my scribbling dropping into someone’s nose. Still, there I stood in good faith with camera over my head, just hoping the gadget would work as it continued to take drops of rain falling from the towering Pennsylvania oak branches above. At that moment I realized I could have cared less what this magical remote instant photograph had to say, though I know for most of the Jersey Chapter of the Pennsylvania

Groundhog Club staring intently at the proceedings from behind me, it meant more than I could understand—for now. The prognostication would become an omen for the trip and its people, though nothing concerning the weather is ever completely clear. Twenty hours earlier I had arrived at the Ocean County Mall in Toms River, where most of the group meets each year to pack cars to the train with luggage and people and embark on the chaotic, disjointed excursion to Pennsylvania. I recognized Smiley, a well-organized Smiley, of Beach Beach, one of the group’s main leaders and an elite holder for longest prognostication-witnessing streak; this year will be his 10th. He began introducing me to them at first as “The SandPaper Guy,” then as “The Reporter,” though within five minutes I became “The Liberty,” an allusion to the main character in the movie “Almost Famous.” The group of 30 or so hails from throughout New Jersey, ranging from Mystic Island to Edison. A few come from as far as upstate New York. These clearly were not the coolest kids in high school. There was a publisher, a paramedic, a ghost hunter, a live artist and some chucks. The age range was mostly 20-somethings, with a handful in their 30s, a couple of high school kids and an infant. Many contribute regularly to *The Liberty*. New Jersey’s biggest underground literary magazine, “The Publisher” was quick to hand out copies to anyone he could. They are intense intellectuals in search of meaning—or at least I was—in what possessed this group



Photographs by Allison Johnson

GETTING THEIR PHIL: Though the Groundhog Club’s Inner Circle trip (top left) creates successful Groundhog Day events each year in Pennsylvania, it’s the members of local chapters (top right) that keep the spirit of the holiday alive and fun. Live artist “Dogmatic” Johnson paints the scene at the day’s karaoke after-party.

“You will have the greatest time of your life, and the worst time of your life at the same time. I dread this trip, but I like looking back on it.”

to make the trek again this year despite thousands of others being derailed by forecasts of snow and freezing rain. “No one’s following around. It’s amazing,” said Smiley as we left for the six-hour journey to western Pennsylvania. “It’s one event that will take place without a shadow of a doubt,” said Smiley, calling the delivery of the prognostication “the last living myth, requiring a suspension of all logic and reason.” I was told that by the end of the trip I was going to hate everyone and I might end up in a fight with someone from the group. If I should get lost, I was told to simply shout, “Jerry!” as which someone from the group would respond.

But not I, I’m told, is “don’t panic.” Another rule states that “no one sleeps unless Smiley sleeps,” followed by a rule that states, “Smiley never sleeps.” We passed by the remains of a tractor-trailer on the side of the road, crumpled and on fire, surrounded by emergency response and fire trucks. Heavy fog reduced the front view as darkness crept in along the road to Pennsylvania, and I was thankful to not be driving. We arrived in Pennsylvania at the traditional first stop of the group, Gnomeska Restaurant and Arcade, where I was reminded of the lack of concern Middle America may have for the nutritional content of their food. The budget burritos like someone dropped a cup of sugar in the dough so it was being made. It was delicious. We met up there with others who had already spent the night in Pennsylvania, including Jackie Jones of Marshawhite. Jones is the reason the group became an official chapter of the Pennsylvania Groundhog Club about four years ago. She is the high school

girl who had already spent the night in Pennsylvania, including Jackie Jones of Marshawhite. Jones is the reason the group became an official chapter of the Pennsylvania Groundhog Club about four years ago. She is the high school

Continued on Page 26

Second Place, Weekly over 6,500

The SandPaper

“Jersey Groundhog Chapter Takes Trip, Strengthens Bonds”

Michael Molinaro




W18: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Fresh Approach to Routine Reporting

First Place, Weekly over 6,500

The Jersey City Reporter

“Dining with Dwek”

Staff



Dining with Dwek

What does a politician eat before getting caught in an FBI sting?

By E. Assata Wright, Adriana Rambay Fernández, Stephen LaMarca, Santo Sanabria, Ray Smith, and Al Sullivan
Reporter staff writers

As the second anniversary of the notorious 2009 federal sting operation into statewide political corruption approaches, it's debatable whether the 46 arrests have had a lasting effect on Hudson County politics.

Charges were brought, pay-to-play laws have been passed, several political careers were destroyed, the Hudson County Democratic Organization is still reeling, and the man who was U.S. attorney during the investigation went on to be elected governor.

But beneath the surface, some would argue, it's still business as usual.

Perhaps a big lesson learned is that political corruption goes down better with a good meal. Preferably at an old-fashioned Jersey diner.

Of the officials who were found (or pleaded) guilty to either getting a payment or conspiring to get payments in the scandal – Mariano Vega, Guy Catrillo, Leona Beldini, Ronald Marteo, Peter Cammarano, Edward Cheatan, Jimmy King, Dennis Ehwel – perhaps the real winners were the handful of restaurants selected for cooperating government witness Solomon Dwek to meet his targets.

see DWEK page 4

BUTTER PLEASE – When Solomon Dwek met with Jersey City Deputy Mayor Leona Beldini at the prestigious Chart House in Weehawken, he buttered up a roll and then buttered her up.



Better Newspaper Contest 2011

**W19: Reporting, Writing &
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NJPA Awards

W19: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - First Amendment Award

Third Place, Weekly under 6,500

Bloomfield Life

“Ex-BOE Member’s Complaint
Against BOE Leader Dropped”

COURTS

Ex-BOE member’s complaint against BOE leader dropped

BY JEFF FRANKEL
Staff Writer

A harassment complaint from a former Bloomfield Board of Education (BOE) member against the board’s sitting president was dismissed in municipal court Tuesday morning.

Louis Venezia alleged that he received a phone call from Mary Shaughnessy around 1 a.m. the night of this year’s school board election, on April 20. Saying he felt harassed, Venezia subsequently

filed a police report.

“She called me in the middle of the night,” said Venezia by phone after the ruling was handed down. “She was rambling on. I didn’t know what she was talking about. I wanted to make sure that never happened again.”

Acting Judge Nicholas Brindisi accepted the dismissal of Venezia’s complaint against Shaughnessy in Bloomfield municipal court Aug. 23.

“The charges were ridiculous,” said Joe Scura, one of Shaugh-

nessy’s attorneys, via phone outside the courtroom. “It’s local politics.”

Venezia, a Bloomfield Fire Department captain, served as a one-term board member from 2007-2010 before deciding not to run for reelection. He represented himself in court.

Shaughnessy is in her first year as board president and second year as a sitting BOE member.

Brindisi originally dismissed the case when the defense thought Venezia was a no show. As

Shaughnessy and one of her lawyers were leaving the courtroom, they found Venezia waiting in the hallway.

Brindisi dismissed the case on a lack of prosecution after both sides agreed to let “bygones be bygones,” the judge said.

Both parties are free to file new complaints if incidents occur in the future.

An apology would have been sufficient yet none was given, Venezia said.

“I didn’t want to waste my time

or the court’s time,” he said. “She may have been calling me about politics, but I don’t want to be bothered in the middle of the night.”

Unfortunately, Shaughnessy had to go through the trouble of hiring an attorney and enduring all this stress surrounding the case, Scura said.

“It was dismissed because it should have never been filed in the first place,” he said.

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Jeff Frankel

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W19: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - First Amendment Award

Second Place, Weekly under 6,500

Windsor-Hights Herald

“Business Owner Decries EW’s Rejection”

Business owner decries EW’s rejection

By Jen Samuel
Managing Editor

EAST WINDSOR — In August, Sandra Craig-Barry, owner of Risco Inc., a growing, multi-million dollar business in Atlantic Highlands, hoped to relocate her company, which specializes in high end motor coaches, to the vacant winery building on Etra Road.

However, East Windsor officials found the business to be “not a good fit” at that location, which was formerly zoned commercial but has since been zoned for residential and agricultural uses.

“We needed it to go back to the original zoning,” Ms. Craig-Barry said.

“I was bringing jobs to the area.”

**Sandra Craig-Barry
owner of Risco Inc.**

And with that change, she explained, would have come jobs. She had anticipated hiring 15 new employees upon relocating to the township.

However, for the township, zoning was a major point of contention per Ms. Craig-Barry’s proposal.

“The two main reasons that we did not see a good fit is because the property wasn’t zoned for that use

and the second reason was because Sandra Craig-Barry admitted that the business couldn’t be contained on the site as it currently exists,” said Township Manager Alan Fisher during a telephone interview Wednesday. Mr. Fisher stated that the business would have needed additional storage for large motor coaches.

“The site is primarily rural,” he said of the vacant winery and parcel, adding that the area is RA zoned and thus is not capable with what Ms. Craig-Barry proposed to do.

Ms. Craig-Barry said her company holds federal, state, local contracts as well as with individuals, organizations and businesses.

She said Risco’s revenues are up

30 percent this year, and noted that the company pays 100 percent of its employees’ health care. Further, she said her husband had stumbled upon the vacant winery building with a for sale sign out front. As it is located close to the New Jersey Turnpike, it seemed like the perfect place to move the business, she explained.

However, Ms. Craig-Barry described facing rejection by the township from the onset.

“No one would talk to me,” Ms. Craig-Barry said during an interview with the Herald at the Princeton Packet. “They said I had to talk to the mayor first, they said it was a must.”

Mr. Fisher countered, “We always encourage people to

meet with the township to discuss what their plans are before they file any formal (paperwork),” Mr. Fisher said. “A lot of business owners appreciate that.”

Ms. Craig-Barry said she attempted to reach out to the township engineer for accurate lot lines, but was again told she needed to meet with the mayor first.

“I was afraid to invest hundreds of thousands of dollars in site plans only to have her deny us,” Ms. Craig-Barry said.

On Halloween, Ms. Craig-Barry met with Mayor Janice Mironov.

“I told her I was bringing jobs to the area,” Ms. Craig-Barry said.

See REJECTION, Page 9A

Jennifer Samuel

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

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RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Report: Pedestrian bridge needs work

BY KELLY EBBELS
Staff Writer

A pedestrian bridge that connects the two athletic fields at Ridgewood High School (RHS) – crossed by hundreds of students each day – has structural deficiencies that have yet to be addressed by the school district, and vehicles have been seen using the bridge despite a weight limit, according to a village resident who lives near RHS.

More than two years ago, the Ridgewood school district received an engineering report on the pedestrian bridge over the Ho-Ho-Kus Brook between athletics fields at Ridgewood High School (RHS), citing concerns with the bridge's structural integrity.

The report, prepared by Mark Micucci of Micucci Engineering

and delivered to the district in January 2009, notes that the exposed top side of the bridge is in "relatively good condition" and its underside in "fair condition," but reveals problems with the structure of its abutments, particularly its southern abutment.

"Observations of the stone abutments reveal significant deterioration and erosion of the southerly abutment from the water line down to the streambed. The abutment is eroded with missing stones and significantly deteriorated joints," the report reads.

The document cites lesser deterioration on the northerly abutment below the water line, and also notes that the bridge's railing does not meet height code requirements.

In his recommendations, Micucci directs the district to

See BRIDGE, page A7

First Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Ridgewood News

"Report: Pedestrian Bridge Needs Work"

Kelly Ebbels

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Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

Teaneck Suburbanite

"Council Has Gone Months with No Minutes"
"Missing Minutes Inexcusable"

Howard Prosnitz

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

Council has gone months with no minutes

BY HOWARD PROSNITZ
Staff Writer

No written minutes are available to the public for any council meeting since early summer of 2010.

At the Feb. 8 council meeting, Teaneck resident Charles Powers said he had filed requests with the Township Clerk's office under the Open Public Records Act for the minutes of many council meetings over the past eight months and was informed that no minutes were available after the June 15 meeting.

Failure to make these minutes available is a violation of the state law under the Sunshine Law (Open Public Meetings Act) which requires each public body to keep comprehensible minutes at each meeting and to have them promptly available for the public.

Section 2-31 of the Township Code requires that the clerk keep written minutes of every council meeting and that the minutes be available to the public within 10 business days following the meeting.

Township Manager William Broughton, who was appointed Acting Clerk in August after former clerk Lisette Aportela Hernandez resigned to become municipal clerk in Tenafly, said

that other duties had prevented him from producing the minutes.

"I have to make decisions on a daily basis on what is to be done and what is a priority," Broughton told the council. He said that he takes full responsibility for the lack of minutes.

Broughton said that the clerk's office has been short staffed and that videos of council meetings are posted on the township's website.

Production of missing minutes and making them available to the public would take some time, Broughton informed Mayor Mohammed Hameeduddin at the meeting.

"I have decided as manager that we will have to wait until we have enough staff to do it. It is something me and the clerk will have to sit down and discuss," Broughton said.

At the Feb. 8 meeting, the council voted unanimously to appoint Jaime Evelina to the position of municipal clerk. Evelina, who had been a senior clerk in the municipal clerk's office, had performed many of the municipal clerk's duties during the period that Broughton served as acting clerk and has kept notes at every meeting.

In response to an e-mail inquiry from the Teaneck Suburbanite, Broughton replied that minutes for

the Feb. 8 meeting and those of subsequent meetings would be available within the 10 day time frame stipulated by the Township Code, "subject to staffing constraints."

Former Mayor Paul Ostrow said in an interview that when he served on the council from 1990-2007, written minutes were provided to the council for its approval in a timely fashion, usually within the 10-day time frame.

But Ostrow noted that changing technology, including the ability to post videos of meetings on the Internet, could make written minutes supplemental to videos.

"We are in a new time with electronic media being used by more people," Ostrow said.

Nevertheless, if videos were to replace written minutes, the code would need to be changed, Ostrow said. Until this occurs, the council should hire outside assistance, if necessary, to transcribe audio tapes of the past meetings into written minutes as soon as possible, he said.

Former Mayor Jackie Kates said in an interview that during her years on the council written minutes were available to the council, usually within the time frame.

Kates noted that when she served on the planning board, there was a period when minutes

Section 2-31 of Township Code

The Clerk shall: (a) Keep and preserve safely the minutes and records of the proceedings of the Council and, with the approval of the Council, the minutes of any Township board or body. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to prepare detailed written minutes and make them available to the Council within 10 business days following the day on which such meeting took place; such minutes to reflect all actions taken, the names of all persons participating in the same and a summary of their positions. Upon approval by the Council, the minutes shall be made available to the public.

were not available for several meetings.

"It was recognized as a serious issue that impeded members' ability to know what had happened at the previous meeting. The planning board secretary worked very hard to get all the minutes together," Kates said.

Videos are not a substitute for written minutes, she added.

"The minutes are the official record of what happened at a meeting and must be approved by the council," Kates said. "A video is not approved by the council. The state statute requires minutes. Videos may be beneficial to the public as a supplement, but the minutes have to be done."

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- CLARIFICATION -

In last week's article "Group envisions a better future" (page 1) it stated that Teaneck 2020 was incorporated as a 501(c)3 not for-profit. Teaneck 2020 is incorporated as a non-profit, but not a

501(c)3. As such, the group is allowed to support political candidates and causes and is able to fund raise. However, donations to Teaneck 2020, Inc. are not tax deductible.

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Some Montclair advisory groups' chairs oppose making their meetings public

BY LINDA MOSS
STAFF WRITER

Citing the need for confidentiality at times, the chairs of several Montclair advisory committees objected to opening their meetings to the public and press.

They are voicing their concern regarding a resolution that Montclair Deputy Mayor Kathryn Weller-Demming attempted to introduce at last week's Township Council meeting, which says that all meetings of township-appointed advisory committees must be public.

Weller-Demming had the proposed resolution drawn up after learning that a reporter for The Montclair Times had been barred from a meeting of the township Capital Finance Committee (CFC), which has been a vocal critic of the current town administration.

The council postponed acting on Weller-Demming's resolution after Donald Zief, an ex-councilman and chairman of the town's Public Transportation Advisory Committee, addressed the governing body at both its 7 p.m. conference session and 8 p.m. meeting. After soliciting input from advisory committee chairs, the council decided to postpone acting on the resolution until its Jan. 10 meeting.

"I don't understand why this is being dropped all of a sudden out of the blue," Zief said at the conference meeting. "As a procedural matter, I'm the chair of a committee in town, and I would think just procedurally you'd want to hear from the committees, the very people you want to regulate, to put this restriction on. At least give me a chance to call my committee and see what they think. I happen not to like the idea, but maybe they will. I would think you would want to hear from committee chairs, at least, what they think of it, so they actually have an input before they pass this."

CFC Chairman John Reichman and Communications Committee Chairman Jerry Kapner are also against the resolution.

Weller-Demming asked Zief why he and his committee wouldn't welcome input from the public and interest from the press.

Zief said that his committee deals with entities such as NJ Transit, and discusses what strategy the township should take in dealing with the transit company. He doesn't want the township to tip its hand via open meetings.

"I don't want the press there to publish that in the next article," Zief said. "That's strategy. That's doing something good for the town ... Sometimes the press is welcome. In a situation like that, they're not."

He also said that committee members don't necessarily want to



STAFF PHOTO BY T.D. SHOUDY

During last week's Montclair Township Council meeting, Deputy Mayor Kathryn Weller-Demming defended her resolution to require that the meetings of all advisory committees be open to the public. Donald Zief, the chairman of one such committee, claimed that the resolution is "taking a sledgehammer to a flea and making every single other committee subject to this."

be in the public spotlight or be quoted in the local news organization.

"Most people who are on committees do it because they're asked," Zief said. "They don't think about being in the public eye. They don't think about what they're going to say, or that what they say may get in the newspaper next week. They don't do it for that."

Weller-Demming said that the council should establish a policy on having the meetings made public.

"I personally feel very strongly that no member of the public should be turned away, and the press should be invited in, and furthermore welcomed in, because the work that these committees is doing is very worthwhile," she said. "I appreciate there may be some chairs who do not wish to be open and transparent, but as a councilperson I feel that you need to direct them to attempt to be to the extent possible."

Zief responded, "I go back to my first question, which is why — and my own sense is this comes out of your problems with the Capital Finance Committee, that you're worried that they're not transparent, for whatever reason you're piqued at them — so now you're taking a sledgehammer to a flea and making every single other committee subject to this."

In an email sent Nov. 30, 2nd Ward Councilman Cary Africk told The Times, "Yes, the public should be allowed to attend all meetings."

But at the council meeting, Africk changed that position. "I've spoken to several of our committees, the Communications

Committee and the Capital Finance Committee," he said. "They have both objected. The fact of the matter is they do discuss sensitive and confidential information."

This past Sunday, Africk followed up with these observations: "As my actions in the past have revealed, I have promoted openness and transparency consistently and consistently in the Municipality. I spearheaded the drive to get the [Board of Education] meetings moved to the [George Inness] Annex, and televised (although my efforts to get live coverage, which has been technically possible for ages, has met with resistance)."

Africk said that, regarding allowing members of the public to attend sessions of advisory groups, "there's a difference."

"In addition to constraining discussion which veers in and out on proprietary and confidential issues, another reason I am opposed to public attendance at advisory meetings is that attendees can be disruptive. Having them be in attendance is one thing, but they often get argumentative and turn the meeting into a circus."

Kapner told The Times that two years ago, his committee negotiated a sensitive franchise renewal with Comcast Corp., and that such talks require confidentiality.

"It's not a matter of trying to be secretive," he said. "It's a matter of giving us the buffer to do our job and then go public in the appropriate forum, which is with the council. We've tolerated drop-ins [at meetings]. We invite people from the outside. We're not sealing our doors. We're not selecting the Pope. But we just need a certain

buffer in order to do our job properly."

Kapner stressed that he was speaking as a chairman of "an advisory committee," not as the Communications Committee chairman, because he hasn't polled his members yet to see what they think. All the committees act as "a kitchen cabinet" for the council, according to Kapner.

"This isn't about transparency or secrecy," he said. "This is about process and function. And I don't think that we can adequately do our job if we invite the public, including the press, into our meetings."

During the council meeting, 3rd Ward Councilman Nick Lewis received a postponement on Weller-Demming's resolution so there could be input from committee chairs before acting.

"I actually completely agree with this motion," he said. "I think it's a good idea. But I think just as a matter of courtesy, I think we ought to just run it by all the committees and let them know what we're doing and let them comment on it ... I may decide to ignore what they think."

In terms of committee members not wanting publicity, 4th Ward Councilwoman Brenda Baskerville said that most of the committee chairs are "seasoned people" and savvy.

"If [committee members] don't want to be bothered, then I don't think it's really a good position for them to be in the public eye, to do public service in a community and serve a public body," Baskerville said. "Because if you are going to advise us, then we want everybody to be included in that process."

Councilman-At-Large Roger Terry said, at this point, he was against the resolution. "Actually I would vote 'no,' for now," Terry said. "As far as I'm concerned, and I believe in open meetings, and all that, and freedom of the press, but there are some things and some people that don't want to be bothered, as Mr. Zief said. They come to these meetings to do some work in the community, and that's all they want to do."

Following the council meeting, Montclair Mayor Jerry Fried told Kapner he was undecided about the resolution. "I understand the reasons for [Weller-Demming] bringing it forward," Fried said. "I do understand that in general it's really important to have these meetings open to the public, and most of them are. I think it would be helpful to have a policy about such things. I don't know about the broad issue about whether all the meetings should be open to the public. It would seem to me that we need to get some input before we vote on it. The jury is still out."

Second Place, Weekly over 6,500

The Montclair Times

"Some Montclair Advisory Groups' Chairs Oppose Making Their Meetings Public"

Linda Moss

NJPA
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First Place, Weekly over 6,500

NORTH HALEDON THE GAZETTE JUNE 2, 2011 3

Misconduct charges filed against judge

BY JUSTIN ZAREMBA
Staff Writer

Judicial misconduct charges were filed against Municipal Judge Harold P. Cook III on May 19 for his alleged failure to report his involvement in more than 40 lawsuits, his alleged violation of judicial conduct for contributing to political organizations and candidates, and for allegedly "abusing the judicial process."

Last week, the Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct filed ethics charges against Cook with the Supreme Court of New Jersey for his alleged failure to inform the Administrative Office of the Courts of his involvement in 43 lawsuits, for his alleged violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct by contributing to political organizations and candidates for political office and his alleged failure to observe "high standards of conduct" when his law firm represented several Paterson police officers in a civil and criminal matter involving the officer's conduct despite his role as a municipal judge in four Passaic County towns.

The complaint - which was filed by disciplinary counsel, Candace Moody - also alleges that Cook engaged in a pattern of "abusing the judicial process by failing to respond to information subpoenas, ignoring discovery requests, failing to appear for

scheduled depositions and making false promises to produce documents, and by grossly obfuscating the civil litigation process."

Judges are required to report their "personal involvement" in any type of litigation in which they are named personally or as a "party of interest" to the Administrative Director of the Courts with a copy to the Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court.

Last December, *The Gazette* reported on the numerous lawsuits Cook and his associates in the Puddingstone Group were involved in related to real estate development projects and allegations of loan defaults. Following publication of the article, Cook and his daughter, Alexandra, filed a suit for defamation this past January against North Jersey Media Group Inc., publisher of *The Gazette*, its representatives and two North Haledon residents. On May 23, the complaint was dismissed, however, Cook and his daughter still have the ability to file an amended complaint.

Cook, of North Haledon, is a former partner of the law firm Perconti and Cook and serves as a municipal judge in Haledon, North Haledon and Ringwood and as magistrate in Wanauque. His combined salary for his positions as municipal judge and magistrate in these towns is \$84,914 for 2010 and he currently pays into the state pension system.

Cook was admitted to the New Jersey State bar in 1980 and he has served as the attorney for Wycliff's Board of Adjustment since 1995 and, in 2010, received a salary of \$8,982. He also serves as counsel for the Elmwood Park Planning Board.

Perconti and Cook disbanded on Oct. 15 after the death of the senior partner, Joseph A. Perconti, on Oct. 11. The late Joseph Perconti was the owner of High Mountain Tide Agency. State records do not indicate the current owner of the company. His son, Joseph C. Perconti, is the municipal judge for Prospect Park and West Milford.

Cook is currently the senior partner of Harold Cook III Esq. and Associates and director and 60 percent shareholder of an auto loan lender, Jefferson Loan Company.

According to the complaint, Cook's position as municipal court judge has been "severely compromised by his interests in and affiliations with [more than 40] limited liability companies, which are the subject of approximately 43 lawsuits involving [Cook], personally, and which allege, in some cases, fraudulent conduct on the part of [Cook], or which indicate an attempt by [Cook] to avoid his judgment creditors."

"The allegations against [Cook] in these various lawsuits include but are not limited to, breach of fiduciary duty to investors, fraudulent transfer of real property, fraudulent concealment of the financial health of various entities with which [Cook] was/intrinsically involved, legal malpractice, fraudulent concealment of fraud by third parties, failure to obtain informed consent from investors, securities fraud, and default on promissory notes and personal guarantees in the aggregate sum of more than \$20 million," according to the complaint.

The complaint states that Cook was found to have breached his fiduciary duty in his role as director of Jefferson Loan Company for failing to inform investors, Charles and Carol Sachs, that the company was insolvent. The Sachs were awarded \$99,400 in damages earlier this year, according to the complaint, which also indicates that Cook has filed an appeal.

Several of Cook's creditors have also been awarded monetary judgments against him for \$2,707,661.36, according to the complaint. As a result, his wages as a municipal judge in Haledon, North Haledon, Ringwood and Wanauque have been garnished, per the complaint.

"[Cook's] position as a municipal court judge has been further compromised by the garnishments against his municipal court wages, which involve taxpayer dollars, to satisfy his personal judgments," according to the complaint.

The formal complaint alleges that on two occasions and "in the midst of multiple litigations" Cook transferred ownership of his personal residence in Beach Haven and his Belmont Avenue office property to family members and several limited liability companies for \$1 per property.

In the Bergen County case of Jack Kleinert vs. Harold Cook III et al., Kleinert alleged that Cook transferred ownership of his Beach Haven home to his wife, Helen, and his office property to his wife and several limited liability companies in order to hinder Kleinert's attempt to seek a monetary claim of \$355,000. Last October, the Bergen County Superior Court reversed the transfers.

While the matter was proceeding before the court, Cook allegedly attempted to transfer ownership of the Beach Haven property from his wife, Helen, to his wife and his daughter. On April 15, the Ocean County Superior Court voided the transfer - finding that it was fraudulent.

According to the rules governing the Administrative Committee of Judicial Conduct, Cook has 20 days to file an answer to the charges with a formal hearing to follow.

E-mail: zaremba@northjersey.com

The Gazette

"Misconduct Charges Filed Against Judge"

"Judge Agrees to Take Leave of Absence"

"Judge, Developers

Contribute to Campaigns"

"Judge Responds to Charges"

Justin Zaremba

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Bloomfield Life

"Bad Reception for Cell Tower?"

"Bleachers' Last Stand"

"Call Off the Dogs"

Bad reception for cell tower?

Impact, location of proposed Broad Street mast questioned

BY JEFF FRANKEL
of Bloomfield Life

Councilwoman Peggy O'Boyle Dunigan does not see a conflict of interest in erecting a cell phone tower on property owned by her brothers.

In the event the measure comes before the council for a vote, she says she will abstain.

"I'm just an employee," she

said. "I don't own the business."

The zoning board of adjustment is scheduled to hear an application Thursday night for a proposed cell phone tower on property owned by O'Boyle Dunigan's family.

The proposed monopole at Brookside Garden Center, 551 Broad St., would rise by way of T-Mobile Northeast, according to the zoning board's agenda. The

property is owned by O'Boyle Realty Company, according to municipal tax records.

O'Boyle Dunigan says she does not know which party initiated conversations or how much T-Mobile is willing to pay her brothers for the rights to utilize the property.

Councilman Nicholas Joanow is concerned with possible health impacts stemming from cell

phone towers being too close to homes. The "jury is still out" regarding scientific research into the topic, he said.

Joanow also questions what the tower would mean for future zoning regulations.

"We're talking about major precedents that will be made if any variance is made here," said

SEE TOWER, PAGE 3

Jonathan Sachs

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W20: Reporting, Writing & Illustrations - Headlines

Godspeed



Photos by Ray Christie



The Rev. Stephen Heinzel-Nelson, of the Allentown Presbyterian Church, with Pastor Stephen, a favorite in the \$1.5 million purse in the Hambletonian Aug. 6. The horse's owners are donating 5 percent of its earnings to a charity founded by the Allentown minister to help impoverished villages in Malawi, Africa. At left, the Rev. Heinzel-Nelson with the horse's trainer, Jimmy Taktar of East Windsor, who also trained the 2010 Hambletonian winner, Muscle Massive.

Minister and racehorse on a mission

By Joanne Degnan
Managing Editor

ALLENTOWN — The Rev. Stephen Heinzel-Nelson's mission work in Africa has spurred generous donations from hundreds of area residents, but it's his four-legged namesake who just may bless him with one of the largest offerings yet.

The 3-year-old trotter named Pastor Stephen is among the favorites to win the \$1.5 million Hambletonian Stakes on Aug. 6, the richest and most

prestigious event in harness racing.

Since the horse's owners have pledged 5 percent of Pastor Stephen's 2011 racing earnings to the charity founded by the Rev. Heinzel-Nelson, a win for the horse at the Meadowlands in two weeks also would turn out to be a big win for thousands of impoverished villagers in Malawi.

The Rev. Heinzel-Nelson, pastor of the Allentown Presbyterian Church on High Street, said he was surprised to learn a few years ago that a close

See PASTOR, Page 6A

Second Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Messenger-Press

"Godspeed: Pastor and Race Horse on a Mission"

"Birds of a Feather Swim Together"

"Upper Freehold Regional Solar Plan Dims"

Joanne Degnan

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W20: Reporting, Writing & Illustrations - Headlines

First Place, Weekly under 6,500

Glen Ridge Voice

"Movers and Fakers"

"They Can Dig It"

"From Outages to Outrage"

Movers and fakers?

Borough-based moving company named in sting operation

BY ERIN ROLL
Staff Writer

A moving company identified as based in Glen Ridge is among several caught in a recent New Jersey Division of Consumer

Affairs (DCA) sting operation. "Operation Mother's Attic" found Van Express and 24 other companies were allegedly operating without valid licenses and/or proper insurance, the DCA announced July 6.

Several of the companies in question allegedly advertised their services on Craigslist and other websites. DCA investigators posed as customers needing to move their possessions out of a self-storage facility in Bridgewa-

ter; they asked the movers to meet them there at certain times between June 28 and June 30.

Of the 25 companies contacted, 17 - including Van Express -

SEE **MOVERS**, PAGE 3

Jonathan Sachs

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W20: Reporting, Writing & Illustrations - Headlines

A pain in the grass



STAFF PHOTO/PIERFRANCESCO BACCARO

Residents of Holster Road have been pleading with City officials to have the property formerly belonging to Balocco Restaurant maintained in order to control vermin and debris.

Abandoned property attracts vermin

By Tony Gicas
Staff Writer

CLIFTON – Longtime residents Joseph and Arne Sowa planned on spending this summer's hot, humid days lounging around their backyard pool among friends and family.

Unfortunately, the blueprint fell apart when the high, unkempt grass and shrubbery located in an adjacent vacant lot attracted vermin and insects onto their property.

It was 1965 when the couple first built and moved into their Holster Road home. A half-century ago the

large expanse of land directly bordering the rear of the Sowa's property had been home to a farm and the rows of tomato, pumpkin and other crops it raised.

It was not until decades later, after the farmers sold the lot and the accompanying restaurant housed at

110 Vincent Drive, that the upkeep of the property became an issue.

Joe Sowa said the restaurant exchanged hands between several different owners in recent years before Imprese Marini LLC of West Caldwell

SEE: PROPERTY, PAGE 5

Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

Clifton Journal

"A Pain in the Grass"

"Hot CUPS Keep Patrons Cool"

"Just What the Doktor Ordered"

Christopher Woolis

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W20: Reporting, Writing & Illustrations - Headlines

Wright: I was wrong

By Molly Mulshine

BELMAR — A new development in the ongoing controversy regarding Belmar's strict pay-to-play ordinance [see related story, above] reveals that Councilman Richard Wright has been conflicted in his voting on taxi licenses and permit parking since 2008.

Councilman Wright and Mayor Matt Doherty have disagreed on amendments to the borough's pay-to-play ordinance for the past several weeks, due to a conflict Mayor Doherty, Council President Claire Deicke and Councilman Brian Magovern created by accepting an in-kind donation from the Barclay Hotel while campaigning last October.

The ordinance states that not only are the council members and mayor now prohibited from voting on the Barclay's annual liquor license renewal, but that they also cannot vote on taxi licenses or permit parking due to the donation. Councilman Wright, the lone Republican on the governing body, has been at odds with his Democratic colleagues over the matter, and has expressed his concern over their ability to vote on these items.

See WRIGHT, PAGE 29

Second Place, Weekly over 6,500

The Coast Star

"Wright: I Was Wrong"

"Can't Rain on This Parade"

"Belmar Cops in a
Bad 'Situation'"

Douglas M. Paviluk

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W20: Reporting, Writing & Illustrations - Headlines

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Atlantic City Weekly

“Winter Is in the Season of His Contentment”
“It’s Déjà Vu All Over Again”
“Pair of Kings”

Jeff Schwachter

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Winter Is In the Season of His Contentment

Terence Winter, the creator of HBO's 'Boardwalk Empire,' talks about working on the award-winning show, including its upcoming second season. By Jeff Schwachter

BOARDWALK EMPIRE CREATOR Terence Winter did not set out to create a drama series for HBO based in 1920s Atlantic City.

Not did he intend to emulate the formula that he employed while working on the long-running HBO series *The Sopranos*, the most successful show based on a New Jersey mob boss and his family that ran from 1999-2007.

"I think if you set out to try to replicate something, even in terms of say looking at the formulas of those shows and try to copy it and hope that it will have the same level of success, I think you're doomed to failure," Winter says during a recent phone interview for *Atlantic City Weekly*. "It's like copying an old master painting. It's never going to be as good as the original and I think it's sort of a fool's mission to try to do that. So I just wanted [*Boardwalk Empire*] to be its own thing. If there are similarities to [*The Sopranos*] it's just based on my own pedigree of having worked on *The Sopranos* for so many years, but you'll probably see similarities between *The Sopranos* and episodes of *Amos 'n' Andy* or *Prison* that I wrote."

Following a hearty laugh, Winter adds, "It's not intentional, but it's just me trying to do the most entertaining and best show that I can do."

A little while after the finale of *The Sopranos*, HBO executives gave Winter a copy of Atlantic County Superior Court Judge Nelson Johnson's 2002 book *Boardwalk Empire — The Bink, High Times, and Corruption of Atlantic City*.

Winter says he was simply told: "Read it and see if there is a series in there."

After digesting the book, which chronicles the history of Atlantic City from its earliest beginnings up to the pre-boogata casino era, Winter saw a series indeed, but the time frame wasn't set until further consideration.

Initially, says Winter, there were other periods during Atlantic City's storied history that were possibilities for a series to be built upon.

"I read the book and took it all in, which was great," says Winter. "Talk about

research, I mean what an endeavor Nelson [Johnson] took on. The city's [history] is so rich. I grew up [in New York] going to Atlantic City on the weekends in the '60s with my friends and stuff, and I knew a little about the history, but I had no idea how vast it was — the various periods and how the city developed.

"The three eras that attracted me were: the 1920s, the '50s and the '70s. And really HBO's mandate was [to build that] I literally had a huge caveat to work from."

Winter, who is also the show's executive producer (along with Martin Scorsese and others) as well as one of the show's writers, left Atlantic City circa the 1970s might seem like he was re-hashing *The Sopranos*. "You know, like Tony Soprano as a teenager maybe," he says.

"The '80s felt like Tony's dad's era and the '20s felt completely different, completely fresh.

"And then once I read about Nucky, I said, 'Wow, what a fascinating character to center a series around.' I mean the guy's just unbelievably duplicitous — equal parts politician and gangster, who runs basically this kingdom literally built on sand, and in a very shaly time. The world is changing rapidly; maybe faster than he's even comfortable with. And he has to play catch up. With Prohibition coming in, the game suddenly changed. It wasn't just general corruption, and election rigging, and extortion, it was young guys desperate to make a lot of money and do anything to do it

— overnight. So, suddenly the game completely changed. If you weren't willing to play that kind of ball, you were going to get eaten alive."

Winter says 1920 specifically was a year that grabbed him initially.

"I can't think of another year that had so much change," he says. "I mean, between Prohibition, women getting the right to vote, the Harding election, the war ending — [it's] essentially the dawn of the modern age."

"What's interesting, too, is how many similarities there are between then and now. There's such a parallel to the drug business where you have young men becoming drug dealers back then they were boot-logger, which is essentially the same thing. And also it's so modern. I mean, you look at the show

and you see the clothes, they talked on the telephone, they flew in planes, they went to the movies, they ate at restaurants — it looks very close to our lives. Aside from e-mail and a lot of other major changes, it's essentially the world we live in now. I always say that if the show was set in 1910 instead of 1920 it would have looked like a different universe. I mean so much had happened between those years, it's great. The music, everything, it's just incredible."

Although *Boardwalk Empire* stays true to historical events and painstaking efforts have been taken by cast and crew to recreate early 1920s Atlantic City as it really was, not all of the actors play characters based on real people. Some, however, do.

Once casted, the actors on the show weren't asked to read Nelson Johnson's book, but, Winter says, for research many of them did.

"A lot of the actors were interested in [reading the book]. In general, everybody wanted to just dive right into the research, which is really fun. Especially for the guys who are playing the historical figures. And now it's to the point where they know more about the characters they're playing than I do. We have actually had Michael Stuhlbarg [who plays Arnold Rothstein] and Vincent Piazza [Jackie Luciano] come into the writers' room. Once we were debating about Arnold Rothstein one day and I said, 'You know who knows more about this than we do is Michael. Let's just get him in here.'"

"So we had him in for lunch and he just came in and kind of sat with us for a couple of hours and just told us everything he knew about Arnold Rothstein — an old Vincent — even right down to little personality quirks and personal ticks. There's so much other research to do on the show that it's hard to keep straight and these guys really get into their own characters and they're very conscious of where we are in the time-line and what was happening in 1920 and 1921 and the various business enterprises they were in; whether or not any of that makes it onto the actual show doesn't matter. It's just interesting for them to know. This is going on in my [Schwachter's] life right now."

It's been a long year for Winter, who started writing season two of *Boardwalk Empire* as the magnificent first season was picking up prestigious nominations, awards and accolades from around the globe. That includes a whopping 18 2011 Emmy nominations. (The *64th PrimeTime Emmy Awards* air live from Los Angeles, this Sunday, Sept. 18, on FOX at 8pm. The show picked up seven Creative Arts Emmys last weekend.)

Winter was still writing the season two finale script as of earlier this month, with the last day of shooting slated for Sept. 7. He says that some minor footage was still being shot (as of Sept. 7) and reports indicated that the show's second season finale was still filming as of Sept. 12 in New York.



Terence Winter on the set of Boardwalk Empire



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WYCKOFF SUBURBAN NEWS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2011

Following a paper trail to the polls

MONEY MATTERS
Candidates are required to file an 8-1 detailed campaign expenditure form with the state only if they spend more than \$4,000 for a single candidate, \$7,600 for a two-candidate slate and \$15,000 for a slate of three or more candidates. The absence of an 8-1 form indicates that a campaign spent less. That was the case in Franklin Lakes, in which Republicans ran uncontested for three Borough Council terms, Midland Park, Ramapo and Waldwick. Information reflects municipal campaign expense filings as of press time Nov. 18. Final reports must be filed by Nov. 29.

What price victory at the local level?

BY MARSHA STOLTZ, Managing Editor
With reporting by Philip DeVincentis, Samantha Fisher, and Joel Weinberger

A SPECIAL REPORT
Running for municipal office in largely Republican northern Bergen County traditionally has been a matter of small financial concern. Democrats seldom put up a challenger and running unopposed requires little planning or need for funding.

"If I were running unopposed, it would be a no-brainer," said Midland Park's Patrick "Bud" O'Hagan, a Republican who after a 21-year stint on the Borough Council won a contested race for mayor this month. "I might buy one sign to remind myself to vote and that would be the end of it."

But the number of challengers has risen. Of the seven municipalities the Suburban News covers, six saw contested races this year. Only the three

SEE SPENDING PAGE 4

Candidate	Contributions	Expenditures
MAHRKAT (non-partisan)		
*William LaFevé (mayor)	\$38,920	\$23,818
John DePuzzo (mayor)	\$14,725	\$12,562
H. Lisa DiGiulio (mayor)	\$10,600	\$5,540
*Charles Jandris (council)	\$8,725	\$8,103
Steven Sharma (council)	Not applicable	under \$4,000
OAKLAND		
Democratic slate of *Linda Schwager (mayor)		
*Sandra Coira and Henry Leshner (council)	\$15,334	\$8,102
Republican slate of John Szabo (mayor)		
*Elizabeth Stagg and Eric Kulmala (council)	\$22,822	\$10,806
WYCKOFF		
Democrat *Brian Scantlan	\$12,587	\$3,849
Republican slate of Thomas Madigan and *Doug Christie	\$14,749	\$5,894

*Includes winner
Source: New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission at nj.elec.state.nj.us

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Wyckoff Suburban News

“November 24, 2011”

“October 6, 2011”

Trudy Walz

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Sneak peek
Ridgewood Guild offers autumn home tour.



WELLNESS PROGRAM
Y's new fitness classes help Parkinson's patients.

Breaking through
The RIES boys soccer team captures its first league title in 10 years.

SERVING THE VILLAGE SINCE 1889

THE RIDGEWOOD NEWS

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2011

90 CENTS



Members of the Village Council listen to testimony from a geotechnical expert during a hearing on The Valley Hospital "Renewal" project.

VALLEY 'RENEWAL'

Geotechnical expert testifies

Gives project 'yellow light'

BY KELLY ERBILLE



A geotechnical expert testified before Village Council on Monday night that any construction below The Valley Hospital would avoid preexisting subsidence associated with groundwater, working and water and retaining bedrock from the land below the facility, which he contended would be completed and eventually directed to the neighboring community.

Laurance Kiefer, of Whitestone Associates, gives a presentation on geotechnical issues surrounding proposed construction at The Valley Hospital.

Chief among Kiefer's concerns, he said, was that the proposed project would give the hospital a "yellow light," or a green light or a red light based on existing need to be studied.

See VALLEY, page A7

FLOODING

Senator, DEP rep tour the damage

BY JOSEPH CRAMER

Residents of Ridgewood's flood-affected area had the opportunity to air their concerns in a new forum on Wednesday afternoon as state Sen. Kevin C. Todd and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) representative Steve Turk took a walking tour of properties facing the Ho-Ho-Kus Brook.



Built a gated walk-through and an informal landscaping barrier between residents and officials, the four signs on Barnside Place at the property of Leslie Cincin, a resident whose home was adjacent to the Hudson River, a structure that she said contributed to the flooding and some further damage and destruction during Hurricane Irene.

"I understand the frustration and the heartbreak," Cramer said to the crowd of about 20 residents gathered on the property, adding that his home was damaged during Hurricane Floyd. Mayor Keith Wilson, Councilman Paul Aronson and state Sen. Kevin C. Todd also joined the tour.

Blaming what she sees as a sign of the deteriorating building situation, Cramer points to the same dilapidation of the Ho-Ho-Kus Brook that runs behind her property and into the ditch. Cramer said Cramer said that in the past, the area didn't have the necessary stream.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Residents apply for vacant seat

BY JOSEPH CRAMER

The Board of Education (BOE) interviewed six candidates this week for the seat left vacant by former Charles Hill School's departure last year.

No candidates applied and were each questioned by board members on Monday night regarding their professional background, experience and ability to apply for the position and goals as a potential BOE member.

The decision on which candidate will be announced at a public meeting on Nov. 7.

GRAYDON LAWSUIT

Village settlement offer is rejected

Thial under way in Superior Court

BY KELLY ERBILLE

The bid in the case of the 2009 demolition of a 13-year-old home at Graydon Park began this week, with attorneys moved to bring their arguments forward and request settlement to settle.

Joe Thomas Park, who with his family was residing from Barry when they moved to Ridgewood's second-grade school in the area of the Park family, discussed on the afternoon of July 15, 2009. Details of the demolition, including the time at

See TRAIL, page A11

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The Ridgewood News

"September 23, 2011"
"October 28, 2011"

Staff

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Clifton Journal

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“July 1, 2011”

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The Montclair Times

“February 3, 2011”
 “September 22, 2011”

Lillian M. Ortiz
 Joan Finn
 Elizabeth Oguss
 Kevin Meacham

PUBLIC PROJECT Saving South Park Street?

BY LILLIAN ORTIZ
 A \$1 million South Park Street and extension...
 The road is a project that would...
 The road is a project that would...
 The road is a project that would...

Duckett gets life



During his sentencing hearing this past Tuesday, convicted murderer Kenneth Duckett looks on as Assistant Essex County Prosecutor Rachel Lian tells the judge he should be sent to prison for life.

Defense's motion for new trial is denied

BY LILLIAN ORTIZ
 Kenneth Duckett's motion...
 Duckett's motion for a new trial...
 Duckett's motion for a new trial...



As he is led out of the courtroom by Essex County Sheriff's officers and prison guards after his sentencing, Jeffrey Ashe reassures his family members that his prison stay will be brief.

Ashe: 'I'll be out soon'

Eligible for parole in about a month
 BY LILLIAN ORTIZ
 Jeffrey Ashe is...
 Ashe is eligible for parole...
 Ashe is eligible for parole...

2010: A 'hard' year for local food pantry In past five years, clients increase by thousands

BY LILLIAN ORTIZ
 The number was significant in 2010 when...
 The number was significant in 2010 when...
 The number was significant in 2010 when...

SPORTS

Wright wins second straight ECT crown
 Five-year run ends at Human Needs Food Pantry
 Number of clients:
 2005: 12,000
 2006: 12,700
 2007: 13,400
 2008: 14,100
 2009: 14,800
 2010: 15,500

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Library trustees to vote a second time on branch shutdown A3
 Service for MHS student who died suddenly A7

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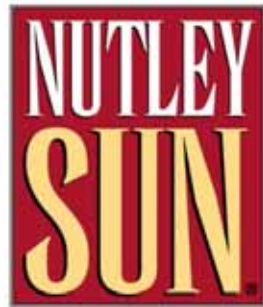


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Essex County Tournament

For Purcells, title is a family affair Page 14

Assemblyman wants to ban indoor tanning for those under 18 Page 3

Singer's CD released after her death Page 8



PHOTO COURTESY OF NUTLEY POLICE



DALE WINCE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



DEBORAH ANN TERPILLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FRIDAY CRASH

According to Nutley police, a 2007 Honda hit a parked vehicle, flipping the moving vehicle at the intersection of Park Avenue and Myrtle Street. Emergency personnel extricated the SUV driver, then transported the 32-year-old woman to an area hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

ESSEX COUNTY

DiVincenzo back at work after bike accident

BY MEGHAN GRANT
Staff Writer

Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo, a Nutley resident, was hospitalized last weekend with injuries to his ribs resulting from a bicycle accident in Brookdale Park, his office reported.

DiVincenzo was riding in the Bloomfield side of the park around 1:30 p.m. Saturday when



DiVincenzo

he struck a concrete bench, said Anthony Puglisi, spokesman for the Essex County Executive's Office. He was admitted to University Hospital in Newark for a bruised rib and released Tuesday morning.

Puglisi said he was unaware if DiVincenzo was wearing a helmet Saturday.

"There were no head injuries. He never lost consciousness," the spokesman told the Verona Cedar Grove Times. The hospital kept him in a precautionary measure, he added.

"He's in some pain, but he's doing OK," Puglisi told the Sun on Tuesday afternoon, adding DiVincenzo

"He's in some pain, but he's doing OK."

Anthony Puglisi
Essex County Executive's Office

cento returned to work and his "usual routine" that same morning.

The county executive is a fitness enthusiast, who visits Essex's parks

on weekends, Puglisi said. "The parks are his favorite place to be," he added.

Those visits include his infrequent inspections of the parks, officials told reporters. He apparently got distracted while riding and could not avoid the bench.

The Associated Press contributed to this article. Email: grantm@northjersey.com.

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Nutley Sun

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Owen Proctor



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Round Ridgewood
Columnist Betty Murphy has
the latest social news. **B2**



REMEMBERING OWEN
Lynch family walks to raise
money for cancer research. **A3**

Soccer kicks off
The RIS boys and girls teams
gear up for a new season. **E1**

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THE RIDGEWOOD NEWS

theridgewoodnews.com **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2011** 30 CENTS

Irene leaves her mark on village

Residents prove to be resilient

BY KELLY ENIGLS
Staff Writer

Village residents were torn between celebration and grief during the morning of Sept. 1 after the town from Hurricane Irene.

"It was an unbelievable amount of water as we had to evacuate and go," said Linda DiStasio, who, with her husband Steve, came to Veterans Field with a friend on Sunday morning.

"It was because you really get to see the beach, but now we can't do it here," Steve said.

Between Village Hall and the public library, a group of residents came who had to evacuate on a long line - came to view the damage. "There had to be up to 100 people."

"We have some waterfalls in Ridgewood," said resident Greg Moran.

The small sea water entered along residents who live near the Ho-Ho-Rox Brook, the water on Sunday, some people were looking through the streets. Others, however, were still happy to work cleanup of their homes.

"We're having a rough time here," said Emily Dunbar of Maple Street, whose husband died behind the retaining wall at Veterans Field. Their basement had



Ridgewood firefighter Matthew Muscat (center), and Professional Firefighter Jordan Zales evaluate Market Street residents Andy and Pam Birch, along with their dogs and their son, Aaron (right), in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene at Sunday.

Cleanup effort is 'unified'

BY KELLY ENIGLS
Staff Writer

Across Ridgewood, Hurricane Irene left behind as much as 7 feet of water in basements, flooded lawns, water heaters and garage doors and roof leaks in homes. Many hundreds of residents lost items, and dozens of village's trees were uprooted across roads and yards.

With the village seen in the recovery stages of the storm's aftermath, there is some relief among emergency responders that things are on track.

"Only one major injury was reported," said Brad Moran, the coordinator of the village's Office of Emergency Management (OEM). The number of deaths had largely stayed by the time it reached the area, having most damage related to water.

"I certainly was not sick. We had a hole," said Mayor Keith Kilian. "We had a little better than Hurricane Floyd. But it was still significant enough to cause a lot of damage."

The water was through the village's Ho-Ho-Rox Brook and built. After being more than 1 foot above flood levels, the weather water ultimately cut the village into three sections, although emergency responders had anticipated the problem by installing pumps in each area to ensure service, see page A2.

About 50 people were rescued at emergency hot lines, homes and other vehicles, according to Kilian.

Village Hall was flooded with about 4 feet of water, and Veterans Field and Maple Field were both underwater basins, Kilian, who on Monday was helping to re-

Damaged sports fields not fit for play

Temporary locations approved by school board

BY JUDITH ENIGLS
Staff Writer

While buildings across the Ridgewood school district withstand Hurricane Irene's impact with relatively minor problems, the top fields at the high school sustained significant damage. One of three football fields throughout the district was authorized by the Board of Education (BOE), but sports teams will change and repairs were forward.

Superintendent David Fakhri discussed a status report on district facilities in the district's aftermath at Monday's BOE meeting, drawing damage at each of the schools. While only Ridgewood High School was without power at the time of the meeting, power had since been restored to all the buildings.

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In the aftermath of Hurricane Irene, softball residents view the flooding from the Ho-Ho-Rox Brook with Stadium Park.

Lessons from Floyd
Village emergency services, including the Office of Emergency Management, school district officials and village government representatives, used lessons from Hurricane Floyd to prepare for last weekend's storm. To read more on storm preparation, see page B2.

RIDGEWOOD WATER Customer receives a bill for \$3,500

Utility was estimating readings

BY RENEE GREEN
For The Ridgewood News

Midland Park resident Chris Stangor said he was shocked when he received a bill from Ridgewood Water for \$3,500. The bill reflected the difference between what he would have actually paid and how much a meter company had estimated he would owe.

The Estimation Error resident said that he had been paying for the past six and a half years but had not been based on actual use at his home.

"When they installed a bill, we paid it," he said in an interview last week. "I was told because it was wrong, we need to see the water, we would have contacted the utility, who has a family of

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"September 2, 2011"
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Edward Virgin
Rosemarie Antinori
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Ridgefield Park
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April 15, 2011
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◀ Fremont Sylvan Mack lives in Ridgefield Park. (Photo by Gerard A. Pugliese)



Paint with perfection, please
Adam Conversano, 6, Ridgefield Park, looks in the mirror as he gets his face painted during the Ridgefield Park Art Show on April 8. The evening included fun activities while checking out the artwork of the students from the school district.

HOME INVASION
Police release sketch for one suspect

BY ROBIN DECICCO
Staff Writer

Three men dressed in black and wearing black masks entered a Christie Street home in Ridgefield Park and ran off with \$17,000 in cash after midnight on April 8, Capt. John D'Niro of the Ridgefield Park Police Department said.

The three men knocked on the door at 173 Christie St. and forced their way inside after the 56-year-old homeowner answered the door. They asked for the homeowner's 21-year-old son and then escorted the homeowner, his son and an unidentified house guest to an upstairs bedroom where they bound them together with duct tape. The robbers were armed with at least one handgun, D'Niro said. They then demanded access to a safe containing about \$17,000 in cash before fleeing with the money.

The son was later able to free himself and call police to give a description of one of the suspects. Chief Ed Stone released a sketch of the suspect who was described as a 6-foot tall male with pale-olive skin, black hair and brown eyes, weighing about 200 to 225 pounds.

"This does not appear to be a random act. It is not by chance that these suspects picked this particular home to attack," D'Niro said.

The Ridgefield Park Police Detective Bureau is actively pursuing leads in the case. Police are asking anyone with information to call 201-641-6400. All reports will be kept confidential.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY POLICE DEPARTMENT
Police released this sketch.

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TOWN
NEWS

ORADELL
New police chief is sworn in
Frank Florio becomes borough's ninth top cop. Page 2

PARAMUS
On the fast track to a new home
BCC, organization host greyhound adoption event. Page 3

SPORTS
Teams net praise from coaches
A look at River Dell, Paramus girls tennis squads. Pages 32, 33



YOUR COMMUNITY IN PRINT ■ ORADELL, PARAMUS AND RIVER EDGE ■ THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2011

Blessed pets

Joey, an Amazon Double Yellow Parrot owned by Jesus Valencia, awaits the blessing from the Rev. Eugene J. Field, pastor of Our Lady of Visitation Church in Paramus. The "Blessing of the Animals" is held annually in honor of St. Francis of Assisi.



PHOTO BY WILLIAM ARONSON

RIVER DELL REGIONAL

Borough requests change to formula

BY MEGAN BURROW
Managing Editor

Oradell has filed a petition with the state, asking New Jersey Acting Commissioner of Education Christopher Cerf to change the formula that determines the way the River Dell Regional School District is funded.

The borough is asking the state to change the formula to one based on cost per pupil.

In response, River Edge plans to hire a special attorney to challenge the petition. The neighboring boroughs share the middle and high school and currently split the cost according to the property values of each town.

Francis Campbell, the attorney who represented River Edge in 2009 when Oradell

SEE FORMULA, PAGE 5

ORADELL

Union asks school board for contract resolution

BY MEGAN BURROW
Managing Editor

Members of the Oradell Education Association (OEA) and a representative of the New Jersey Education Association attended

the Sept. 27 Oradell Board of Education meeting to ask board members to move forward with negotiations for a new labor agreement.

The 104-member OEA has been working under the terms of

the former contract between the union and the district since June 30, 2010. The two sides began negotiating the previous December.

Last month, the union assembled outside of the elementary

school, before classes began and after the school day ended, carrying signs that read "Enough is Enough" and demanding a new contract.

SEE CONTRACT, PAGE 11

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Pascack Valley Sprint Triathlon
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Page 25

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Anthony Houlis and his son Matt were among those rescued by the Westwood rescue team on Sunday after flooding from Hurricane Irene.

PHOTO BY CHRIS MORRIS/SPECIAL TO COMMUNITY LIFE

WESTWOOD
Twenty-five residents rescued from flooding

BY JASON BRAFF
Managing Editor

Roughly 25 residents were rescued by emergency personnel during the height of flooding caused by Tropical Storm Irene last Sunday.

While most residents on Sarsden Avenue, Harding Avenue and Nugent Place heeded a call to evacuate prior to the flooding, some who decided to ride it out ended up getting a ride back to dry land Sunday morning.

Westwood Fire Chief Chris Kelley said when the water first began rising early Sunday morning officials advised residents to move to the second floor of their homes.

"We weren't going to be able to get them because the water was just flowing too rapidly," Kelley said. "There was no reason to risk rescuers' lives going into such a fast flowing situation at the time."

Once the one-story home of an elderly woman began flooding beyond the first floor Westwood

called in the River Vale Fire Department and its Swift Water Rescue Team - which includes personnel specifically trained for these types of situations.

When the team arrived Kelley said Westwood personnel asked the rescue team to let them know how severe the water flow was.

After the team rescued the woman it advised Westwood that the water was beginning to slow down, at which point Westwood went in with its own boat.

Kelley said that once people who stayed behind saw that some were being rescued, more started flagging the boats down, asking to be taken to dry land.

All in all, the rescuers assisted in the evacuation of eight to 10 homes comprising of about 25 people from 10 a.m. to noon all on Sarsden, Harding and Nugent.

The boats pulled up to docks, windows or just "the closest place for residents to climb out to a boat," Kelley said, and brought

SEE RESCUES PAGE 52

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JULY 7, 2011

CARLSTADT RUTHERFORD LYNDHURST THE PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER NORTH ARLINGTON EAST RUTHERFORD

New formula = truer cost per a pupil? Rutherford mulls pay-to-play regs



Costs rising dramatically

BY MICHAEL LAMENOLA
Staff Writer

The cost to educate children has been rising and local schools has diversified under a new formula entered by the state that is more transparent and more realistic than one previously used, according to state officials. The 2011 Temporary Guide to Education Spending, which essentially replaces the Comprehensive Spending Guide used in the past, now takes into account more real financial items and equal spending goals, such as debt service, pension contributions, legal costs and out-of-district student placement costs.

"The Temporary Guide now includes the total amount that is actually spent for students in government through grade 12," said Governor Chris Christie, in a statement upon the release of the document.

SEE PAGE 11

BY BRIAN ANDERSON
Staff Writer



End of pay to play in Rutherford?

What would be the end of an era in Rutherford? The town's political action committee (PAC) is looking to end its long-standing pay-to-play program, which has been a source of controversy for years. The PAC is currently reviewing the program and may propose changes to the town council.

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SEE PAGE 11

Council could override mayor's veto of police chief

BY BRIAN ANDERSON
Staff Writer

The Rutherford Mayor and Council voted to bring back the position of police chief. The council is currently reviewing the program and may propose changes to the town council.

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The council is currently reviewing the program and may propose changes to the town council.

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Time machine
Soil will reveal what meadows was thousands of years ago **A3**

Hungry for sacks
Five gave Wootton a taste for quarterbacks **C1**

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Glen Rock Gazette

“March 18, 2011”

“September 23, 2011”

Edward Virgin
Jane Friedman

GLEN ROCK GAZETTE

OPINION

MARCH 18, 2011



Ed Flynn has some fond St. Patrick's Day memories.

May the road rise up to meet you

Among the special days of the year that no longer seem to be that special now that I've grown old is St. Patrick's Day. Time was, when I was a young man commuting into New York City, that St. Patrick's Day provided an excuse to act like an Irishman for a day. At least to act like what I perceived to be an Irishman. The fact is that if you are a native born American – my Irish heritage traces back to my grandfather who came here from County Cork – you have to learn how to be Irish on St. Patrick's Day, which I took to mean wearing a green tie, drinking green beer, and eating corned beef and cabbage.

"Don't bother coming back from lunch today, Flynn," my boss would say when the meaning of happens, like the Ford Tiger's secret song, floated skyward from Fifth Avenue to lure loyal Irishmen to their nearest pub. He always sounded a bit

AFTER THOUGHTS
ED FLYNN

like Scrooge expressing his disdain at the fact that Bob Cratchit expected the whole day off for Christmas. But my boss back then was an Englishman so naturally he had very little appreciation for the more recent traditions involved in the proper observation of St. Patrick's Day.

One of my favorite pubs back there was O'Donohy's on East 44th Street, just a block away from Grand Central Station where the St. Patrick's Day parade begins to assemble on the side streets for its trek down Fifth Avenue. Many of the Sons of Erin would stop by there to wax their whiskies on their way to the parade. Many of them never

READERS FORUM

In appreciation of teachers

TO THE EDITOR:
This letter is to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the staff at Alexander Hamilton Elementary School.

Scandals unfold everywhere – in sports, finance, politics, and certainly in reality television. In an effort to avoid these scandals, the next generation must understand that the success of our nation requires strength of character.

The attributes of good character – compassion, integrity, courage, fortitude, honesty and honor – are not always innate. Research indicates that character comes through self-esteem and self-confidence. I've got to believe that it also comes from pointing out right from wrong.

Considering this, you will understand why I care so deeply about the people who my children spend their time with, day after day, year after year.

The school staff works tirelessly to provide all of the above, during working hours and beyond. I am constantly surprised by the thoughtful efforts made at Hamilton on this front. Of the many things that I have heard about, there are two that come to mind.

During the course of the year, staff members have a special lunch with each grade. The event sets the understanding for students that they must consider one and polite to others, even if their interest or vision aren't a match. (Note: this lunch is not at taxpayer expense, but is at the expense of the teacher's free lunch time.)

Earlier this year, in a letter to parents, our principal noted that "giving back to our community and helping others is our duty and responsibility." At the school, the children connected with the concept that you are never too small to help others through a story about an African tribe that offered comfort to an American in the wake of 9/11. (The book is called "14 Cows for America.")

I am thankful that our education provide on this small scale that which can be applied on a larger scale. In a school environment, kids can make mistakes and be gently yet consistently led toward the character our world needs.

So, to the principal, teachers, roomkeeper, aides and all the staff at Hamilton School: A sincere thank you from the Howe family for the many ways you contribute to the potential of our children and our world.

Brad Howe

Here's to working together

TO THE EDITOR:
I read with interest Mark McCullough's letter to the editor in last week's Glen Rock Gazette. He ended by asking the Board of Education and Borough Council to work together but only after negative comments addressed in the council on the issue of living athletic fields.

At the Feb. 28 Board of Education meeting, he may have gotten a different perspective. I was there and also made a plea at the meeting for both the board and

SEE FLYNN PAGE 12

SEE LETTERS PAGE 12

Letters to the Editor Policy
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W23: Packaging the News Product – Editorial Section Layout & Content

Submission deadline: Noon Thursday for the following Thursday's publication.
PAGE 10

SUBURBAN NEWS OPINION

THURSDAY
JULY 7,
2011

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Basket raffle helps Midland Park's Class of 2012

TO THE EDITOR:
The recent basket raffle fundraiser held at Midland Park High School to offset expenses for Graduation Ball 2012 was extremely successful thanks to the support of many individuals and local businesses from Midland Park, Wyckoff, Ridgewood and beyond. We received an exceptional number of donations this year for which we are truly grateful. If you supported this event in any capacity, please know how much we appreciate your generosity. An event such as this

requires a great deal of cooperation and teamwork. The parents of the 2012 graduating class are to be commended for the amount of time and energy that was dedicated to the successful outcome. The students who assisted throughout the evening are the cream of the crop! The attendees who enthusiastically supported us in buying record numbers of tickets are certainly appreciated. The staff at the high school were helpful in a number of ways. We thank you all for caring and for sharing in whatever way you were able.

Delores Fernandez, Michela Walker, Karen Bello, co-chairs
Midland Park High School
basket raffle committee



Venus Williams at Wimbledon June 20.

ANNURGETT WOODS/SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

Scarier warnings may not be enough

Light... I see they're now planning to put gruesome photos of diseased lungs, a man exhaling smoke through a hole in his throat, even a corpse on packages of cigarettes. It should be enough to make a smoker want to quit. However, whether it will work is questionable.

After all, it's hard to believe that any reasonably intelligent smoker today doesn't already know that smoking is "the outdoor" to his or her life. The labels have been protesting for years that cigarettes not only cause lung cancer but the risks of heart disease, emphysema, bronchitis and a number of other illnesses.



AFTER THOUGHTS
ED FLYNN

I believe that the warnings don't apply to them. Or cocaine. It's not easy to quit. I know from experience. But, at least back in the late 1970s when my childhood pal Mickey and I lit our first cigarette behind the garage of my home in Bergenfield — a Chesterfield I had swiped from Dad's pack — there were no warnings on the packs. Oh, we were told that smoking would "hurt our growth" but we didn't take that seriously. Parents told kids stuff like that all the time.



STOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

However, I didn't really care much for that first cigarette. It wasn't until a few years later, during World War

SEE FLYNN PAGE 11

What's up with U.S. tennis?

With Wimbledon behind us and the U.S. Open beginning Aug. 28, it's clear that professional tennis players representing the U.S. are becoming a rarity. And by the time the 2012 Summer Olympics rolls around, it seems doubtful that many more American men and women will join the ranks of high-level competition despite Patrick McEnroe's efforts to encourage and elevate players in this sport.



BELIEVE ME
NANCY RUBENSTEIN

There are far more young people playing and practicing to become pro baseball, basketball or football candidates. There are more public areas devoted to golf, from actual golf courses to driving ranges, than tennis courts. There are probably even more miniature golf sites than school or town tennis courts.

But tennis is growing worldwide. China has its very first

Grand Slam winner in Li Na, and as that country has already delivered so many high-caliber golfers, it seems likely that China will rise in the ranks of pro tennis achievement.

Most tennis titles today are won by Europeans, not Americans. Sure, we've been there for the tournaments, but our exhibition are spectators, not players. With the exception of Andy Roddick and Mardy Fish and, of course the Williams sisters, Serena and Venus, we're a long way from the McEnroe brothers, Jimmy Connors, Andre Agassi, Arthur Ashe and Pete Sampras. We have no calibered Flavia Pennetta or Bobby Riggs from a half-decade ago, and no Billie Jean King, Martina Navratilova, Chris Evert or Tracy Austin, except in the form of media commentary or sitting in the stands.

Pro tennis has also displayed an odd insensitivity to America by setting the date for the men's finals in New York on Sept. 11 — the 10-year anniversary of a devastating date in our history. What makes these decisions?

Tennis is a grand sport, whether played individually, in partnership or on a team. It is steeped in tradition. And although the white attire-only edict has been abandoned everywhere but at Wimbledon, it retains some rules that simply do not apply to any other sport: Pro tennis players may not be coachd during a game or match; they carry their own bags and gear (no equipment managers, no caddies, just boys and girls to retrieve balls during play); and they literally "carry their own water." If injured, they may call for assistance, but they are limited in how long they take before returning to the court or forfeit a match.

Tennis players stand their ground alone with no half-time breaks of 15-30 minutes. They can be on a very hot court as long as five hours — with no dugout or locker room territoriality.

Maybe I've just answered my own question about why there is a diminishing number of American pro tennis players.

Second Place, Weekly under 6,500

Midland Park Suburban News

"July 7, 2011"

"October 6, 2011"

Marsha Stoltz

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

SUBURBAN NEWS

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Opinion

"Thank you to the many people who have helped put the little pieces of our little school back together...who put us back into active little hands"

Nancy Nicolson
St. Stephen's Protection

For the good of all

Residents in the South Mountain neighborhood certainly have the attention of the Township Committee. It was standing room only last week when several Committee members hosted a forum for residents of the neighborhood. Engineers from Hatch Mott MacDonald reviewed flood control measures implemented after Tropical Storm Floyd, which passed over the area a dozen years ago. The full Committee also listened to the residents this week as they reported back on efforts to meet with county, state and federal officials to explore future flood remediation programs.

It's amazing that we still can't get an answer from the local water company whether or not a pumping station that once was used to keep the water table low in the neighborhood is currently in use. But it sounds like the county is open to discussions about Diamond Mill Pond, which is upstream on the West Branch of the Railway River, and the June Meeting has been engaged to examine the multi-county sanitary sewer line that crosses through Millburn.

Sewers, both storm and sanitary, have been identified by South Mountain residents as the real cause for concern in any discussion of water management. They apparently are old, leaking and prone to infiltration by groundwater during ordinary storms. And when they overflow, they do it with disgusting power.

Engineers from Hatch Mott MacDonald, viewed with suspicion by residents because they constructed the present flood control system, have proposed enlarged pipes and sewer sewer lines to pump water from several miles to South Mountain to the pumping station near Gilbert Place.

The plans are old, never implemented after Floyd. Why? The answer, town officials say, is because construction could not be obtained by all of the residents. A story related this week by the mayor suggested that one resident who held up the project doesn't even live here anymore.

Without a doubt, there's thousands of thousands of dollars worth of damage today in South Mountain.

That can't be allowed to happen again.

If sewer construction is determined to be the answer, residents had better discuss that among themselves and get everyone on the same page.

And, disappointed as it may be, the town must be prepared to consider individual alternatives and address the consequences to prevent to ensure the safety of all residents in the neighborhood.

Community Events

MONDAY, SEPT. 26
7:45 a.m. Board of Education meeting, Education Center

MONDAY, OCT. 3
7 a.m. Jointing Board of Adjustment meeting, Town Hall

TUESDAY, OCT. 4
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Millburn Farmers Market, Municipal L&I at Essex and Main streets.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 5
7:45 a.m. Planning Board meeting, Town Hall

THURSDAY, OCT. 6
7:45 a.m. Board of Education meeting, Education Center

FRIDAY, OCT. 7
7:45 a.m. Board of Education meeting, Education Center

MONDAY, OCT. 10
7:45 a.m. Board of Education meeting, Education Center

TUESDAY, OCT. 11
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Millburn Farmers Market, Municipal L&I at Essex and Main streets.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 12
7:45 a.m. Board of Education meeting, Education Center

THURSDAY, OCT. 13
7:45 a.m. Board of Education meeting, Education Center

FRIDAY, OCT. 14
7:45 a.m. Board of Education meeting, Education Center

SATURDAY, OCT. 15
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Millburn Farmers Market, Municipal L&I at Essex and Main streets.

SUNDAY, OCT. 16
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Millburn Farmers Market, Municipal L&I at Essex and Main streets.

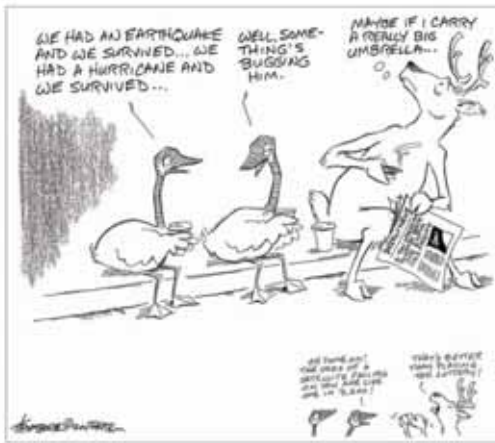
MONDAY, OCT. 17
7:45 a.m. Board of Education meeting, Education Center

TUESDAY, OCT. 18
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Millburn Farmers Market, Municipal L&I at Essex and Main streets.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 19
7:45 a.m. Board of Education meeting, Education Center

THURSDAY, OCT. 20
7:45 a.m. Board of Education meeting, Education Center

FRIDAY, OCT. 21
7:45 a.m. Board of Education meeting, Education Center



Community helped peeschool recover from flood

STORM, THE ITEM
When Irene's floodwaters hit the peeschool in Millburn, the school was hit particularly hard, but before the full extent was known, the school was hit by four feet of flooding water and other areas of the school suffered damage.

"We know the district and parent would be helpful. No, our primary concern was about how -- and how fast -- repairs would be restricted. People, books, games, instructional toys, and all the other little touches of teaching and excitement were lost and long gone."

Thank you to the many people who have already helped put the little pieces of our little school back together...who put us back into active little hands."

Nancy Nicolson
Director St. Stephen's Protection

THANKS GOES OUT TO DPW WORKERS FOR STORM CLEANUP

Fellow's work. This letter was not sent to the DPW workers for storm cleanup. It was sent to the DPW workers for storm cleanup.

In the light of this, the DPW workers for storm cleanup.

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Storm recovery

Committee dropped the ball on Irene

VIEWPOINT
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W23: Packaging the News Product – Editorial Section Layout & Content

First Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Item of Millburn and Short Hills

“September 22, 2011”
“April 7, 2011”

Harry Trumbore



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W23: Packaging the News Product – Editorial Section Layout & Content

OPINION

Town Journal
PAGE 10

THURSDAY, May 19, 2011

EDITORIAL

Parking remedied by a common sense idea

For a number of towns in Bergen County, parking in the central business district has always been a problem and will likely continue to cause headaches due to the lack of spots and available space to build.

To remedy the problem, towns will spend thousands of dollars on studies or hire engineers to help them add a few spots. In the end, the problems may be lessened, but are rarely corrected.

Sometimes, however, the lack of parking can be alleviated for business owners and shoppers by some "outside the box" thinkers.

Allendale Mayor Vince Barra has done exactly that with his brilliant idea to make 22 borough-owned spots at the Allendale Train Station into two-hour only spots for shoppers. The businesses in Allendale have been seeking ways to add more spaces and Barra listened. He came up with a simple solution that will aid shoppers and businesses alike.

We understand that a few commuters may be upset by the reduction of spaces, but the businesses in Allendale help fuel the town through tax dollars while providing services and merchandise the residents need at a close proximity to home. If the lack of commuter parking becomes a real issue at the train station, we are confident that the council will re-examine the parking situation.

In a time when tax dollars are being spent unwisely by local, state and federal governments despite dwindling funding, we must also applaud the rest of the Allendale Borough Council for standing behind Barra without calling for more studies or other expenditures into enacting the parking change over the next few months. Most government officials have become so afraid of taking a chance on a new approach these days, that it often takes months or years to make simple and intelligent changes like the Allendale Council appears it will do.

Bravo to the Allendale Borough Council and Mayor Barra. You have listened to the business owners and seem eager to help them during these tough economic times.

Yes, sometimes problems can be resolved by common sense rather than utilizing "experts" at a huge expense to the taxpayer.

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Sent from my iPad

BY TOM WHITE
FOR TOWN JOURNAL

It gets a little tiresome to keep hearing how the youngest among us are so much better at handling technology.

There are too many tales of adults who simply hand their new phone to their fifth-grader to program. Our nation of pre-teen techno geniuses bring to the task the obnoxious advantages of youth: nimble fingers, unburdened non-adult minds, and an ability to see the keys without the aid of glasses or arms that are seven-feet long.

So it is with understandable joy that I chuckle when reading at the bottom of e-mails from my 81-year-old mother, "Sent from my iPad."

Yes, Nanny has an iPad – and it's killing my kids.

To some extent, the kids get a bit of a kick out of it. Like me, they find it mildly paradoxical that the oldest member of our family has some of the latest technology. But their envy is palpable. It must be especially tough on them to realize that, technologically speaking, their grandmother far exceeds them on the "cool stuff to own" scale.

Score one for turning the tables.

The arrival of the iPad in Nanny's afghan-covered lap happened so fast the kids didn't even have time to complain. "What does Nanny need an iPad for?" Christmas came, bringing the

iPad along with it. By December 27, Nanny was ripping through round after round of bridge like she was raised with an iPhone in her house and not the old wall-mounted model with the black ice cream cone mouthpiece and crank handle on the side.

The youngest generation of our extended family has gotten a hand or two on Nanny's prized possession. During a family party, my 10-year-old took the opportunity to download the loopy but incredibly popular "Angry Birds." She even showed Nanny how to play. While it was unlikely that Nanny would ever take to the game, it seemed only right to share the wealth.

Apparently it was an effective sales job because a few weeks later Nanny casually dropped the news that she was now on Level 10 with a high score of more than 28,000. Reports from my sister provide added color, noting that Nanny has a habit of bellowing at these darn birds, and "Get 'em, get 'em!" can be heard across my mother's living room. An angry bird, indeed.

It's an eerie echo of what we all heard from the sidelines of our youth while playing in any game my mother attended. In fact, "Get 'em" was one of her least colorful shouts from the sidelines. During my sister's college fencing career, "Stab her, Mary!" could be heard across the otherwise quiet gym. Seems today's crazy sports parents aren't quite the pioneers we might think.

Among the unforeseen advantages of the iPad is its mouse-less touch screen technology. Nanny has Parkinson's Disease and on bad days, the hand that would work the mouse simply won't behave. The iPad eliminates that problem. The pressure of her hand on the screen is just enough to stabilize its movement, allowing Mom more "good days" for electronic communication.

Thank you Steve Jobs, and put yourself in for a little bonus.

Nanny's dedication to the iPad is admirable. She diligently plugs it in to recharge so that it's ready at a moment's notice to go on the road. That's critical since her high-tech toy is a constant companion in all the waiting rooms she visits for the multiple doctor's appointments that are de rigueur for someone her age. I smell a recycled advertising tagline: "The iPad: Don't leave home without it." Nanny certainly doesn't.

The iPad really earned its stripes during the long, cold winter. Nanny was very content to stay indoors and play some bridge, Freccell and of course, fire up some angry birds. As the weather has turned, it will be interesting to see if the iPad will remain her constant companion.

I look forward to our annual family week at Long Beach Island. Hopefully the lifeguards will be unperturbed by the sporadic bursts of "Get 'em, get 'em!" coming from under the floppy hat and umbrella at the center of our crew.

Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

Town Journal

"May 19, 2011"

"September 29, 2011"

Kipp Clark Karen Kleimann

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W23: Packaging the News Product – Editorial Section Layout & Content

Second Place, Weekly over 6,500

Pascack Valley Community Life

“September 22, 2011”
“December 8, 2011”

Kevin Glynn

Pascack Valley Community Life
OPINION
SEPTEMBER 22, 2011
PAGE 10

EDITORIAL
Flood emergency advisory

The New Jersey Office of the Attorney General is urging residents not to fall victim to unscrupulous individuals and businesses who may take advantage of them following the recent disaster of Hurricane Irene.

The attorney general has offered the following tips for flood victims to help:

- Ask to see identification before you let anyone who claims to be from a utility company inspect your home.
- Never give your credit card number or financial information to strangers over the phone or on the Internet.
- Call consumer affairs to find out if the home improvement contractor you are considering is registered and if there are any complaints against that individual or company.
- It is customary not to pay for the entire home improvement project in advance. They say third beforehand, one third halfway through, and one third upon completion.
- If the contractor is offering to do electrical work, call the Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors to ensure that he or she is licensed to do such work.
- If the contractor is offering plumbing services, call the State Board of Examiners of Master Plumbers to ensure that he or she is properly licensed.
- Check with the Charities Registration Section to ensure that any charity soliciting for money to assist flood victims is registered.

To request a complaint form, call 800-242-5646 or download a form at NJConsumersAffairs.gov.

Mailbag: the readers respond

One of the fringe benefits of writing this column is the mail I receive from readers. I try to respond personally to every letter but if, as occasionally happens, I don't get to yours please forgive me. I don't have a secretary and sometimes I fall behind. Following are some excerpts from recent letters which I thought other readers might enjoy reading.

AFTER THOUGHTS
ED FLYNN



David Scholz of Closter writes, "I thought you'd be pleased to hear that the shooting gallery with the 'larking ducks' that you mention in your column on Palisades Amusement Park is just fine and in working order at the Tremaly Hill and Flood Club. When the park was closing several readers asked if they could take the mechanical steps. Every now and then they start it up and we all get to be 12 year old again."

Theresa McDonough of Ridgefield Park also recalls Palisades Park. "Thanks for the memories," she writes. "Last weekend at the Jersey Shore I recalled the fun we had when we were kids. Back then things were affordable. Bringing the grand kids to play and fish now costs a small fortune. The fresh smell of good food, however, remains."

And Bowden Truchan of Bergenfield adds, "I loved the article on Palisades Amusement Park. Our mom took us kids to that salt water pool every Saturday in the '30s. I can still hear

that roller coaster and the screams, one of them was mine."

The column on the ice man also seemed to stir memories. "I was an ice man from 7 years to 18 years old," writes Mike Ferraro of Wyckoff. "I had to cut the piece of ice to specifically fit into each ice bin. The man I worked for gave me a quarter to buy ice cream for myself and some of my friends. This of course was in addition to the ice chips I gave them. We were followed like the Pied Piper." (Mr. Ferraro mentions that he later became the accountant and lawyer for the Florence Shop in Bergenfield.)

Maureen Fletcher of Hackensack, who is 90 years old, says she "can't be bothered punctuating because then I lose my thoughts." But she goes on to do a fine job of it saying, "I surely do remember the ice man. My mother had an ice box with a pan under it to catch the water and sometimes at night I would hear my mother call to my father, 'Frank don't forget to empty the ice pan.' I also remember the Dugan wagon and the street cleaners with their huge brushes who cleaned up the messes. The streets were kept very clean."

Barbara Hatala of Fair Lawn

writes, "Oh yes, I sure do remember the horse drawn ice wagons... also the fruit and vegetable guy. The horse knew the route, he would move on signal but stop only at the houses of his customers." Jack Concarson of Bergenfield recalls "a saying that went around among the kids: For every man there is a woman but the ice man has his pick."

Derek Smith of Township of Washington read the column on the piano player at Macy's and says it, "was a chord (you intended) with my wife and me as when we arrived in New York as newly-married immigrants in 1917 I was happy to land that job. I played through song sheet after song sheet building up a repertoire which has served me well ever since. After I left Macy's I joined the Musicians Union and things got better for me. I was the pianist on the Johnny Carson 'Tonight Show' for many years, was a TV game show headliner, played extensively with Benny Goodman, recorded with Perry Como and Frank Sinatra, etc. The sheet music department in Macy's is long gone now, but I'll never forget my time there."

Joe Males, who "has deep roots in Bergen County," among other things he said his brother Frank owned Males Brothers Mobile Gas Station in Bergenfield - wrote from Sun City, Ariz. where he now lives. He also read the piece on the song-plucker at

Macy's. Apparently he had the job work depicting a piece of typical sheet music which the paper ran along with the column. He says while he and a lot of his friends recognize the tune, they can't come up with the name. Sorry, I can't help you, Joe. It's what they call "clip art" in the newspaper business and I have no idea what the song is.

Mickey Holzman Lomberg of Ridgefield writes, "Whether you are writing about school days, vacations, playing with childhood friends, or buying school clothes at Holtzman's Men Shop in Ridgefield, I feel like I am reliving my own youth. And yes, my maiden name is Holzman. I am so lucky to have had Gert and Astar of Holtzman's Men Shop as my wonderful parents."

Since I'm going over my usual 800 words here I'll have to save some of the others for a future column. If you have a memory or comment of your own that you'd like to share, drop me a note or email c/o this publication. Keep it as brief as possible and be sure to include your name and address.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Previous dam damage needs to be repaired

TO THE EDITOR:

As a resident of Park Ridge, I hope the Park Ridge Town Council last seen fit to fix the damage wrought by the few storms we've have since the end of 2010 to the areas below the east and west dams. Before the town applies for a grant to build a new northbridge, I trust they will first fix what was recently built and is now broken. I also hope they don't engage the same engineering firm and contractors who did the initial work for it is obvious it was sub-par and

unable to take the stress of the onslaught waters.

As you know, Park Ridge engaged in conversations for a reconstruction of the dam for Mill Pond as far back as 2007. That resolution was passed in 2009 and work commenced for an upgrade and was completed in 2010.

That same summer of 2010 when the work was completed was also noted as the onset of summers in the last ten years in this area. Yet, one storm wrought damage to the two dam's lower areas on both the east and west sides of Mill Pond.

The underlying concrete infrastructure that's below the dam



According to Kevin Origeni, this photo, from 2010, shows that the Mill Pond Dam has been in disrepair since the summer of 2010, shortly after it was repaired.

SEE LETTERS PAGE 17

Letters Policy

Letters may be edited and may be published, reprinted, or distributed in print, electronic, or other forms. The views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are not necessarily those of

Pascack Valley Community Life or its affiliates. A daytime phone number should be included on each letter submitted for publication. Letters which cannot be verified or are anonymous will

not be published. Not all letters will necessarily be published.

E-mail letters to the editor to pcommunitylife@newjersey.com. See to

201-664-1332, or mail to Kevin Glynn, editor, Pascack Valley Community Life, 312 Riverbank Road, Redwood, NJ 07075-9000.

W23: Packaging the News Product – Editorial Section Layout & Content

Opinion

10 OCTOBER 6, 2011 Northern Valley Suburbanite

Questions or comments? Contact Managing Editor Sam Passow at passow@northjersey.com or call 201-894-6709.

LETTERS

Election Letters

The last issue that letters related to the election will run is Oct. 21. Election letters received after that issue's deadline will only appear online.

More questions than answers in Demarest

TO THE EDITOR:
I was disappointed to leave the Sept. 26 Demarest Mayor and Council meeting with more questions than answers about the enforcement of the borough's property maintenance code. Last year, the Borough Council, at my recommendation, adopted an ordinance providing a mechanism and procedure to permanently and definitively remedy properties that are not properly maintained by their owners, and to remove dilapidated structures, at the owner's expense. After firing the property maintenance officer whose responsibility was to oversee such matters, over the summer, the mayor unilaterally chose to engage in a private negotiation with a property owner on Woodland Road who has been a chronic problem for the neighbors and the Borough for the past six years.

Having served eight years as mayor, I know that this action is completely outside the scope of the mayor's authority. What we didn't know at the time was that the owner, Anthony Volpe, is a Republican council candidate in Haworth on the 2011 ballot. This raises another question: If you are a Republican supporter or candidate for office, do you get preferential treatment from Mayor Cywinski? All elected officials in New Jersey take an oath to "support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey..." and "to impartially and justly perform all the duties" of their respective offices.

Maybe Mayor Cywinski can be taken at his word that the Republican Party competitor's candidacy had nothing to do with the private negotiation to rehabilitate his property and avoid the embarrassment and expense of law enforcement action. But can every resident and property owner expect the same treatment? In the interest of full disclosure, I am a Democratic Party candidate for Demarest Borough Council this fall, and if elected, I intend to ensure that the law is equally applied to everyone, regardless of party affiliation, race, creed, religion or any other factor.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

Highs and Lows from September

HIGHS

Quick thinking officer

A Cronkill police officer on his way to work spotted a truck on fire and helped the driver escape from harm.

SK draws hundreds

More than 600 runners came out to support the second annual Haworth 5K.

Eftychiou hands over the reigns

After 20 years in the school district, Cronkill High School principal Peter Eftychiou will retire, and Michael Barz will take over the position.

Taking a stand

A student-led organization at the Academics! Englewood held an assembly to teach students what type of support is available in the efforts to prevent bullying.

Andiamo Run

The 12th Annual Andiamo Benefits Motorcycle Run returned to raise thousands of dollars for local hospitals and non-profits.

Carnival is a success

The Sacred Heart Church in Haworth raised more than \$11,000 with its recent carnival, drawing residents from all over for a variety of games, rides and food.

Communities come together

While it was a somber day, it was nice to see all the touching tributes for the local victims from the Sept. 11 attacks. Family members and friends are helping each other to keep the memories of their loved ones alive.



PHOTO BY KEVIN MILEY

HIGHS: The Andiamo Benefits Motorcycle Run returned and raised a lot of money for local organizations.



CAROLINE GALASSO/THE RECORD

LOWS: Kang-Hyuk Choi confessed to killing three people in Tenafly.

LOWS

Choi pleads guilty

The shock and mystery surrounding the triple murder in Tenafly three years ago came to a conclusion when Kang-Hyuk Choi pled guilty to the attack. Sadly, the three people were apparently killed because of a money dispute between Choi and one of the victims.

Busing issues

Englewood parents were angry to receive an email proposing a campaign fundraiser that was set from a web server used for recreation sports registration. The candidates involved apologized for giving the impression that the youth sports leagues were endorsing them.

Campaign email creates a stir

Some Haworth residents were angry to receive an email proposing a campaign fundraiser that was set from a web server used for recreation sports registration. The candidates involved apologized for giving the impression that the youth sports leagues were endorsing them.

Two found dead

The bodies of a man and his 5-year-old son were found in an Englewood home. Police speculate that the man may have possibly suffered a heart attack while holding the boy and fallen on top of him.

Delay leads to cries of politics

A delay in the next zoning board hearing for a significant application by LG Electronics has local politicians arguing about whether campaign politics are interfering with the process.

Cuts to afterschool funding hurting

Local parents held a press conference to bring attention to the negative impact that cuts to funding for afterschool programs will have on families.

First Place, Weekly over 6,500

Northern Valley Suburbanite

"October 6, 2011"
"November 24, 2011"

Sam Passow

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W24: Packaging the News Product – Feature Section Layout & Content

SUBURBANITE
LIFE&ARTS
JUNE 2, 2011

19

A lifetime of work

Englewood artist Grom exhibits his collection



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSAN McFISKE

Englewood artist Bogdan Grom will exhibit his collection of paintings, including this one, at the Beisik Museum of Arts and Science in Closter. **SEE PAGE 25 FOR THE FULL STORY.**

INSIDE LIFE&ARTS

<p>DINING OUT Restaurant row See all the culinary options available for a night out in the Northern Valley. SEE DINING, PAGE 28</p>	<p>ON THE STAGE Play tells story of AIDS epidemic The revival of a play that came out in the 1980s is just as powerful today as it once was. SEE CERVELLO, PAGE 28</p>	<p>HOT HAPPENINGS Upcoming events See which shows and programs are set for next week. SEE HOT, PAGE 25</p>
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Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

Northern Valley Suburbanite

“June 2, 2011”

“September 22, 2011”

Chris Lang
Sam Passow

NJPA
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W24: Packaging the News Product – Feature Section Layout & Content

Second Place, Weekly over 6,500

Suburban Trends

“Your Guide to Autumn Lights”

“The Mostly MANLY Edition”

Gene Myers



Better Newspaper Contest 2011

**W25: Packaging
the News Product –
Sports Section
Layout & Content**

NJPA Awards

W25: Packaging the News Product - Sports Section Layout & Content

SUBURBAN NEWS
SPORTS

PAGE 34 THURSDAY
JUNE 30,
2011



PHOTOS BY ROBIN GOTTESMAN

The Wyckoff Family YMCA hosted its 29th annual Wyckoff-Franklin Lakes Triathlon at the Indian Trail Club in Franklin Lakes June 18 with over 1,000 competitors. Coming over the finish line of the 5K run that concluded the event were, from left, Chris Gebhardt of Nyack, N.Y., first overall; Bryan McDonnell of Oakland, second overall; Mike Lierandi of Franklin Lakes, third overall; and Lynn Frampton of Franklin Lakes, first woman overall.

Wyckoff Family YMCA 29th triathlon a big splash



WYCKOFF-FRANKLIN LAKES TRIATHLON 2011

TOP MALE FINISHERS

1. Chris Gebhardt, 37, Nyack, N.Y. (2:27:50.93)
2. Bryan McDonnell, 25, Oakland (2:29:15.17)
3. Mike Lierandi, 48, Franklin Lakes (2:31:37.99)
4. Michael Rutherford, 28, New York, N.Y. (2:31:59.48)
5. Jon Sellers, 29, Long Valley (2:32:03.02)

TOP FEMALE FINISHERS

1. Lynn Frampton, 39, Franklin Lakes (1:40:07.76)
2. Shannon Schlageter, 40, Maplewood (1:46:19.34)
3. Jennifer Finotti, 33, Jersey City (1:46:54.49)
4. Jennifer Goryea, 40, Maplewood (1:47:37.33)
5. Donna Adamoli, 48, Westfield (1:47:47.23)



A swimmer plunges into the water for the half-mile swim portion of the event.

Sara Levin encourages her sister Alison of Franklin Lakes to finish strong.

First Place, Weekly under 6,500

Wyckoff Suburban News

“June 30, 2011”

“October 6, 2011”

Marsha Stoltz

NJPA
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

W25: Packaging the News Product - Sports Section Layout & Content

Sports

PAGE 54
THURSDAY August 4, 2011

SOUTHERN COMFORT

Former Wayne Hills' star Olsen traded

BY NICK GANTAIFIS
Sports Editor

CHICAGO • The National Football League Free Agency frenzy finally took on a local twist last Thursday afternoon when the Chicago Bears traded former Wayne Hills High School All-American Greg Olsen to the Carolina Panthers.

The Bears traded Olsen to the Panthers for a third-round pick in the 2012 Draft. Last Wednesday evening, Olsen's availability was made public when the veteran tight end's agent, Drew Rosenhaus reportedly e-mailed the league saying that the Bears were willing to deal Olsen, who already reported to training camp down in Bourbonnais, Ill.

Olsen, who was the Bears' first-round draft pick in 2007 out of the University of Miami, was entering his final year of his rookie contract and inked a new deal with the Panthers shortly after the trade was finalized.

According to reports, Olsen signed a four-year, \$24-million extension worth \$10 million guaranteed.

Olsen's days with the Bears appeared to be numbered when former St. Louis Rams head coach Mike Martz, a passing savant, was appointed offensive coordinator in 2010. Last season, Olsen put up his lowest numbers since his rookie season, catching 41 passes for 404 yards and five touch-

downs as the Bears advanced to the NFC championship game, losing to eventual Super Bowl champions Green Bay Packers, 21-14. Olsen averaged 23.8 yards per catch in the 2010 playoffs, and since 2009, he ranks sixth in receiving touchdowns by a tight end (20). He's second among tight ends in franchise history with 20 career scoring plays.

The move makes sense to Olsen's father, Chris, who coached the 6-foot-5, 235-pound All-American at Wayne Hills.

"I spoke to [Drew] Rosenhaus just a few moments ago and it's officially a done deal," said Chris Olsen from his home via telephone last Thursday evening. "Greg's really excited about it and looking forward to the move."

Olsen reunites with new Panthers offensive coordinator and tight ends coach Rob Chudzinski, who recruited Olsen at the University of Miami while in high school. Chudzinski, who was hired by the Panthers earlier this year, was on the San Diego Chargers staff last season before the Chargers rank No. 1 in the NFL in total offense as assistant head coach/tight ends coach. A standout tight end on the University of Miami teams that won national titles in 1987 and 1990, Chudzinski has worked with tight ends since beginning his coaching career at his alma mater in 1994. He mentored former Hurricane standout tight ends

Jeremy Shockey, Kelvin Winslow II and Bubba Franks in his 10 seasons in southern Florida, which included three seasons as offensive coordinator (2001-03) before moving on to the NFL.

In addition to Chudzinski, Olsen reunites with former college teammate and close friend Jon Hansen, an All-Pro linebacker for the Panthers, who also worked out new terms with Carolina last week. Olsen is expected to be the Panthers' main target at tight end and will share some time with Shockey, who signed with Carolina prior to the lockout.

Olsen reported to Panthers training camp last Friday at Wolford College in Spartanburg, S.C. with



ON THE MOVE — Former Wayne Hills High School All-American Greg Olsen was traded by the Chicago Bears to the Carolina Panthers last week in one of many NFL Free Agency moves after the lockout was lifted late last month.

SEE OLSEN, PAGE 56 PHOTO BY SAM V. HAY



SATISFYING START — Passaic Valley head football coach Al Cappello begins his third year in Little Falls and is getting ready for the season opener which kicks off Sept. 9 at neighboring rivals Wayne Valley for this year's installment of the annual TODAY Cup trophy series.

Hornets eye opener for breakout party

BY MIKE LAMBERTI
Correspondent

LITTLE FALLS — With the official start of practice set for Aug. 13 and the regular season opener just a little over a month away, the Passaic Valley football team has been putting in quality conditioning time.

Third-year head coach Al Cappello has been very pleased with what he's seen from a young, but enthusiastic team.

"They're really putting the time in, both in the weight room and with 7-on-7s," said Cappello, who played for Passaic Valley from 1996-1998. "We get the pads on beginning Aug. 13, and then, it's pretty much focusing on that season opener."

The focus for the Hornets is to

"grow the core," according to Cappello.

"The kids are getting in good condition, and that comes from a commitment to the weight room, kids pushing each other to get better and a lot of the players competing in other sports," Cappello said. "I worked with a bunch of the guys during track season last spring and that's made a difference."

The Hornets open the regular season on Friday night, Sept. 9, when it travels to archrival Wayne Valley. It's a game Cappello will make sure his team is well aware of beginning Aug. 13.

"It's a huge opener and a crucial game for us," Cappello said. "It's a game we need to win. We haven't beaten those guys in a while and it certainly would get us going in the

right direction. Wayne Valley has an excellent program and it's a big power point game, as well."

Passaic Valley last defeated Wayne Valley in a 2006 NJSIAA playoff game, 49-20. The Indians have won the last five meetings between the two schools, including a 2007 playoff game and last year's 21-7 victory in the annual Today Cup season opener. This year's game marks the first time the Hornets have played at Wayne Valley in four years.

The Hornets have been realigned to North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 after spending 2010 in Section 1, Group 3. Two years ago, Passaic Valley advanced to the North 2, Group 3 championship game at the old Giants Stadium.

SEE HORNETS, PAGE 56

Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

Wayne Today

"August 4, 2011"
"October 6, 2011"

Nick Gantaifis



FOOTBALL PREVIEW '11

VIKINGS WILDCATS GOLDEN BEARS SOUTH BERGENITE • SECTION C DAELS GOLDEN GRIFPHING BULLDOGS

Big shoes to fill behind center



Bryan Gaschke led the Bulldogs to the North Jersey Interscholastic Conference Colonial A division championship last fall and got Rutherford within one game of the Group 2 North 2 state sectional. That, his three and run for an astonishing 2,500 yards in his first year as starting signal caller. The hard sell for Rutherford is Gaschke graduated and now it will be up to Mike Paskas to lead the Dogs behind center.

With Bryan Gaschke gone, Mike Paskas needs to step up big as the signal caller

BY EDWARD KENSNIK
Commentary
It was one of the biggest seasons in recent memory for Rutherford when Bryan Gaschke led the Bulldogs to the North Jersey Interscholastic Conference Colonial A division championship last fall. Gaschke, a senior, led the team to a 10-1 record and a berth in the Group 2 North 2 state sectional. Now, with Gaschke gone, Mike Paskas, a junior, needs to step up big as the signal caller. Paskas, who has been the Bulldogs' backup quarterback for the last two seasons, will have to lead the team to a similar success. Paskas, who has been the Bulldogs' backup quarterback for the last two seasons, will have to lead the team to a similar success. Paskas, who has been the Bulldogs' backup quarterback for the last two seasons, will have to lead the team to a similar success.



Senior James Traversi will lead the running attack for the Bulldogs at the backfield and will be joined by junior Jake Regina, who is also known for churning out large chunks of yards on the ground.



With size, speed and two years under his belt behind center, Golden Bears quarterback Danny Rusk will have some nice targets to throw to this season and plenty of depth to spread the wealth around. The squad, which went 4-6 last season, had a small amount of injuries to its offensive line but is healthy enough to go for this preseason to have a breakout year.

With depth, Bears ready to break out

Rubinetti says players are more prepared

BY EDWARD KENSNIK
Commentary
The expectations might be the highest for the Lodi-based football team since 2008 when the Golden Bears last made the state playoffs. From the team that went 0-10 last season, Head Coach Ron Rubinetti has put his team on a path to break out in not only the North Jersey Interscholastic Conference Colonial A division, but also the state playoffs. The biggest line might be line man Vince Rusk who is playing backfield at the University of Franklin and Marshall. Rusk played the ground ball backfield last year. Rusk, who has been the Bears' starting quarterback for the last two seasons, will have to lead the team to a similar success. Rusk, who has been the Bears' starting quarterback for the last two seasons, will have to lead the team to a similar success.

GOLDEN BEARS

The Golden Bears also had some injuries to new center replacing back Danny Rusk. Also on the backfield is junior Blake Bennett. Another member of the backfield is sophomore Ben Carter. Rubinetti is looking for a big impact from senior quarterback Danny Rusk, who has been the Bears' starting quarterback for the last two seasons. Rusk, who has been the Bears' starting quarterback for the last two seasons, will have to lead the team to a similar success.

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South Bergenite

"September 1, 2011"

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Michael Lamendola Edward Kensik



W25: Packaging the News Product - Sports Section Layout & Content

Sports

39 SEPTEMBER 29, 2011 Northern Valley Suburbanite

YOUR PHOTOS

Perhaps you have sports photos of your kids from the old days. Would you like to share them with **W25Suburbanite**? If you also have current pictures that you would send we can place the two photos side by side. Be sure to send the photos as separate jpg attachments to baumuller@northjersey.com.

Questions or story suggestions? Contact Sports Editor J.C. Baumuller at baumuller@northjersey.com or call 201-894-6702.

QUICK HITS

FOOTBALL

Cougars win 14-0

Cresskill won the battle over the elements and the Walwick/Midland Park Warriors as Geno LaGella scored a pair of rushing touchdowns.

SEE 'COUGARS,' PAGE 40

VOLLEYBALL

D-E falls in 3 games

Dwight-Englewood topped New Milford 25-21 in the first game, but the Bulldogs were unable to maintain the momentum in a 2-1 loss.

SEE 'KNIGHTS,' PAGE 41

SOCCER

Leonia wins 1-0

Dwight-Englewood's scoring machine, Fabian Gonzalez, was held in check and the Lions scored late in the first half to eke out a victory.

SEE 'LIONS,' PAGE 43

STAFF PHOTO BY COLLEEN WHITE

Old Tappan's Raba Nassif, left, and Demarest's Kalli Koukounas vie for the ball. Nassif scored the lone goal for the Golden Knights as the Norsewomen earned a 4-1 victory.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

Demarest victorious over NVOT, 4-1

Norsewomen top Golden Knights in regular season for 1st time in 4 years

BY ANTHONY LOCICERO
Correspondent

DEMAREST — For Arianna Meyer, beating Old Tappan on the pitch for the first time in two years — and in spectacular fashion — is something special for her and her teammates.

"It's a really big deal," the senior said with a smile. "We played a really great game and came out strong."

For the first time in her four years at Northern Valley/Demarest, the Norsewomen defeated OT (3-2) in a regular-season contest.

"It was a huge collective effort," said Demarest coach Brandon Silva, who has encouraged some rough patches as the Norsewomen head coach. "It's been a non-stop effort. In my heart, there's not a team that deserved this more [than us]. We worked real hard for this."

'A LOT MORE COMING'

NVD scored early and often to get the elusive victory, downing their rival 4-1 Sept. 20 at home.

"It was a very big accomplishment," said Sophie Aello, who scored in the 12th minute and later added two assists. "Once we got that first goal in, we knew that there'd be a lot more coming."

There more, to be exact. Just before the half, Victoria Davis extended the Demarest lead with a goal off a free kick.

The ball found bodies, went skyward, and when it came back down to the pitch, Golden Knight keeper Kelly Crovini couldn't get to it. Davis was in a prime spot right in front of the goal, and when the ball came to her, she poked it in to add to her team's tally.

"We got outplayed pretty badly," said Old Tappan coach Tom Quinn. "They just wanted it more. I've been around long enough to see that. Right from the get-go it was an uphill climb."

KNIGHTS HALVE LEAD

The Golden Knights cut the lead to 2-1 on a superb header by striker Raba Nassif to open the second half.

But the Norsewomen answered back with a goal by Amanda Perucci, who drilled one loose into the right side netting four minutes later. Then Apo Saleh scored to make it 4-1.

"It's the greatest feeling in the world," Perucci said.

The NVD back line played solidly as did keeper Valerie Koukounas, the last line of defense.

"It was great for our confidence," said Koukounas, who began playing in goal this season for the first time.

The Norsewomen improved to 5-1 in the young season.

"We're looking great so far," Silva said.

Email: baumuller@northjersey.com or call 201-894-6702

First Place, Weekly over 6,500

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"September 29, 2011"
"November 10, 2011"

J.C. Baumuller





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WYCKOFF SUBURBAN NEWS

Wyckoff Chamber of Commerce Sidewalk Sale Days
and Reader Sweepstakes, Pages 21-29

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2011



From left, the Firefighters Memorial, a stone engraved with the names of victims of 9/11 who hailed from Wyckoff and the monument erected in honor of New York City firefighter Dana Hannon, who lost his life in the line of duty.

9/11: WE REMEMBER

Filling the holes on the horizon with heart and soul



Hannon

BY JODI WEINBERGER
OF Suburban News

WYCKOFF - For Kyle Bickford, Ground Zero represents a void in his heart.

"You know when you talk with a friend, and they start telling a funny story, and they remember a part that you don't remember, and then you just kind of play off of each other?" she asked. "The person who could do that for my entire life and my entire childhood is no longer here."

That friend was her brother Dana Hannon, a 29-year-old New York City firefighter who boarded Engine 26 to aid rescue efforts at the World Trade Center on 9/11.

Kyle had been at her job in Upper Saddle River when news of the terrorist attacks reached her.

"At first I wasn't even sure if he was working that day, because firemen's schedules are all...you never know," Kyle said, but a call from his fiancée, Allison Danner, confirmed her worst fears.

Kyle joined co-workers in an office with radio reception and listened to news reports saying the South Tower had fallen.

"There was a girl there, and she didn't know about Dana, and the first thing that she said was, 'All of the firemen are dead,'" Kyle remembers. "I turned, I walked to my office and I picked up my purse and I just walked out. I left and I didn't go back for two weeks."

"I just drove home and I remember thinking...something bad is not supposed to happen on this day where you can hear the birds chirping and it's like a Disney movie. That's not what's supposed to be happening."

Ten years later, she continues to mourn. As she talked about how her life has changed since 9/11, she relates events with a "tinge of sadness" because of Dana's absence.

Dana never had a chance to meet her husband, Kevin, or get to know their 3-year-old son, Cole Dana. She laments that he couldn't marry and have children of his own. He was almost there — only two months

SEE HANNON, PAGE 3

INSIDE

Readers share their experiences on that fateful day

PAGES 4-5

Ceremonies marking the 10th anniversary
PAGE 3



First Visit Before & After Picture in Relaxed Position

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Hiding Out The Storm In Bay Head
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Page 10



The Ocean Star

Friday, September 2, 2011

A STAR NEWS GROUP PUBLICATION

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Beaches open for business



Lavallette officials opened the aftermath of Hurricane Irene on the Philadelphia Avenue beachfront Monday. The Category 1 storm displaced sand, but left the lifeguard and its towerblock unscathed. Other towns were not so lucky. For full coverage of the storm's impact on Lavallette, see pages 16 and 17.



HURRICANE CLAIMS 2 LIVES
Page 2



PREPARATION PROVES KEY
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BUSINESSES BOUNCE BACK
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BEACHES TAKE A BEATING
Page 17



LT. GON BOM GUADAGUINO & POINT PLEASANT BEACH MAJOR VINCENTI BARRELLA

Shore ready for Labor Day

By Colleen King
POINT PLEASANT BEACHS — Just two days ago, Hurricane Irene dumped 8 inches of rain in northern Ocean County and caused widespread flooding and power outages. But as of today, it will be business as usual for local stores and restaurants as they gear up for Labor Day weekend.

As it turns out, where matters in this underdog industry, some local businesses will see the big weekend holiday — including Labor Day — to make a profit.

With Hurricane Irene hitting two days ago, many businesses are scrambling to clean up and stock up for the three-day weekend.

After the storm passed and the beach water began to recede Monday, Lt. Vincent Barrella took a crew of the Jersey Shore to encourage people to return to its popular businesses and beaches. Just three days after the storm, Barrella had several people to "get the ball off the beach" at Ashby Park and maintain staff at the lifeguard tower.

Lt. King Guadagnolo made a stop in Point Pleasant Beach Monday afternoon, where she was greeted by Ocean County Board of Ocean Frontalier Director Joseph Vitale and Point Pleasant Beach Mayor Vincent Barrella at the beachfront.

"What is your team doing? Are you getting a lot of local questions?" Lt. King Guadagnolo asked Mayor Barrella.

"The mayor suggested that while Point Pleasant Beach had suffered some damage last weekend, page 4 of a report of Hurricane Irene the impact of the storm — which came through the area of Category 1 strength — was less than expected, and the state is now

See LABOR DAY, PAGE 6

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The Ocean Star

"Hurricane Irene"
"Election Results"

Staff

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Borough and volunteers have worked together to fight fires

BY KAREN KLEIMANN
OF TOWN JOURNAL

A glimpse into the historic documents and information provided by the Ho-Ho-Kus Volunteer Fire Department collectively spans a century, tracing the evolution of gear, equipment, vehicles and communication, inclusion of a Junior and Ladies auxiliary, construction of a new fire house and recollections of some of the most intense fires the department ever had to contain.

Humble beginnings and firehouse construction

The Ho-Ho-Kus Volunteer Fire Department was created in November 1911 with the borough's adoption of a constitution and bylaws, and that same month, the first firehouse was built on East Franklin Turnpike, which is now the site of Veterans' Memorial Park. It was 28 feet by 34 feet, consisting of a single garage door, two truck bays and an upstairs meeting room. It cost \$2,000.

After a 1937 Alereis Fox expansion was added, the department needed more room and in 1939

expanded, adding an additional bay and storage area. In 1962, the firehouse was reconstructed at the current location on the corner of Sheridan and Warren avenues, at the site of the original elementary school. The current building now has three bay areas, shops, a radio room, storage area and a large meeting room. In 1993, the building was modernized to provide additional office space and to bring it up to state and federal code.

Volunteer Firefighters

In 1921, the fire department amended its bylaws and required its members to go through a six-month probationary period before they became full-time firemen. Some 250 residents have served as volunteer firefighters, with a current membership of about 50 men and women from all professions, including students, parents, coaches, small business owners and plumbers. These firefighters must go through 150 hours of classroom instruction and hands-on exercises before they can be taken off probationary status.

Life member firefighter Morvan



FILE PHOTO

The Ho-Ho-Kus Volunteer Fire Department headquarters in May of 1962 on East Franklin Avenue, the site of what's now Veterans' Memorial Park. Later that year, the headquarters was constructed at the current location at 52 Sheridan Ave. to allow for additional space and modern equipment.

SEE HISTORY PAGE 36

Congratulations to the Ho-Ho-Kus Volunteer Fire Department on their 100th Anniversary Celebration!



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Rev. James J. Weiner, Pastor, Chaplain for Ho-Ho-Kus Fire Dept.**

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Town Journal

"Ho-Ho-Kus
Fire Department
Celebrating 100 Years"

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